

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum odoratum* (Ridl.) J.J.Sm., Recueil Trav. Bot. Néerl. 1: 80 (1904)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Platyclinis odorata Ridl., J. Straits Branch Roy. Asiat. Soc. 39: 72 (1870).

Origin in the Wild

Sumatra and Peninsula Malaysia, Thailand

Elevation in the Wild

1,520 metres in Sumatra

1,200 – 1,500 metres in Peninsula Malaysia

Habitat in the Wild

In Sumatra this species was collected by Carr along the Merek to Sidikalang Road.

On Peninsula Malaysia this species has been collected from Fraser's Hill in Pahang, Taiping hills, Gunung Jerai and within the Cameron Highlands.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs are a cylindrical shape and measure 6.25-8 cm long. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.4-5 cm long. leaf blades are a lanceolate shape and have more or less acute apices. Leaf blades measure 18-22.5 cm long and 1-2-3.5 cm wide. Leaf blades have entire margins and 5 distinct nerves.

Inflorescences are synanthous and free from subtending leaves at the time of flowering. Peduncles are arching to nodding and measure 11.3-11.8 cm long. Rachises are nodding to pendent and measure 11.7-16.4 cm. There are no non-floriferous bracts at the base of the inflorescence.

The flowers are greenish-white, the base of the labellum is darker green. Between 35-47 flowers grow on an inflorescence. Flowers stay open for 6-7 weeks in cultivation. Dorsal sepals are a lanceolate or an oblong-lanceolate shape and have acuminate apices, the margins incurve slightly. Dorsal sepals measure 8 mm long and 1.8-2.0 mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins, the number of veins is not recorded. Lateral sepals are an oblong-lanceolate shape and have elongated acuminate apices. The lateral sepals measure 8.0-9.1 mm long and 1.8 mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire margins, the number of veins is not recorded. Petals are a lanceolate shape and have acuminate or acute apices. Petals measure 5-5.8mm long and 1.0-1.2mm wide. Petals have entire margins, the number of veins is not recorded. Labella are entire, recurved and minutely pubescent. Labella are tongue shaped with obtuse apices. Labella have two keels which run from the base to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the labellum's length. The keels are thicker basally. Labella margins are minutely erose. Column feet are not recorded. Columns measure 2mm. Apical hoods are irregular with dentate margins. Stelidia grow upwards from the middle of the column, the shape varies, the apices are either bifid or not and are shorter than, equal to or slightly exceeding column apices. The length of stelidia is not recorded.

Herbarium Specimens

www.dendrochilum.com

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Holotype

I could not locate the specimen

Other herbarium specimens

National Herbarium Netherlands

[Specimen L0269675](#)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 23126.000](#)

[Specimen 37591.000](#)

[Specimen 20287.000](#)

Scent

Yes a sweet scent.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in Peninsula Malaysia during April and June. Plants flower in cultivation in Europe during the autumn and flowers stay open for 5-7 weeks depending in conditions.

Cultivation

Plants are in cultivation in Europe and SE Asia

Similar Species

Dendrochilum simile

Dendrochilum arachnites

Dendrochilum duplicibrachium (see this page for differences)

Dendrochilum stenochilum

Dendrochilum planiscapum

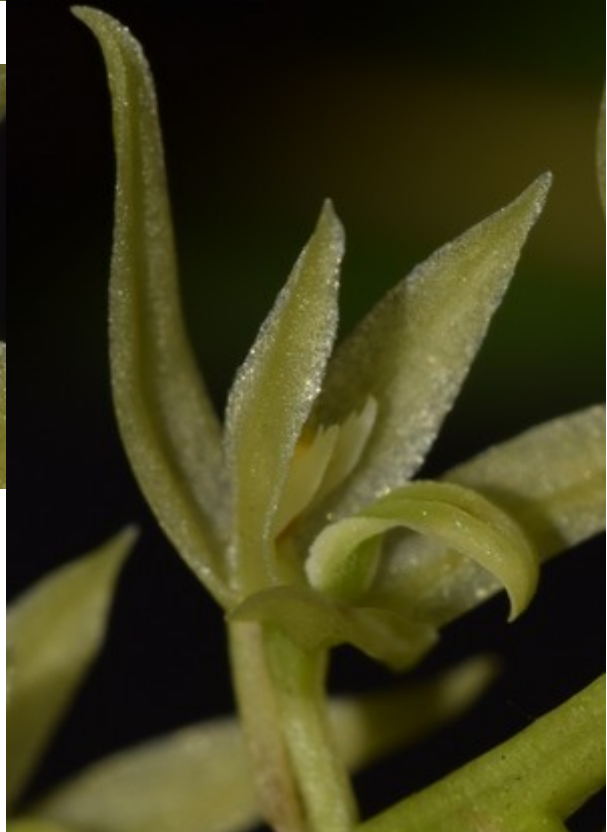
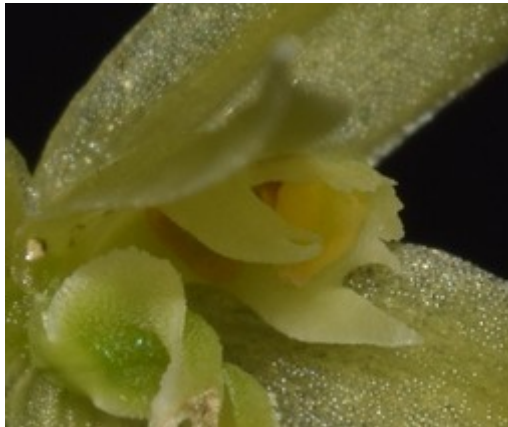
Dendrochilum beccarii

Dendrochilum oxyglossum

Other Information

In 2018, a plant was shown on Facebook, *Dendrochilum* Lovers page, stating that it was from Narathiwat, Thailand, it was determined to be *Dendrochilum simile* at the time, however, a closer examination by me of the plant makes me believe that it is *Dendrochilum odoratum*.

