

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum complectens* J.J.Sm., Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, 5: 32 (1922)

Subgenus – *Dendrochilum*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sumatra

Elevation in the Wild

1,400 – 2,000 metres

Habitat in the Wild

Collected on Mount Kerinci, Jambi Province and at Bur ni Telong, Aceh Province. Recorded in Aceh in open shrubs habitat on lava rocks where the species was recorded as immensely numerous, covering the slope with a thick layer.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

I could not locate the type

Isotype

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0058453](#)

[Specimen L0322433](#)

Other herbarium specimens

The Plants Description

Rhizomes grow up to 50cm long and branch many times. Pseudobulbs are spaced 9cm apart and 4.7cm long. Pseudobulbs are an orange colour (Smith 1945). Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.0cm long. Leaf blades are a lanceolate-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Leaf blades measure 9cm and 2.85cm wide.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences grow from nodes found along the rhizome. Peduncle are covered with small bracts; the bracts are covered with red-brown spots. Inflorescence measures up to 10cm long. Flowers are spaced 3mm apart along the rachis.

The Flowers

Flowers are a green-white colour and open widely and measure 8.5mm across. The sepals and petals have a few hairs on them. Dorsal sepals are incurved in the middle and recurved at their apices. Lateral sepals are convex, an obliquely ovate shape, apiculate and are 5mm long and 2mm wide. Petals narrow at their base are an

obliquely lanceolate shape and recurved at their apices. Labellum are very small and measure 2.4mm long. Labella have a broad base and the epichile narrows abruptly. There are two raised ridges which end at the base of the epichile. Column are curved and measure 2.6mm long. Apical hoods are minutely bidentate and recurved. Stelidia grow from just below half way up the column and don't quite reach the apical column.

#### Scent

Not known

#### Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during March and September.

#### Cultivation

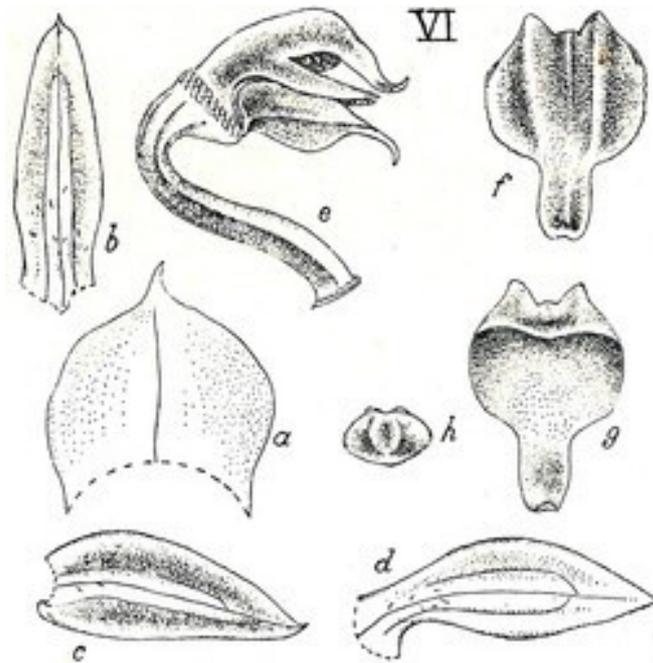
I do not think this species is in cultivation.

#### Similar Species

NA

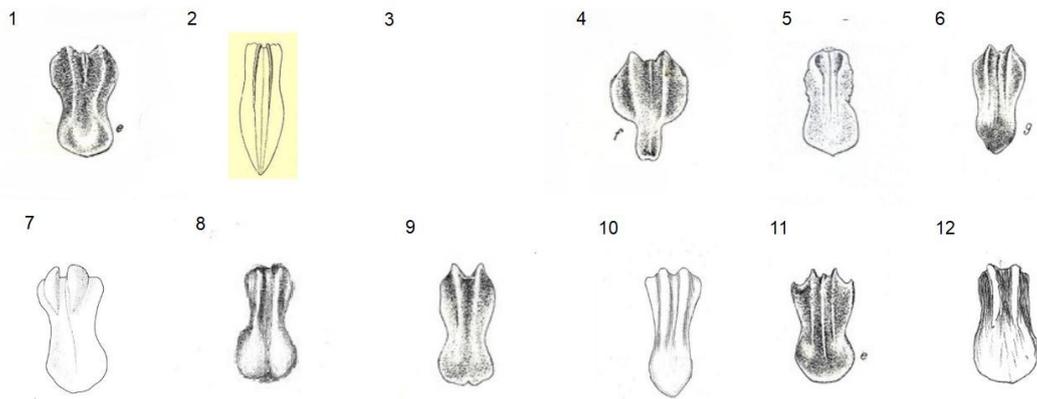
#### Additional Comments

J.J Smith didn't compare this species to others and said that it could be differentiated by its unusual labellum.



J.J. Smith - illustration

Sumatran *Dendrochilum* in subgenus *Dendrochilum*



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|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 – <i>Dendrochilum albobiride</i>   | 7 – <i>Dendrochilum pallidiflavens</i> |
| 2 – <i>Dendrochilum aurantiacum</i>  | 8 – <i>Dendrochilum panduratum</i>     |
| 3 – <i>Dendrochilum brevilabre</i>   | 9 – <i>Dendrochilum rhodobulbum</i>    |
| 4 – <i>Dendrochilum complectens</i>  | 10 – <i>Dendrochilum sulfureum</i>     |
| 5 – <i>Dendrochilum devoogdii</i>    | 11 – <i>Dendrochilum taeniophyllum</i> |
| 6 – <i>Dendrochilum korintjiense</i> | 12 – <i>Dendrochilum wichersii</i>     |

Drawings by:

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 Trey Sanders  
 Kranzlin

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

Reference –

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

SMITH, J.J. 1945, List of the Orchidaceae Collected in 1937 by Dr C.G.G. Van Steenis in Atjeh (North Sumatra), Blumea 6

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 20 August 2008. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **20 August 2008**.