

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum crassifolium* Ames, Orchidaceae 6: 49 (1920)

## Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

### Synonyms

None

### Origin in the Wild

Sabah and Sarawak

### Elevation in the Wild

1,300 – 2,400 metres  
(1,700 – 1,800 metres within Sarawak)

### Habitat in the Wild

Within Sarawak plants have been collected on Mount Murud and along the route from Ba Kelalan to Mount Murud (Camp 3).

In Sabah this plant has been collected on Mount Kinabalu, Mount Alab, the Keningau to Kimanis road and in Sipitang District at the Rurun River headwaters.

Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as "lower montane forest; low, rather open, wet, somewhat podsolc forest, with a very dense undergrowth of *Pandanus* spp. And rattans; cleared, steeply sloping roadsides on sandstone and shale outcrops partially covered with grass and small bushes, in full sun." (Wood 2001).

This plant is an epiphyte and occasional terrestrial.

### The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster together along a short rhizome and are a yellowish colour. Pseudobulbs are spaced 0.5cm apart and an ovoid, ovoid-elliptic or conical shape. Pseudobulbs measure 0.8-3.5cm long and 0.5-1.2cm in diameter and are covered by 3-4 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 2.0-6.0cm long. Leaf blades are a linear to linear-ligulate or oblong to oblong-elliptic shape and have obtuse to shortly acute, or subacute and mucronate apices. Leaf blades measure 3.0-18.5cm long and 0.6-3.8cm wide. Leaf blades are either rigidly or toughly coriaceous or thick and fleshy and have 5-7 distinct nerves along their length.

### The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and appear from the pseudobulbs while they are very young or when they have nearly fully expanded. Peduncles are erect to gently curved and measure 12-18cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 16-36cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section and flowers alternate distichously, are spaced 3.0-5.0mm apart and up to 1cm in the proximal section of the rachis. There are no non floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis.

### The Flowers

Sepals and petals are green, greenish cream, greenish yellow or pale yellow with a darker green nerve on their exteriors. Labella are green between the side lobes and have two streaks from the middle of the side lobes to the middle of the mid-lobe. The two streaks are either dark green, pale yellowish brown or orange. Column are pale yellow and the stielidia are a white shade. Sepals and petals are either with or without minute trichomes at their bases. Dorsal sepals are an oblong-elliptic to narrowly elliptic shape and have acute to shortly acuminate apices. Dorsal sepals are 3-veined and have entire margins. Dorsal sepals measure 6.0-7.0mm long and 1.7-2.5mm wide. Lateral sepals are an oblong-elliptic shape and have acute to shortly acuminate apices. Lateral sepals measure 5.8-7.0mm long and 1.5-2.5mm wide. Lateral sepals are 3-veined and have entire margins. Petals are an oblong-elliptic to narrowly elliptic shape and have acute to shortly acuminate apices. Petals are 3-veined and have erose to irregularly denticulate and sometimes entire margins. Petals measure 5.7-7.0mm long and 1.8-3.0mm wide. Labella are 3-nerved, 3-lobed and not firmly attached to columns. Labella measure 5.0-5.5mm long and 1.1-1.2mm wide. Side lobes are divaricate and a narrowly triangular shape. Side lobes measure 1.0-1.1mm long. Side lobe upper margins are minutely erose to irregularly dentate. Mid-lobes are an obovate, ovate-elliptic, broadly obtrullate or subcordate shape and have acute to acuminate or rounded and mucronate apices. The margins of mid-lobes are uneven to minutely erose. There are two papillose keels than terminate near the apices of mid-lobes. Keels are joined basally by a transverse ridge. On each labellum there is an elevated median nerve which joins the keels basally to form an M shape. The keeled transverse ridge sometimes has 2 teeth of either side which can be developed into two erose basal flanges. There is one herbarium specimen where there are no papillae on the keels. Columns are gently incurved and measure 2.5-4.0mm long. Column feet are prominent. Apical hoods are elongated, a triangular-elliptic shape with obtuse to acute apices. The margins of apical hoods are either entire or irregularly tridentate. Stielidia grow upwards from above the base of the column and do not reach the column apex. Stielidia are a linear-ligulate or narrowly triangular shape, falcate and have subacute to acuminate apices.

#### Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 48121](#) (photo)

Other herbarium specimens

E

SAR

BM

SING

AMES

I could not locate the specimen

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen 60402.000](#)

[Specimen 60401.000](#)

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[www.dendrochilum.com](http://www.dendrochilum.com)

Written by Trey Sanders - Please use with permission

[Specimen L0322437](#)  
[Specimen L0322438](#)  
[Specimen L0322439](#)

Scent

No

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from April, July, August, September and December.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

*Dendrochilum dewindtianum*

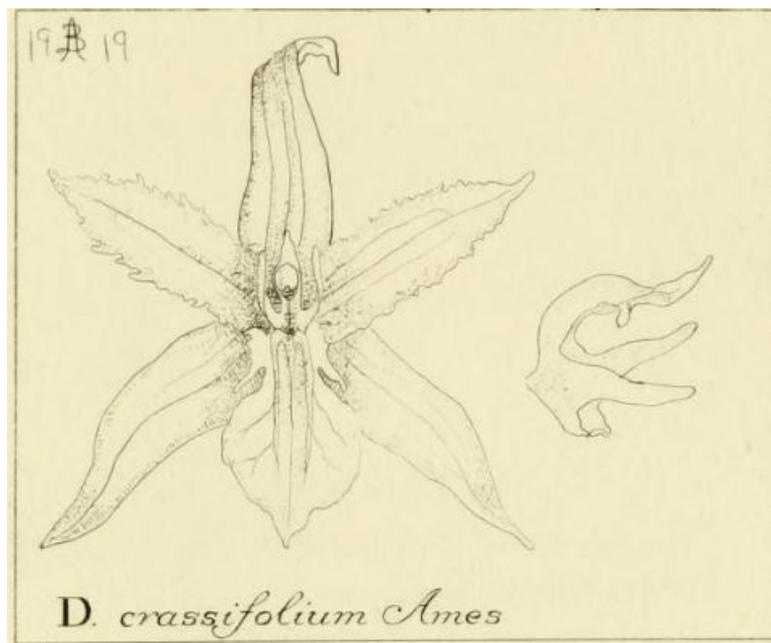
*Dendrochilum geesinkii* (see this page for the differences)

Other Information

Ames wrote "Mature pseudobulbs are wanting in the material form which the description was made. *D. crassifolium* is most closely related to *D. kamborangense* Ames, from which it differs in the obtuse leathery leaves, in the lateral and middle lobes of the lip, and in the appendages of the column. *D. persipicabile* is also nearly related, but sufficiently distinct in the lobing of the lip" (Ames 1920).

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species is very similar to *Dendrochilum dewindtianum* and is equally as variable. Some herbarium specimens can be difficult to tell apart (Wood 2001). The fleshy and tough leaves of *Dendrochilum crassifolium* are the best way to tell the two species apart.

The epithet refers to the thick and fleshy leaves.



Ames illustration, 1920



This photo was taken by Kath Barrett and is reproduced on this website with permission by the late Jeffrey Wood. ©



This photo was taken by Tom Ballinger and is used with permission. ©



This photo was taken by Tom Ballinger 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.

BEAMAN, Teofila, WOOD, Jeffrey, BEAMAN, Reed, BEAMAN, John. 2001, Orchids of Sarawak, Natural History Publications Borneo, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

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**.