This species is varied and I expect that further data will be added to the description above as more plants are studied.



These three photos were taken by Trey Sanders and are used with permission ©.

Note the variation with the stelia.
These photos are all from one inflorescence.



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The *Dendrochilum* simile group

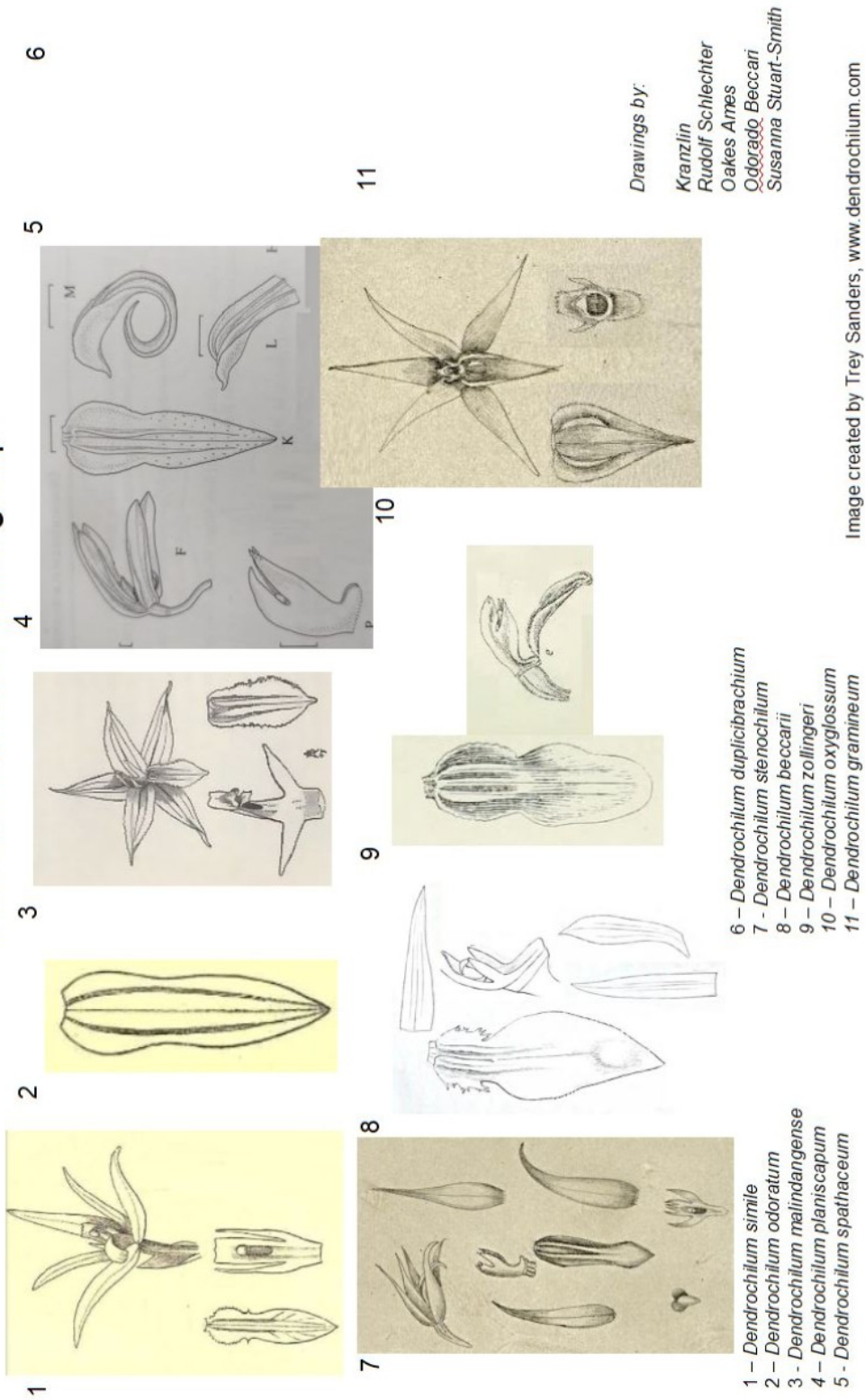


Image created by Trey Sanders, www.dendrochilum.com

Reference -

COMBER, J.B. Orchids of Sumatra, 2001, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Dendrochilum lovers page, Facebook. 25 July 2018.

SEIDENFADEN, Gunnar;, WOOD, Jeffrey;, HOULTTUM, Eric;. 1992, The Orchids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 17 November 2008. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **17 November 2008**.