

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum merrillii* (Ames) Pfitzer in H.G.A. Engler (ed.), Pflanzenr., IV, 50 II B 7: 119 (1907).

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*.

Synonyms

Acoridium merrillii Ames, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 19: 151 (1906).

Origin in the Wild

Luzon

Elevation in the Wild

2,100 – 2,545 metres

Habitat in the Wild

Plants have been collected from Mount Data and Pauai in Benguet Province.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster on short rhizomes. Pseudobulbs are a fusiform to ellipsoid shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.9-4.0cm long and 0.5-1.0cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 4-5 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls soon disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.3-4.4cm long. Leaf blades are a lanceolate to narrowly oblanceolate shape and have acuminate apices. Leaf blades measure 5.3-14.0cm long and 1.4-2.9cm wide. Leaves are thin textured and have 5 distinct nerves.

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are suberect to curved and measure 8.5-19cm long. Rachises are nodding to probably pendent and measure 6.5-14.0cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 2.0-4.5mm apart. There is one appressed non-floriferous bract at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

Henrik Pedersen wrote that the flower colour is white to yellow (Pedersen 1997). Sepals and petals spread widely. Dorsal sepals are a lanceolate to narrowly linear-triangular shape and have acuminate apices. Dorsal sepals measure 7.8-9.1mm long and 1.6-2.3mm wide. Dorsal sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are somewhat oblique, a lanceolate to narrowly linear-triangular shape and have acuminate apices. Lateral sepals measure 8.0-9.9mm long and 1.9-2.4mm wide. Lateral sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Petals are often somewhat oblique, a lanceolate shape and have acute to acuminate apices. Petals measure 5.9-6.9mm long and 1.4-2.2mm wide. Petals are three veined. Petal margins are quite entire and have somewhat dentate margins at their apices. Labella are easily versatile, pendent, entire, and finely papillose. Labella measure 4.1-4.6mm long and 2.8-3.3mm wide. Labella are pandurate and rounded to slightly retuse at their apices. Labella are three veined; the veins are sometimes thickened into low keels basally. Margins are entire. Columns are suberect, slightly incurved and measure 2.4-2.6mm long. Apical hoods are prolonged into a rounded finely crenate apices that distinctly exceeds the anther caps. The column feet are short. There are no stelidia.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

www.dendrochilum.com

Written by Trey Sanders - Please use with permission.

Philippine National Herbarium, (PNH)

Specimen – destroyed.

Isotype

AMES

[Specimen 38](#) (photo)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

I could not locate the specimen.

Other herbarium specimens

AMES

[Specimen 104046](#) (photo)

Scent

I could find no record.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from August to November.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation.

