

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum asperum* L.O.Williams, Philipp. J. Sci. 80: 309 (1952)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Acoridium exasperatum Ames, Schedul. Orchid. 6: 21 (1923).

Origin in the Wild

Luzon

Elevation in the Wild

1,200 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This species has been recorded in Laguna Province on Mount San Cristobel; in Quezon Province on Mount Camatis and in Rizal on Mount Lumutan.

This species has been recorded as an epiphyte in mossy forest (Ames 1923).

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short rhizome and are a fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 0.8-2cm long and 0.1-0.2cm in diameter and are covered by 4-5 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into non-persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.4-2.2cm long. Leaf blades are a linear-lanceolate shape and have obtuse and sometimes finely mucronate apices. Leaf blades measure 3.1-14.9cm long and 0.3-0.9cm wide. The leaves have three distinct nerves; the 2 outermost nerves are 1-1.5mm from the leaf margin.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and free from the subtending leaf at the time of flowering. Peduncles are suberect to curved and measure 3.1-11.2cm long. Rachises are nodding to pendent and measure 1.8-6.2cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and spaced 1-2mm apart. There are 1-2 non floriferous bracts. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

The Flowers

The flowers are white. Sepals and petals spread widely and are somewhat recurved. Dorsal sepals are an oblong-elliptic shape and have obtuse apices. Dorsal sepals measure 1.6-2.2mm long and 0.6-1.2mm wide, are one veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an obliquely elliptic-ovate shape and have subacuminate apices. Lateral sepals measure 1.7-2.1mm long and 0.7-1.1mm wide, are one veined and entire margins. Petals are an obliquely elliptic and have subacute to subacuminate apices. Petals measure 1.4-1.7mm long and 0.7-1.1mm wide, are one veined and have entire margins. Labella are porrect, 3-veined and 3-lobed. Labella measure 0.6-0.9mm long and 1.3-1.7mm wide. Side lobes are erect, a falcately oblong to somewhat crescent shape with obtuse to rounded apices. Side lobes distinctly exceed the mid-lobe. Mid-lobes are a transversely oblong shape and have

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an up curved apiculum at the centre of its apex. The margins of the labella are entire. There are two lateral calli located at the base of each side lobe, the calli are an oblongoid shape. The median callus is minute, located centrally and close to the labellum base. Columns are suberect, measure 0.5-0.7mm long, and hooded at their apices. Anther caps are broadly ovate from its upper view and obtuse from its front.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 31](#) (photo) (*Acoridium exasperatum*)

Isotype

P

Other herbarium specimens

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0269517](#)

Scent

I could find no record

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during April and May.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation. However, there is a possibility that some plants in cultivation of *Dendrochilum curranii* and *Dendrochilum microchilum* could be this species upon close examination.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum microchilum
Dendrochilum parvulum var *strictiforme*
Dendrochilum parvulum var *parvulum*
Dendrochilum mindanaense
Dendrochilum quadrilobum
Dendrochilum binuangense
Dendrochilum curranii
Dendrochilum serratoi

Other Information

Oakes Ames wrote (1923) that this species was closest to *Dendrochilum microchilum* but differed because its petals were broadly ovate or elliptic. Ames also wrote that the labellum is similar to *Dendrochilum microchilum*. In this paper Ames described this species as *Acoridium exasperatum* (Ames 1923).

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Petal shape



*Dendrochilum
microchilum*



*Dendrochilum
asperum*

*Illustration by Trey Sanders. Traced from
Henrik Pedersen, The Genus
Dendrochilum in the Philippines, 1997*

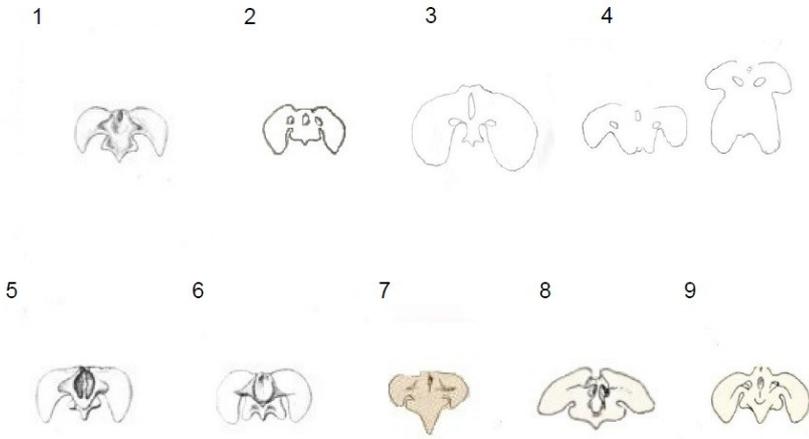
L.O Williams transferred *Acoridium exasperatum* to *Dendrochilum* in 1952. Williams proposed *Dendrochilum asperum* as its name because *Dendrochilum exasperatum* was already in use for a species from Borneo. L.O. Williams wrote that *Dendrochilum asperum* was closely related to *Dendrochilum curranii* because of an overall resemblance.

