

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum crassilabium* J.J.Wood in J.J.Wood & P.J.Cribb, Check-list Orchids Borneo: 168 (1994)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Kalimantan, Sabah, Sarawak

Elevation in the Wild

1,300 – 2,500 metres
1,500 metres within Sarawak

Habitat in the Wild

Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as mixed hill dipterocarp forest and upper montane forest up to 30 meters high (Wood 2001). This species is also recorded from the Mount Tambuyukon forest on ultramafic substrate. The Kalimantan Isotype was collected in habitat described as "primary ridge forest to 30m high, with little undergrowth, no moss on the bases of the trees. Ridge sloping to steep, sides steep"

Specimens have been collected from Kalimantan Timur along the eastern ridge of Mount Sungai Pendan's. In Sabah this species has been collected on Mount Tambuyukon in the Kinabalu National Park. In Sarawak collections have been made in the Limbang District on the route from Ulu Sungai Limbang to Batu Buli and in Marudi District along a trail to Mount Mulu.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs crowd along the rhizome and are an ovoid-elliptic or narrowly fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.0-1.6cm long and 0.3-0.4cm in diameter and are covered by three cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.2-1.5cm long. Leaf blades are a narrowly linear-ligulate shape and have acute apices. Leaf blades measure 5.0-10.5cm long and 0.45-0.5cm wide, are coriaceous and have three distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are arching to pendent and measure 5.5-12cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 0.7-1.8cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3-5mm apart. There are 1-2 non-floriferous bracts at the base of each rachis.

The Flowers

Jeffrey Wood wrote that between 2 and 6 flowers grow on an inflorescence (Wood 2001). Flowers have dull brownish salmon coloured sepals and petals, labella are brownish-salmon, and columns are brownish olive-green. Dorsal sepals are an oblong-elliptic shape with obtuse apices. Dorsal sepals measure 7mm long and 2.1mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are an obliquely ovate-elliptic shape and have acute or obtuse apices. Lateral sepals measure 7.2-7.5mm long and 2.8mm wide, have entire margins and are 3-veined. Petals are an

oblong to oblong-elliptic shape and have obtuse apices. Petals measure 7mm long and 2mm wide, have slightly erose margins and are 3 veined. Labella are 3-lobed, 3-nerved and measure 7-7.2mm long. Side lobes are lacerate and a narrowly triangular shape with acuminate apices. Mid-lobes are longitudinally concave, spathulate and a shallowly retuse or narrowly ovate-elliptic shape. Mid-lobes are thick and fleshy and the margins are thinner and entire. There are 2 ridges that join at the base of the hypochile to form a U shape. Columns are curved and measure 3.0-3.5mm long. Column feet are prominent. Apical hoods have truncate apices with a three or more dentate margin. Stelidia grow upwards from the middle of the column opposite the stigmatic cavity. Stelidia are a ligulate or oblong-ligulate, sometimes falcate shape and have obtuse apices. Stelidia are slightly shorter or slightly exceed column apices and measure 2mm long.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

National Herbarium, Netherlands (L)

I could not locate the specimen

Isotype

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen 60404.000](#)

[Specimen K000078894](#) (photo)

[Specimen K000078893](#) (photo)

Other herbarium specimens

SAR

National Herbarium, Netherlands (L)

I could not locate the specimen

Sabah Parks Herbarium

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen 61447.000](#)

Scent

I could find no record.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during March and October

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in general cultivation. The National Herbarium in the Netherlands had a specimen in their Hortus Botanicus in 1998.

Similar Species

www.dendrochilum.com

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Dendrochilum pachyphyllum

Other Information

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species is similar to *Dendrochilum pachyphyllum* and has similarly coloured flowers. This species differs from *Dendrochilum pachyphyllum* because it has coriaceous leaves which are never thick and fleshy. The leaves of *Dendrochilum crassilabium* are generally longer and the inflorescence is longer than the leaves. The sepals and petals are obtuse. The labellum is longer and the side lobes are lacerate, the mid lobe is thick, retuse and an ovate-spathulate shape.

Jeffrey Wood wrote that some of the herbarium specimens showed variation, for example the specimen collected from Mount Tambuyukon has a labellum shaped narrowly ovate-elliptic. Jeffrey Wood wrote that intermediaries between this species and *Dendrochilum pachyphyllum* may exist (Wood, 2001).

The epithet refers to the thick labellum.



This photo was taken by Malcolm Perry of a plant at the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden and is used with permission.

Reference –

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

DE VOGEL, Ed de. SCHUIITEMAN, André. FELEUS, Nathalie. VOGEL, Art. 1998, Hortus Botanicus Leiden Catalogue Part 1, Universitet Leiden, Netherlands

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

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 25 April 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **25 April 2009**.