

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum anomalum* Carr, Gard. Bull. Straits Settlem. 8: 87 (1935)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak

Elevation in the Wild

600 - 1,000 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This species is an epiphyte found on heath, kerangas and hill forest. Jeffrey Wood wrote that it favours forest types with an open canopy where it receives higher levels of light (wood 2001).

This species has been found in Kalimantan Timur on Apo Kayan, Sabah in the Tenom District and on Mount Kinabalu. Within Sarawak this species has been found on Mount Dulit along the Koyan River.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs crowd along rhizomes and are an ovoid shape. Pseudobulbs measure 2.3-4cm long and 0.7-2cm in diameter and are a yellowish-olive colour. Pseudobulbs are covered by four cataphylls while they are growing and which soon disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; etioles measure 1.3-2.5cm long. Leaf blades are an oblong-elliptic shape with obtuse to shortly apiculate apices. Leaf blades measure 9.3-15.5cm long and 3.3-4.5cm wide. Leaf margins are slightly recurved and the have nine distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are erect, measure 16-25cm long and yellowish-green. Rachises are arching to pendent and measure 17.5-27cm long. Rachises are a pale brownish-green colour and quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3-4mm apart; inflorescences twist to form a spiral. There are 3-4 non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

The Flowers

Jeffrey Wood wrote that many flowers grow on an inflorescence. Flowers are either dull orange-yellow with an orange labellum that has reddish central parts or sepals that are greenish-cream, pale green or pale reddish brown tipped with brownish-pink, labella are dark orange, pale brownish orange or pale reddish brown. Columns are pale reddish-brown or orange and anther caps orange to salmon pink. Sepals and petals are minutely papillose on their under parts. Dorsal sepals are a narrowly oblong shape with acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 5.0-6.3mm long and 1.5-1.9mm

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wide, have entire margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are an obliquely oblong-elliptic shape and have acute or shortly acuminate apices. Lateral sepals measure 6-7mm long and 1.6-2.1mm wide, have entire margins, are dorsally carinate at their apex and are 3-veined. Petals are a linear-ligulate or narrowly oblong-elliptic shape and have acute sometimes subfalcate apices. Petals measure 4.8-6mm long and 1.0-1.2mm wide, have entire margins and are 3-veined. Labella are 3-lobed, 3-nerved, 5-6mm long and 2-3mm wide when flattened and parallel with the column. Side lobes clasp the column and are a triangular shape with subacute apices. There is a transverse fold where the side lobes meet the epichile. Mid-lobes are abruptly recurved and an ovate shape with subacute apices. Mid-lobes margins are minutely erose. There is a large V shaped keel that starts at the base of the hypochile and extends to the base of the mid-lobe. The central V shaped keel is joined by 2 smaller lateral keels to form an overall M shape. Columns are papillose, curved and measure 4-4.5mm long. Column feet are short and papillose. Apical hoods are transversely oblong with truncate apices and erose margins. Stelidia emerge upwards from just below the stigmatic cavity and a narrowly triangular-falcate shape. Stelidia always terminate below the column apex.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (K)

Specimen [K000078889](#) (photo)

Isotype

Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (K)

Specimen [24049.000](#)

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Other Herbarium specimens

Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (K)

Specimen [56663.000](#)

Specimen [37529.000](#)

Specimen [30620.000](#)

Specimen [60398.000](#)

National herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

Specimen – I could not locate the specimen

Scent

I could find no record

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during January, August, October and November.

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Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum galeatum (see this page for differences)

Other Information

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this plant does not appear to have any close allies, Henrik Pedersen wrote (1995) in his East Malesia paper that *Dendrochilum galeatum* is most similar to *Dendrochilum anomalum*.

The epithet refers to this species isolated status within *Dendrochilum*.

Reference –

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

PEDERSEN, Henrik. 1995, Thirteen new species of *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae), a new record from Burma, and a checklist of the genus in East Malesia. Nord. J. Bot 15:381-402. Copenhagen, Denmark.

WOOD, Jeffrey. 1997, Orchids of Borneo volume 3. The Sabah Society, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

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**.

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