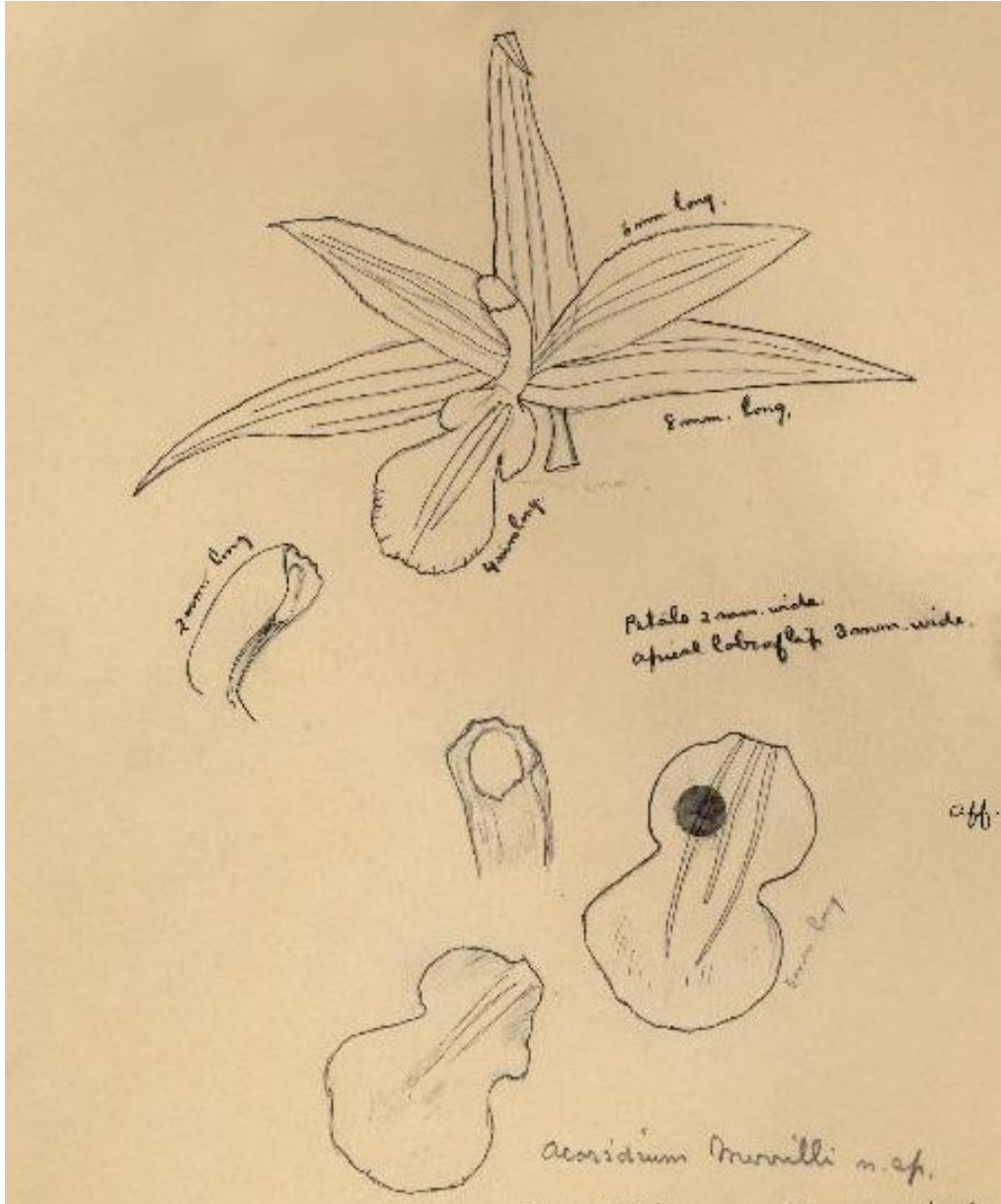
Similar Species

Dendrochilum arachnites

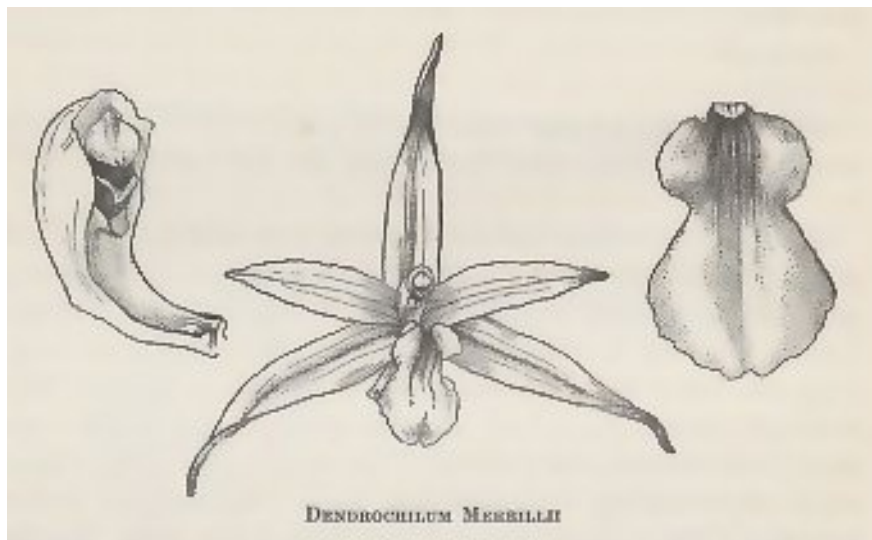
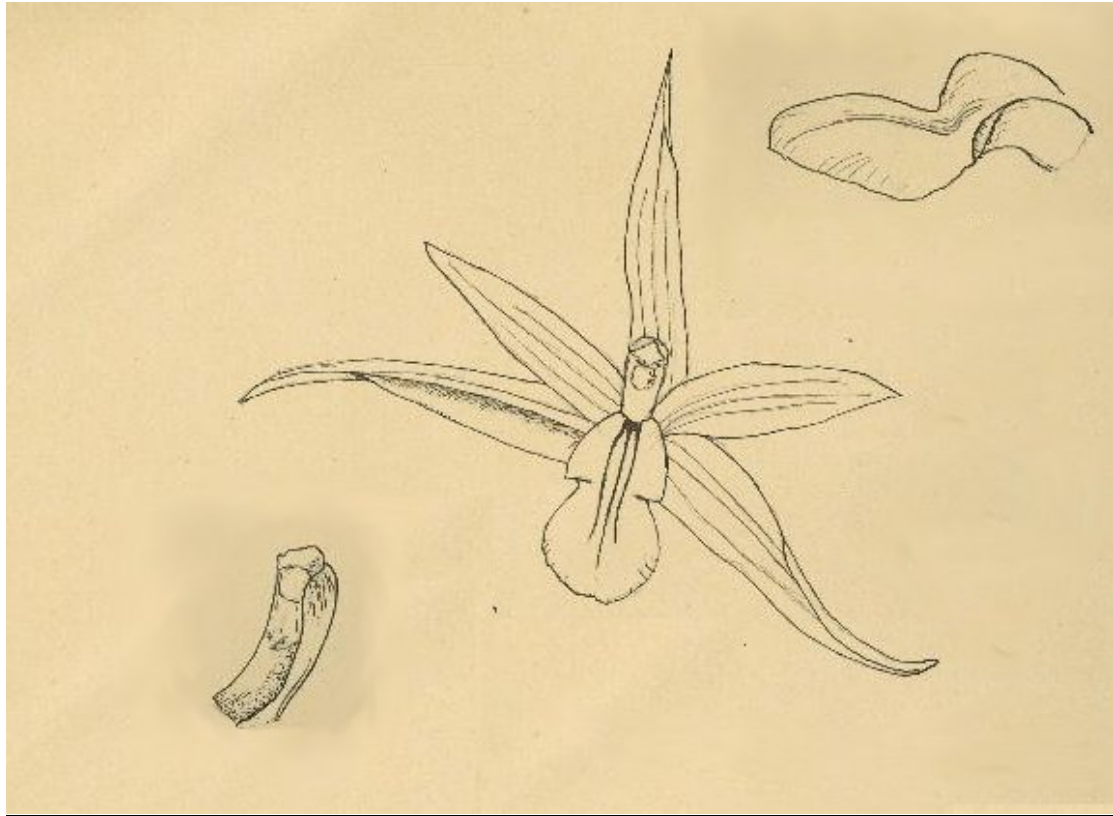
Other Information

Ames wrote that this species has an affinity with *Dendrochilum kingii* and *Dendrochilum exalatum*. *Dendrochilum merrillii* has proven something of a dilemma for taxonomists trying to assign it to a subgenera or section.

Henrik Pedersen stated that this species is more closely related to *Dendrochilum arachnites*. (Pedersen 1997). This species differs from *Dendrochilum arachnites* by its pandurate labellum and lack of stelidia.



An illustration by Merrill



Two illustrations by Oakes Ames



An illustration by Oakes Ames

Reference -

AMES, Oakes. 1908, Illustrations and studies of the Family Orchidaceae Facsimile 2, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts, Boston.

PEDERSEN, Henrik. 1997, The Genus *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae) in the Philippines - A Taxonomic Revision. Opera Botanica, Denmark

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 17 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **17 January 2009**.