

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum lancilabium* Ames, Orchidaceae 6: 58 (1920)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Kalimantan, Sabah, and Sarawak

Elevation in the Wild

1,200 – 2,550 metres

Habitat in the Wild

Within Kalimantan this species has been recorded on Mount Kemul. Within Sabah this species is recorded on Mount Kinabalu and Mount Trus Madi (Wood 2001). In Sarawak this plant is recorded from Mount Mulu and Mount Murud.

Jeffrey Wood describes the habitat as lower montane forest especially on exposed ridges; low xerophyllous scrub forest on ultramafic rock, on tree trunks and roots, boulders, terrestrial in mossy hummocks, creeping within mats of bog moss sometimes in full sunlight (Wood 2001).

The Plants Description

Rhizome branch and grow between 12 cm and 20 cm long. Pseudobulbs either crowd or are spaced 2 cm apart along the rhizome. Pseudobulbs are a narrowly cylindrical or narrowly fusiform shape and measure 1.5-7 cm long and 0.3-0.5 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs narrow towards their apices. Pseudobulbs are covered by 3 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.7-3.5 cm long. Leaf blades are a linear-ligulate or narrowly elliptic shape and have obtuse and mucronate apices. Leaf blades measure 10-18.5 cm long and 0.6-1.5 cm wide. Leaves are dark green sometimes yellowish, coriaceous and have 5-6 distinct nerves.

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are erect and measure 5-11 cm long. Rachises are erect to gently curved and measure 15-18 cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 2-3 mm apart. There is 1 non-floriferous bract at the base of the rachises.

Ames described the flowers as greenish yellow (Ames 1920). Jeffrey Wood wrote, the flowers are greenish yellow, pale lemon or pale green (Wood 2001). Sepals and petals have tiny trichomes at their bases. Dorsal sepals are slightly concave, a narrowly elliptic shape and have acuminate apices. Dorsal sepals measure 4.1-6.0 mm long and 1.4-1.5 mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are three veined. Lateral sepals are a slightly obliquely narrowly elliptic shape and have acute to acuminate apices. Lateral sepals measure 4.1-5 mm long and 1.4-1.5 mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire margins and are three veined. Petals are a narrowly elliptic shape and have acuminate apices. Petals measure 4-4.25 mm long and 0.9-1 mm wide. Petals have entire margins, sometimes minutely denticulate and are one veined. Labella are entire, three veined and shortly clawed. Labella measure 3-4 mm long and 1.5-1.6 mm wide. Labella are a narrowly elliptic shape and has decurved acuminate apices. The margins are minutely denticulate to erose. There are 2 prominent keels that join at the base of the hypochile and terminate just before the middle of the

labella. The median nerve is elevated and terminates at the middle of the labellum. Columns are slightly curved and measure 2.5 mm long. Column feet are small. Apical hoods are elongated and have subquadrate shaped apices; the margins are entire or dentate. Ames wrote that the apical hood is variable and is either 3-lobed, tridentate, or entire (Ames 1920). Stelidia grow upwards from the base of columns and are almost equal to the column apices. Stelidia are at an angle to the columns', so they are parallel with the labella, the stelidia measure 2 mm long and are half the length of the labella. Stelidia are a linear-ligulate shape and have obtuse apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 98777](#) (photo)

Isotype

BM

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

I could not locate the specimen

New York Botanical Garden (NY)

[Specimen 39534](#)

SING

Other herbarium specimens

The Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh (E)

[Specimen E00050027](#)

[Specimen E00050090](#) (unspecified kind of type)

[Specimen E00050024](#)

[Specimen E00050025](#)

SAR

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

I could not locate the specimen

AMES

[Specimen 98778](#) (photo)

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

[Specimen L0322577](#)

[Specimen L0322578](#)

[Specimen L0322579](#)

[Specimen L0322580](#)

SING

www.dendrochilum.com

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Sabah Parks Herbarium

BM

BO

HBG

UKMS

SAN

Scent

Yes, sweetly scented

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from May to January. Flowering plants in Sarawak have been collected during September and October. The collection from Kalimantan was collected during October and plants from Mount Kinabalu have been collected during various months.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum subintegrum

Dendrochilum longipes

Other Information

Jeffrey Wood wrote (2001) that *Dendrochilum lancilabium* is probably most closely related to *Dendrochilum subintegrum*. The differences are the narrower leaves and the broader labellum.

The epithet refers to the spear shaped labella.



A drawing by Oakes Ames



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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. 16 March 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **16 March 2009**.