

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum acuiferum* Carr, Gard. Bull. Straits Settlement. 8: 227 (1935)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah

Elevation in the Wild

2,950 - 3,000 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This Mount Kinabalu endemic has been collected near the Paka-paka cave. Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as dwarf scrub of *Leptospermum recurvum* and open rocky places. This species is mostly restricted to ultramafic substrate. Jeffrey Wood wrote that it is not as common as *Dendrochilum grandiflorum* and *Dendrochilum stachyodes* (Wood 2001).

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a creeping and branching rhizome and can measure up to 8cm long. Pseudobulbs are an orange colour, cylindrical to narrowly ovoid shape and borne at an acute angle to the rhizome. Pseudobulbs measure 1.6-4.2cm long and 0.3-0.5cm in diameter, are covered by 3 cataphylls while they are growing. Cataphylls soon disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.2-3.0cm long. Leaf blades are a narrowly oblong-elliptic or oblong-lanceolate shape with acute apices. Leaf blades measure 10.5-11cm long and 0.8-1.3cm wide. Leaves are dark-green and have five distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Peduncles are erect to slightly curved and measure 8.5-14.0cm long. Rachises are curved to nodding and measure 5-8cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3-5mm apart. There is one non-floriferous bract at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

The Flowers

Between 10 and 18 flowers grow on an inflorescence. Sepals and petals are either a creamy, pale yellow or pale salmon colour. Labella are cream or pale yellow suffused with pale salmon-pink at its apex. keels are white and the nerves are a peach colour. Columns and anther caps are pale salmon-pink. Dorsal sepals are a narrowly elliptic shape with acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 7-8mm long and 2mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are an obliquely narrowly-elliptic shape and subfalcate with acute apices. Lateral sepals measure 6.5-7mm long and 2.0-2.3mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined.

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Petals are a narrowly elliptic shape and have acute apices. Petals measure 5.7-6.5mm long and 1.9-2.0mm wide, have slightly erose margins on their upper half and are 3 veined. Labella are 3-lobed and shortly clawed. Side lobes are short and are a rounded or subtruncate shape. Mid-lobes are an ovate or transversely elliptic shape with shortly acuminate or acute apices. The margins are minutely erose. Labella measure 4.7-5.1mm long and 3.5-3.8mm wide. There are 2 keels that terminate at the base of the mid-lobe; the keels are joined at the hypochile base by a bilobed shaped swelling. Columns gently curve and are 1.7-2.3mm long. Apical hoods are broadly rounded or subtruncate and have entire margins. Stelidia grow from the bases of columns and are a linear shape with acute apices. Stelidia measure 1-1.1mm long and do not exceed the column apex but reach the rostellum.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

SING

Isotype

Kew Botanic Gardens (K)

[Specimen K000078200](#)

[Specimen K000078202](#)

[Specimen 60393.000](#)

[Specimen K000078199](#)

[Specimen K000078201](#)

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0003775](#)

AMES

I could not locate the specimen

Other herbarium specimens

Scent

Yes, a faint sweet scent.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during June.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

NA

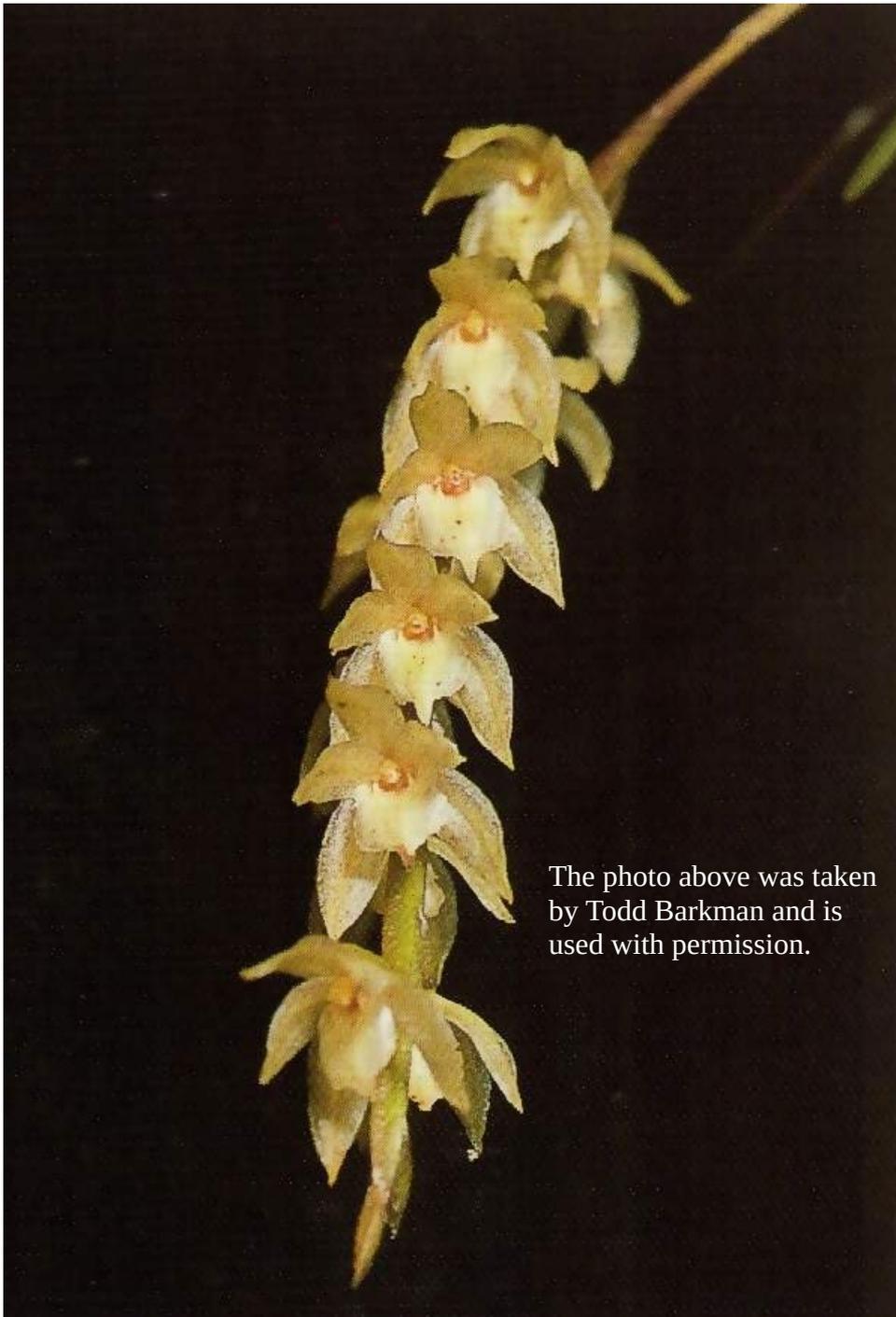
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Other Information

Todd Barkman wrote that this plant has evolved from its parents *Dendrochilum grandiflorum* and *Dendrochilum stachyodes*. Barkman undertook a molecular study to confirm that *Dendrochilum acuiferum* was a natural hybrid between the 2 species. Barkman wrote that *Dendrochilum acuiferum* should be considered a species in its own right because it can reproduce sexually and is somewhat divergent from its parents. *Dendrochilum acuiferum* is found in close proximity to these two species.

The epithet refers to the acuminate mid-lobe of the labellum.



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Reference -

WOOD, Jeffrey. *Dendrochilum of Borneo*, 2001. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Malaysia.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 24 March 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **24 March 2009**.

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