

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum fuscescens* Schltr. & J.J.Sm., Bull. Dép. Agric. Indes Néerl. 22: 17 (1909)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sumatra

Elevation in the Wild

Not known

Habitat in the Wild

This species was collected in forest near Padang in Western Sumatra.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs are clustered along a rhizome. Pseudobulbs are cylindrical and slightly narrowed at their apices. Pseudobulbs measure 6.5cm long and 5.5mm in diameter. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 3mm long. Leaf blades are a narrowly lanceolate shape and have acute apices. Leaf blades measure 16cm long and 1.25cm wide.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are erect and measure 5cm long. Rachises are nodding and measure 8cm long.

The Flowers

The following is taken from Jim Comber, The Orchids of Sumatra.

Flowers are small and measure 6.3mm across. Dorsal sepals are an ovate shape and have obtuse apices. Dorsal sepals measure 3.3mm long and 2mm wide. Lateral sepals are an obliquely-oblong shape and have acute apices. Lateral sepals measure 3.6mm long and 1.75mm wide. Petals are an elliptic shape and slightly oblique. Petals measure 3mm long and 1.7mm wide. Labella are entire, and are broad almost an ovate shape and slightly rhomboid, labella narrow slightly in their middle and with rounded apices. Labella measure 3mm long and 1.4mm wide. There are three keels at the base of the labellum that form a shape like a letter W. Columns measure 1mm long; Apical hoods have 2 or 3 teeth and are yellowish-white. Stelidia are only minute triangular teeth.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

I could not find the specimen

Other herbarium specimens

National herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0322483](#)

Scent

Not known

Flowering Season

Not known

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in general cultivation. The Leiden specimen states that the plant was cultivated in the Bogor Botanical Garden.

Similar Species

*Dendrochilum cornutum*

*Dendrochilum dentiferum*

*Dendrochilum ophiopogonoides*

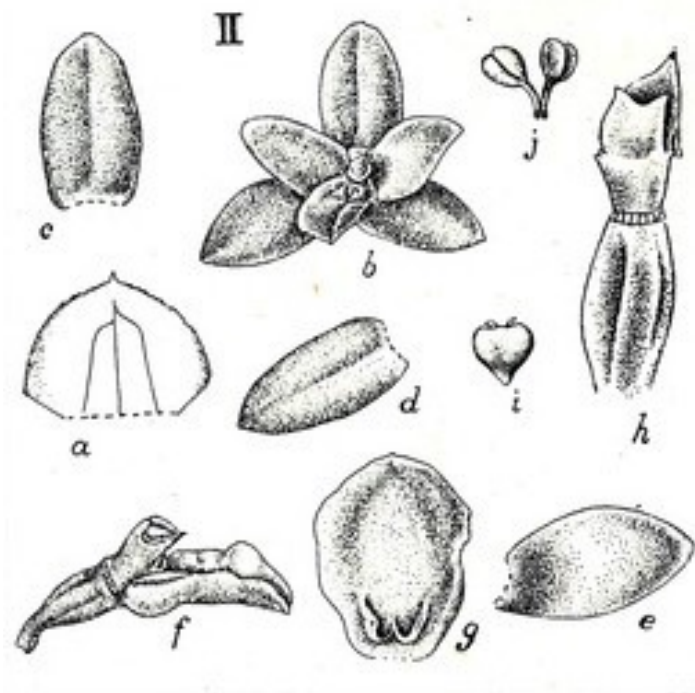
*Dendrochilum rigidulum*

*Dendrochilum ramosissimum*

*Dendrochilum fimbriolobum*

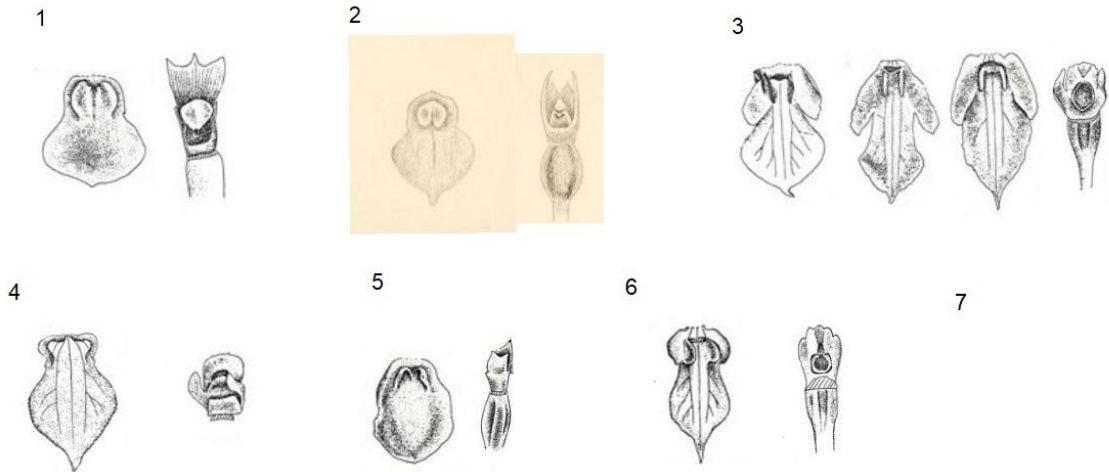
Additional Comments

This species is supposed to be similar to *Dendrochilum cornutum* but differs by its smaller flowers, the keels on the labellum that form the letter W and stielidia that are minute triangular teeth.



An illustration by J.J. Smith

*Dendrochilum cornutum* relatives and similar looking species



1 – *Dendrochilum dentiferum*  
 2 – *Dendrochilum cornutum*  
 3 – *Dendrochilum ophiopogonoides*  
 4 – *Dendrochilum rigidulum*

5 – *Dendrochilum fuscescens*  
 6 – *Dendrochilum ramosissimum*  
 7 – *Dendrochilum fimbriolobum*

Drawings by:

J.J Smith

Image created by Trey Sanders, [www.dendrochilum.com](http://www.dendrochilum.com)

Reference –

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

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 30 August 2008. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **30 August 2008**.