

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum lacteum* Carr, Gard. Bull. Straits Settlement. 8: 223 (1935)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*.

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah and Sarawak

Elevation in the Wild

1,400-2000 metres
1,200 metres in Sarawak

Habitat in the Wild

Within Sabah this species is recorded from Mount Kinabalu and Mount Alab.

Within Sarawak this species is recorded from Mount Pueh.

The habitat is described as lower montane forest up to 35 metres high and with little undergrowth. Also found on sloping gravels with sandstone, ultramafic and dioritic rock, ridges on sandstone and shale.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs are crowded along branching rhizomes and measure up to 4 cm long. Pseudobulbs are a narrowly ovoid, fusiform or ovoid shape and measure 1.2-5.5 cm long and 0.4-1.2 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 3 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.5-2.0 cm long. Leaf blades are a narrowly-elliptic to elliptic shape and have obtuse to acute apices. Leaf blades measure 2.3-18.5 cm long and 1.0-3.3 cm wide. Leaves have 7-9 distinct nerves along their length, undulated margins and are often flushed red particularly when immature.

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are arching to pendent and measure 2.0-9.0 cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 8.0-20.0 cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section and a pinkish colour. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 4.0-5.0 mm apart. There are 1-6 non floriferous bracts at the base of the rachises. Flowers open from the proximal section.

Sepals and petals are yellowish cream or translucent cream often suffused pale salmon-pink down their middle at their bases. Labella are cream, mid-lobes have brownish pink centres or median lines, the labella base and keels are pale salmon pink. Columns are pale salmon pink, stelidia are pale salmon pink or yellowish cream (Wood 2001). Dorsal sepals are a narrowly elliptic shape and has acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 5.7-7.0 mm long and 2.2-2.7 mm wide. Dorsal sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an oblong-elliptic, slightly oblique shape and have acute apices. Lateral sepals measure 5.5-7.0 mm long and 2.2-2.7 mm wide. Lateral sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Petals are an oblong-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Petals measure 4.5-6.7 mm long and 2.0-2.3 mm wide. Petals are three veined and have minutely erose margins. Labella

are shortly stipitate to the column foot by a small claw, minutely papillose and 3-lobed. Labella measure 4.5-6.0 mm long when flattened. Side lobes are triangular and have acute apices. Side lobes outer margins are irregularly erose-denticulate. Mid-lobes are an obovate or suborbicular shape and have obtuse apices that are often retuse and apiculate. There are two incurved, papillose keels that are incurved and joined at the bases. There are short, elevated median nerves that join the keels basally to form an M shape. Keels terminate at the bases of mid-lobes. Columns are slightly incurved and measure 3.5-4.3 mm long. Column feet are small. Apical hoods are elongated, an oblong shape and have uneven margins. Stelidia grow upwards and outwards from the columns base and do not reach the column apices but reach the rostellum. Stelidia are an oblong-elliptic or narrowly-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Stelidia measure 1.8-2.0 mm long.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

SING

Isotype

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen K000079121](#) (photo)

[Specimen K000079122](#) (photo)

AMES

[Specimen 98776](#) (photo)

LAE

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen 48045.000](#)

[Specimen 61499.000](#)

[Specimen 50198.000](#)

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

[Specimen L0322574](#)

[Specimen L0322575](#)

SING

SAR

TI

Scent

I could find no record

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during March, May, July and September and October.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum longirachis

Dendrochilum imitator (see this page for the differences)

Other Information

Carr wrote that this species is similar to *Dendrochilum longirachis* but differs by its larger flowers and different shaped labella.

The epithet refers to the milky colour of the flowers.



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Reference –

BEAMAN, Teofila, WOOD, Jeffrey, BEAMAN, Reed, BEAMAN, John. 2001, Orchids of Sarawak, Natural History Publications Borneo, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

CARR, C.E. 1935, Gardeners. Bulletin. Straits Settlem. 8: 235

WOOD, Jeffrey. Dendrochilum of Borneo, 2001. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Malaysia.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 23 July 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **23 July 2009**.