Henrik Pedersen wrote that the two species can be distinguished by the veining of the sepals and the size and location of the calli. The main difference is the type of leaf, *Dendrochilum curranii* has convolute leaves and *Dendrochilum asperum* has conduplicate leaves (Pedersen 1997).

Henrik Pedersen grouped this species with the first six species mentioned under similar species. They are grouped because of the similarities of the labellum, vegetative similarities and a peduncle that is free from the subtending leaf at the time of flowering (Pedersen 1997).

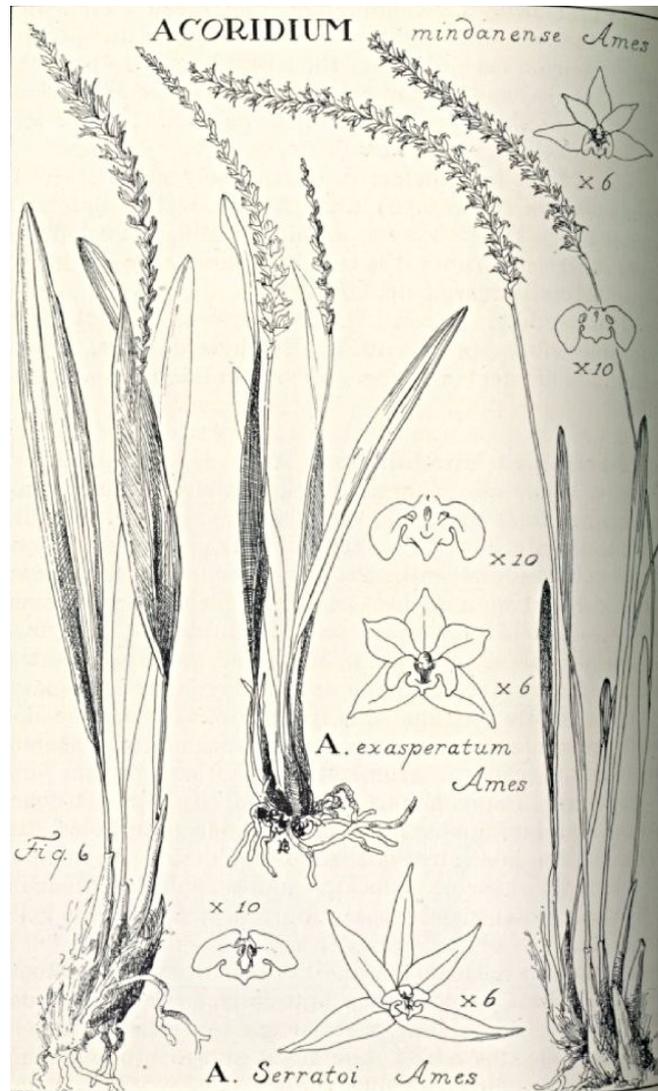
The *microchilum* group
- labellum comparison

- 1 - *Dendrochilum microchilum*
- 2 - *Dendrochilum mindanaense*
- 3 - *Dendrochilum binuangense*
- 4 - *Dendrochilum quadrilobum*
- 5 - *Dendrochilum parvulum* var *strictiforme*
- 6 - *Dendrochilum parvulum* var *parvulum*
- 7 - *Dendrochilum curranii*
- 8 - *Dendrochilum serratoi*
- 9 - *Dendrochilum asperum*



Drawings by:

Oakes Ames
Trey Sanders (traced from Henrik Pedersen)



Reference -

AMES, Oakes. 1923, New and Noteworthy Orchids, Schedulae Orchidiana, No 6. Massachusetts, Boston.

PEDERSEN, Henrik. 1997, The Genus *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae) in the Philippines - A Taxonomic Revision. Opera Botanica, Denmark

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 04 December 2008. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **04 December 2008**.