

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum cupulatum* J.J.Wood in J.J.Wood & P.J.Cribb, Check-list Orchids Borneo: 171 (1994).

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah and Sarawak

Elevation in the Wild

1,200 – 2,100 metres
(1,600 – 2,100 metres within Sarawak)

Habitat in the Wild

The type specimen was collected above camp 4 within the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak. Further specimens have been collected from around camp 4 and on the southern summit of Mount Mulu. This species has also been collected from the Hose Mountains on the ridge leading to Batu Hill.

Within Sabah this species has been collected in the Crocker Range along the Kimanis to Keningau road and Ranau.

Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as upper montane mossy ridge forest up to 25 meters high on sandstone and ridge top scrub. Wood also wrote that it is often found in exposed places (Wood 2001).

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs clump along creeping rhizomes. Pseudobulbs are a cylindrical or elliptic shape and are spaced 0.3-2.4cm apart. Pseudobulbs measure 0.9-2.3cm long and 0.4-0.8cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 3 cataphylls while they are growing. Cataphylls disintegrate into non-persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.1-0.5cm long. Leaf blades are a linear-ligulate shape with apiculate apices. Leaf blades are conduplicate at basally and slightly carinate at their apices. Leaf blades measure 4-10cm long and 0.4-0.5cm wide.

The Inflorescence

Peduncles are erect and measure 1.5-3cm long. Rachises are erect and measure 6-14cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 1mm apart. Rachises and peduncles are a greenish yellow colour. There is 1 non-floriferous bract at the base of each rachis.

The Flowers

Flower are greenish-yellow or pale green and with a brighter green labellum or flowers are white with a greenish-white labellum. Calli are often bright green and anther caps are pale brown. Sepals and petals spread widely. Dorsal sepals are an ovate-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 2mm long and

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1mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are an ovate-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Lateral sepals measure 2mm long and 1mm wide, have entire margins and are 1-veined. Petals are an ovate-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Petals measure 1.6-1.7mm long and 0.8-0.9mm wide. Petals have entire margins and are 1-veined. Labella are entire and concave basally. Labella measure 1.1mm long and 1.5-1.6mm wide, are a broadly ovate and cupulate shape and have apiculate apices. Labella margins are entire. There are 3 longitudinal nerves that run along the length of each labellum. There are 2 small calli located in the centre of the disc along the lateral nerves. Columns measure 0.2mm long are a cuneate shape and have truncate apices. Stelidia grow from the base of columns, are an oblong shape and have truncate apices. Stelidia measure 1-1.1mm long and exceed apical hoods.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen K000078208](#) (photo)

Isotype

NA

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 40474.000](#)

[Specimen 61406.000](#)

[Specimen 60408.000](#)

[Specimen 42087.000](#)

[Specimen 61490.000](#)

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C

AAU

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

I could not locate the specimen

UKMS

Scent

Yes, a slight spicy scent or a strong honey scent.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from March to April and during December and January.

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Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum alatum
Dendrochilum corrugatum
Dendrochilum sublobatum

Other Information

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species is probably most closely related to *Dendrochilum corrugatum* but differs by the pseudobulbs, linear-ligulate shape leaves and smaller flowers. The flowers of *Dendrochilum cupulatum* differ from *D. corrugatum* by a smaller dorsal sepal, entire petals, strongly concave and cupulate labellum (Wood 2001).

This species also differs from *Dendrochilum alatum* by its pseudobulbs, denser inflorescence, smaller flowers, entire petals, strongly concave and cupulate labellum.

Jeffrey Wood wrote that the flowers look very similar to *Dendrochilum sublobatum* but differ by the wider spaced pseudobulbs and shorter leaves. an flowers of *Dendrochilum sublobatum* have a slightly lobed labellum that is shaped ovate-acuminate shape. Labella are decurved and have a large horseshoe shaped callus. The column has a better defined apical hood (Wood 2001).

The epithet refers to the cup like labellum.



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Reference –

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WOOD, Jeffrey. 1997, Orchids of Borneo volume 3. The Sabah Society, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

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World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 23 February 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **23 February 2009**.

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