

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum curranii* Ames, Orchidaceae 3: 15 (1908).

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Acoridium curranii (Ames) Ames, Orchidaceae 7: 80 (1922).

Origin in the Wild

Luzon

Elevation in the Wild

600 – 2,000 metres

Habitat in the Wild

The type was collected by H. M. Curran on Mount Maquiling in Laguna Province. Further plants have been collected from Mount Banahao also in Laguna Province. This plant has been collected at Montalban in Rizal Province.

This plant has mostly been collected in mossy forest and always as an epiphyte.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short to slightly elongate rhizome and are a fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.1-3.3cm long and 0.2-0.4cm diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 3-5 cataphylls while they are growing. Cataphylls soon disintegrate into persistent fibres as pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.6-2.9cm long. Leaf blades are a linear to lanceolate shape and have obtuse to acute apices. Leaf blades measure 2.9-11.2cm long and 0.4-1.2cm wide.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and grow with new leaves. Peduncles are suberect to curved and measure 1.6-15cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 1.4-8cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 1-1.5mm apart. There are 1-3 appressed non-floriferous bracts at the base of each rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

The Flowers

Henrik Pedersen described the flowers as yellowish white with a reddish brown labellum (Pedersen 1997). Between 40 and 50 flowers grow on an inflorescence. The sepals and petals spread widely. Dorsal sepals are a lanceolate shape and have acuminate apices. Dorsal sepals measure 1.9-3mm long and 0.4-0.8mm wide. Dorsal sepals are 3 veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an obliquely lanceolate shape and have acuminate apices. Lateral sepals measure 2.2-3.1mm long and 0.7-1.1mm wide. Lateral sepals are 3 veined and have entire margins. Petals are a linear-lanceolate shape and have acuminate apices. Petals measure 1.8-2.6mm long and 0.3-0.4mm wide. Petals are 1 veined and have entire margins. Labella are correct and 3-lobed, measure 0.7-1.2mm long and 1.1-1.4mm wide. Labella are obscurely 3-

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veined, glabrous and have entire margins. Side lobes are a broadly and falcately oblong shape with rounded apices which are shorter than the mid-lobe. Mid-lobes are a triangular shape with hastate bases and acuminate apices. There are 3 calli located on the disc, lateral calli are located at the base of each side-lobe, the median callus is oblongoid and centrally located. Columns are suberect to straight; measure 0.5-0.9mm long. Columns are somewhat hooded at their apices. Stelidia and column feet are absent.

Herbarium Specimens

Lectotype

Ames

[Specimen 18861](#) (photo)

[Specimen 18860](#) (photo)

Isotype

Philippine National Herbarium, (PNH)

Specimen - destroyed

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 60110.000](#)

[Specimen 70872.000](#)

Scent

Yes, a sweet scent

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during March and from December to January. In cultivation outside the tropics this plant flowers from late autumn to winter.

Cultivation

This species is commonly found in cultivation around the world. *Dendrochilum microchilum* and *Dendrochilum curranii* are frequently mixed up in cultivation.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum microchilum

Dendrochilum serratoi

Dendrochilum asperum (see this page for the differences)

Dendrochilum tenuifolium

Other Information

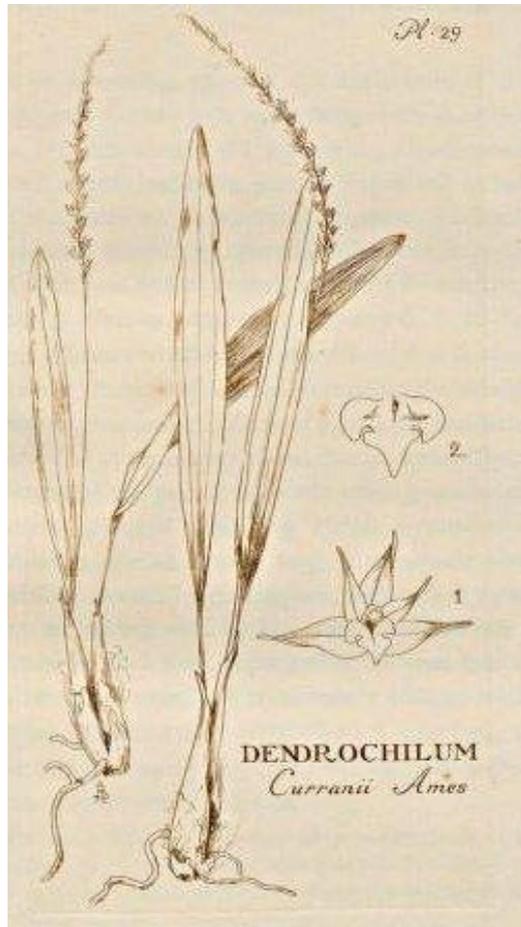
Ames when first describing this species wrote that this species resembles *Dendrochilum tenue* (*D. microchilum*) although differing by the fact that the leaves are broader in proportion for their length. Ames also wrote that the flowers were

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different. Henrik Pedersen wrote that this species is most closely related to *Dendrochilum cinnabarinum*, *Dendrochilum tenuifolium* and *Dendrochilum turpe* within the former section *Convoluta* (Pedersen 1997).

The epithet refers to the collector of the type specimen, H.M. Curran.



Left: An illustration by Oakes Ames

Bottom: this photo was taken by Trey Sanders ©



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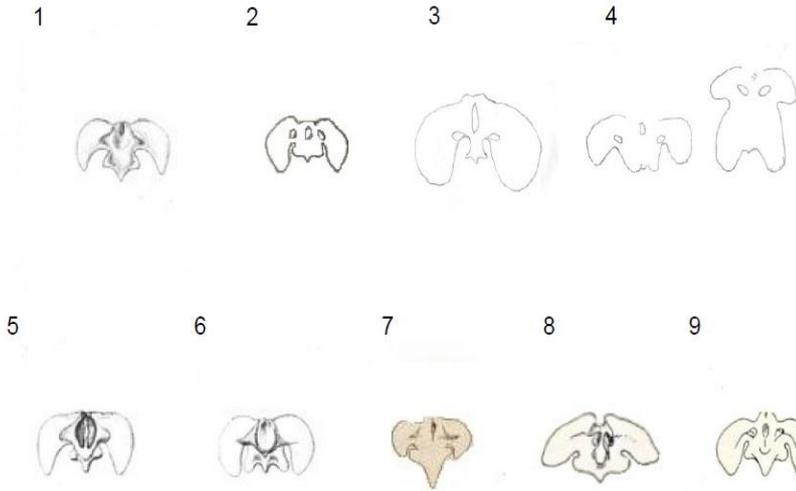
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The *microchilum* group - labellum comparison

- 1 – *Dendrochilum microchilum*
- 2 – *Dendrochilum mindanaense*
- 3 – *Dendrochilum binuangense*
- 4 – *Dendrochilum quadrilobum*
- 5 – *Dendrochilum parvulum* var *strictiforme*
- 6 – *Dendrochilum parvulum* var *parvulum*
- 7 – *Dendrochilum curranii*
- 8 – *Dendrochilum serratoi*
- 9 – *Dendrochilum asperum*



Drawings by:

Oakes Ames
Trey Sanders (traced from Henrik Pedersen)

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Reference –

AMES, Oakes. 1908, Illustrations and studies of the Family Orchidaceae Facsimile 3, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts, Boston.

COOTES, Jim. The Orchids of the Philippines, 2001. Timber Press, USA

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

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 25 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **25 January 2009**.

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