

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum alatum* Ames, Orchidaceae 6: 45 (1920)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah

Elevation in the Wild

1,700 - 3,200 metres

Habitat in the Wild

The type specimen was collected on the Marai Parai Spur on Mount Kinabalu. The other places on Mount Kinabalu where it has been collected are; Pig Hill, Paka-paka cave, Tenompok, Mesilau Cave Trail and Gurulau Spur.

This species is endemic to Mount Kinabalu. Jeffrey Wood described *Dendrochilum alatum's* habitat as lower and upper montane forest, ridge scrub and *Dacrydium* and *Leptospermum* scrub. The plant is generally found in these habitats when they are on ultramafic and granite substrate.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs clump along a rhizome that can measure up to 3cm long. Pseudobulbs are an orange-yellow to red colour and are an ovoid or obpyriform shape, rugose. Pseudobulbs measure 0.5-1.6cm long and 0.5-0.9cm in diameter and are covered by three cataphylls while they are growing. Cataphylls soon disintegrate into non-persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.0-2.5cm long. Leaf blades are a linear-lanceolate shape with obtuse to acute apices that are apiculate. Leaf blades measure 6-15cm long and 0.5-0.6cm wide. Leaves are a dark olive-green colour and have three distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Peduncles are gently curved and measure 5.5-8.5cm long. Rachises are arching to pendent and measure 5-15cm long, and quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 2mm apart. There are 1-3 non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis.

The Flowers

Flowers are a yellow or greenish-yellow colour with an orange or brown red column. Dorsal sepals curve forward, are a narrowly elliptic shape and have acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 3mm long and 1.1-1.2mm wide, have entire margins and are 1-veined. Lateral sepals are a narrowly ovate-elliptic shape and have acute apices that are conduplicate. Lateral sepals measure 3-3.75mm long and 1.5mm wide, are slightly concave, have entire margins and are 1-veined. Petals are twisted so they are 90 degrees from vertical. Petals are a narrowly oblong-elliptic shape and have acute

or obtuse apices. Petals measure 3mm long and 1.1mm wide, have minutely erose margins and are 1-veined. Labella are entire, an obtuse shape and apiculate at their apices. Labella measure 2-2.1mm long and 1.9mm wide. The margins on the labellum are mostly entire but minutely erose at the apex and there are 3 nerves, the lateral nerves branch. There are 2 keels that run half the length of labella. Columns are straight and measure 1-1.1mm long. Apical hoods are acute and tridentate with entire margins. Stelidia grow from the base of columns are an elliptic to oblong shape with obtuse apices, 0.8-0.9mm long. Stelidia are adpressed to the keels.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 98743](#) (photo)

Isotype

New York Botanical Garden (NY)

[Specimen 8738](#)

Kew Botanical Gardens (K)

[Specimen K000078203](#)

SING

Other herbarium specimens

Natural History Museum (BM)

[Specimen 50777](#)

[Specimen 50652](#)

[Specimen no number](#)

[Specimen 383](#)

Kew Botanical Garden (K)

[Specimen 60392.000](#)

[Specimen 51210.000](#)

[Specimen 61483.000](#)

E

Sabah Parks Herbarium

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0269501](#)

AMES

Scent

www.dendrochilum.com

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I could find no record.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from October to February.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum corrugatum (see this page for the differences)

Dendrochilum graciliscapum

Dendrochilum cupulatum (see this page for the differences)

Dendrochilum pseudoscriptum

Other Information

Ames wrote that the plant is 20cm high from the base of the pseudobulb to the tip of the leaf. Ames also wrote that this species resembles *D. graciliscapum* but differs by the large elliptical stelidia. Ames wrote that it is closest to *Dendrochilum fimbriatum* (*Dendrochilum corrugatum*) but differs by the outline of the labellum.

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species resembles *Dendrochilum graciliscapum* but differs by the large elliptical stelidia that resemble the side lobes of the labellum.

The epithet refers to the large stelidia that appear winged.



Left. A drawing from Oakes Ames from the holotype



Left, this photo was taken by Anthony Lamb and is reproduced on this website with permission by Jeffrey Wood. ©

Below. The photo was taken by Todd Barkman and is used with permission ©



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. Dendrochilum of Borneo, 2001. 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**.