

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum angustipetalum* Ames, Orchidaceae 6: 47 (1920)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah

Elevation in the Wild

1,200 - 2,000 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This plant was collected in Sabah on Mount Kinabalu on the Marai Parai Spur and on Mount Tambuyukon near the summit. Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as lower montane forest on an ultramafic substrate. A collector's field notes describe the plant as growing one metre above ground up a moss-covered tree in semi mossy forest and on the top of a ridge (Wood 2001).

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs crowd along a short rhizome which measures up to c5cm long. Pseudobulbs are an ovoid-oblong to globose-ovoid shape and measure 0.8-4.5cm long and 0.5-1.5cm wide. Pseudobulbs are covered with 4-5 cataphylls while they are growing, the cataphylls disintegrate into fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.4-2.5cm long. Leaf blades are a linear to oblong or oblong-elliptic shape and have obtuse and mucronate to acute apices. Leaf blades measure 3.0-12.0cm long and 0.6-2.0cm wide. Leaves are thinly coriaceous to rigid and have 7-8 distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and emerge from the nearly fully expanded leaf. Peduncles are gently curved and measure 8.0-16.5cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross section, arching and measure 5.0-8.0cm long. Flowers alternate distichously, are often flexuose and spaced 2.0mm apart. There are one or two non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis.

The Flowers

Ames wrote that about 25 flowers grow on an inflorescence, and are a cream and brown colour (Ames 1920). Jeffrey Wood wrote that up to 40 flowers grow on an inflorescence (Wood 2001). Sepals and petals are pale yellow; labella are pale yellow with whitish margins, keels and elevate median nerve bright salmon pink, column salmon pink, apical hood and stielidia whitish. The colour is also described as greenish yellow with an orange and white labellum, salmon pink with two purple spots on the labellum and cream and pink (Wood 2001). Dorsal sepals are an oblong to oblong-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 3.5-4.5mm long and 0.9-1.0mm wide. Dorsal sepals are 3-veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an oblong-elliptic shape with acute, sometimes falcate apices. Lateral sepals are

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concave at their base and obscurely carinate. Lateral sepals measure 3.5-4.5mm long and 1.0-1.1mm wide, 3-veined and have entire margins. Petals are a linear-oblong shape and have acute apices. Petals measure 4.5mm long, are one veined and have slightly erose margins. Labella are 3-nerved and 3-lobed and measure 2.2-3.0mm long. Side lobes are erect, small, a triangular shape with acute apices. The side lobe margins are irregularly serrate or erose. Mid-lobes are a triangular-ovate or elliptic shape with acute apices. The margins of the mid-lobe are entire or minutely erose. There are two prominent keels than terminate at the base of the mid-lobe, the keels join at the base. There is a non elevated median nerve the joins the keels basally to form an M shape. Columns are incurved and measure 2.0mm long. Column feet are prominent. The apical wing is prolonged into a rounded apex with a minutely erose margin. Stelidia grow upwards from just below the middle of the column and are equal to the column apex. Stelidia are an oblong shape with subobtuse apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 48122](#) (photo)

Isotype

NA

Other herbarium specimens

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0269510](#)

Kew Botanical Gardens (K)

[Specimen 60397.000](#)

Scent

Yes, a strong sweet scent (Wood 2001).

Flowering Season

Flowering plants were collected in the wild from March to May and from August, to November.

Culture

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

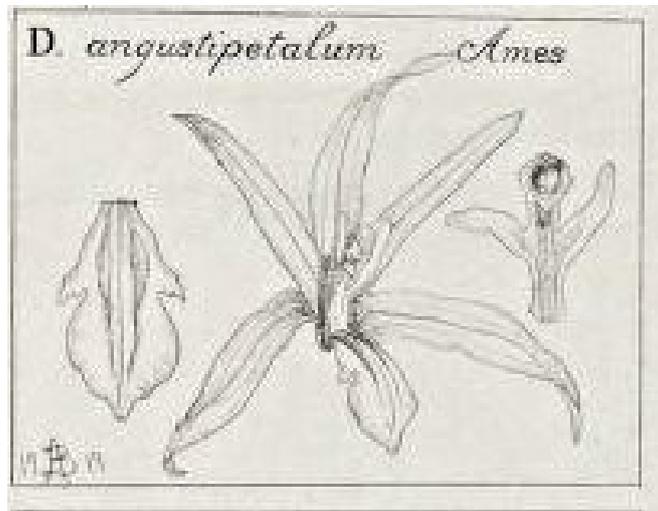
Dendrochilum kelabitense (see this page for the differences)

Other Information

The epithet refers to the narrow petals.

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The photo above is from Ames facsimile 6
published in 1920

Reference -

AMES, Oakes. 1920, Illustrations and studies of the Family Orchidaceae Facsimile 6 The Orchids of Mount Kinabalu British North Borneo, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts, Boston.

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

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 12 February 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **12 February 2009**.

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