

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum filiforme* Lindl., Edwards's Bot. Reg. 26(Misc.): 52 (1840)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Platyclinis filiformis (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hemsl., Gard. Chron., n.s., 16: 656 (1881).
Acoridium filiforme (Lindl.) Rolfe, Orchid Rev. 12: 220 (1904).
Dendrochilum ramosii Ames, Philipp. J. Sci., C 8: 410 (1913 publ. 1914).
Dendrochilum filiforme var. *ramosii* (Ames) L.O.Williams, Bot. Mus. Leaflet. 5: 49 (1937).

Origin in the Wild

Luzon and Visayas

Elevation in the Wild

665 – 2,250 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This species has been collected on Luzon in Cagayan Province on Mount Babatngin (Mount Babatngon on Leyte?), Laguna Province on Mount Banahao, San Antonio, Mountain Province along the Lepanto road, Rizal Province on Montalban and Mount Irid. Within the Visayas this species has been collected on Negros Oriental at Malangko near Sibulan.

This species is an epiphyte found in forest.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short to slightly elongate rhizome and are a terete to fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.5-3.7cm long and 0.3-0.9cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered with 3-6 cataphylls when they are growing; the cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.2-4.2cm long. Leaf blades are a linear shape and have obtuse to subacute apices, sometimes finely mucronate. Leaf blades measure 6.7-17.2cm long and 0.6-1.3cm wide. Leaf blades are thin-textured and have 3-5 distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and appear with the new growth. Peduncles are suberect to curved and measures 8.8-24.0cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 9.0-24.0cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 1.0-2.0mm apart. There are 3-10 appressed non floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal or central section of the rachis.

The Flowers

Up to 100 flowers can grow on an inflorescence. Flowers are golden yellow to greenish yellow (Pedersen 1997). Sepals and petals spread widely. Dorsal sepals are an elliptic to oblong shape and have obtuse to rounded apices, rarely acuminate, sometimes apiculate apices. Dorsal sepals measure 2.1-2.9mm long and 0.7-1.4mm wide. Dorsal sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an elliptic shape

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and have obtuse to acuminate apices, often finely mucronate. Lateral sepals measure 2.2-3.1mm long and 0.9-1.6mm wide. Lateral sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Petals are often more or less oblique, an obovate-elliptic shape and have obtuse to rounded apices, sometimes apiculate. Petals measure 1.9-2.8mm long and 1.1-1.9mm wide. Petals are three veined and have quite entire to slightly irregular margins. Labella are easily versatile, pendent and 3-lobed to nearly entire. Labella measure 1.4-2.2mm long and 0.9-1.8mm wide. Labella are three veined and have entire margins sometimes serrate along the side lobes. Labella are glabrous or finely papillose. Side lobes, if there are any, are small, flat, an obliquely rectangular-triangular shape and have acute to obtuse apices. Mid-lobes, or labella, are an oblong to obovate shape and have rounded to emarginate apices, sometimes apiculate. There are two small calli located on the lateral veins. There is a small transverse keel at the base of the labellum. Columns are suberect, slightly incurved and measure 0.9-1.2mm long. Apical wings are prolonged into rounded apices with slightly irregular margins. Apical wings distinctly exceed anther caps. Column feet are short. Stelidia grow upwards from the base of the column, are incurved and are shorter than the column apices. Stelidia are a linear to obliquely lanceolate-oblong shape, often more or less falcate and have obtuse to subacute apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 18847](#) (photo) (*Dendrochilum ramosii*)

Isotype

NA

Other herbarium specimens

National Herbarium Netherlands, (L)

[Specimen L0322477](#)

[Specimen L0322478](#)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 20282.000](#)

[Specimen K000364897](#)

[Specimen 70524.000](#)

[Specimen 37891.000](#)

[Specimen K000079157](#) (photo)

Scent

Yes, a citrus fragrance.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from February to September. Plants in cultivation generally flower during the spring or autumn. Plants flower during the late summer in Australia (Cootes et al 1995).

Cultivation

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This is one of the most commonly seen *Dendrochilum* in cultivation along with *Dendrochilum cobbianum* and *Dendrochilum glumaceum*. I have seen plants for sale throughout Europe, Australia, South Africa, Brazil and the USA.

Similar Species

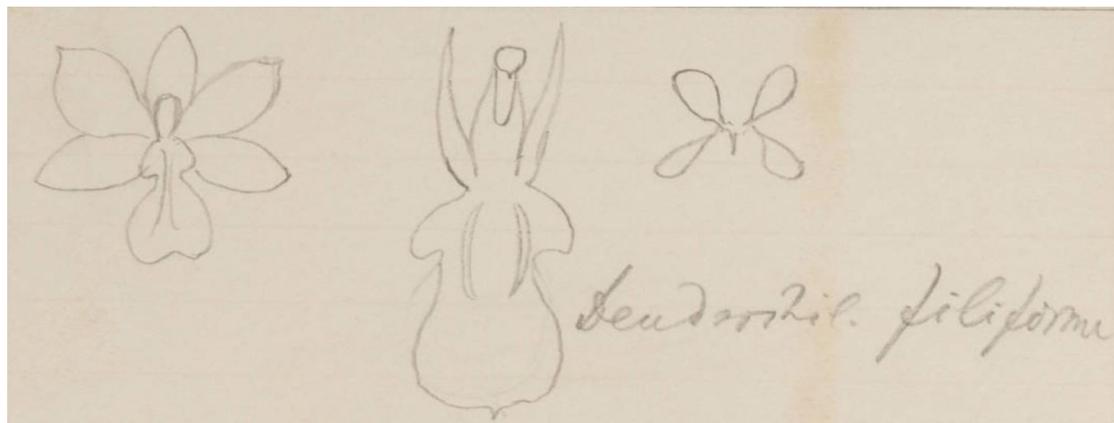
NA

Other Information

When Ames described *Dendrochilum ramosii* he said it was close to *Dendrochilum filiforme* but differed by the shape of the labellum and its smaller flowers. L.O. Williams reduced it to a variety of *Dendrochilum filiforme* in 1952. Henrik Pedersen reduced *Dendrochilum ramosii* further as a synonym of *Dendrochilum filiforme* (Pedersen 1997).

A plant received a certificate of cultural commendation from the RHS orchid committee. This plant had 80 flowering inflorescences with an estimated 7,200 flowers.

The epithet refers to the long and graceful inflorescence.



Above: an illustration by Kranzlin



Above: The photos were taken by Malcolm Perry and are used with permission ©

Reference –

AMES, Oakes. 1908, Illustrations and studies of the Family Orchidaceae Facsimile 2, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts, Boston.

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

COOTES, Jim. BANKS, David. 1995, The genus *Dendrochilum* A guide to the species in cultivation, Orchids Australia, AOC

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

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 08 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **08 January 2009**.

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