

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum alpinum* Carr, Gard. Bull. Straits Settlem. 8: 235 (1935)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*.

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah

Elevation in the Wild

2,400 - 3,700 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This species is endemic to Mount Kinabalu. Collections have been made below Sayat Sayat, above Panar Laban, Gurulau Spur and in the summit area.

Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as upper montane forest. Carr's description and the isotypes state that this species was found on the sides of granite rocks under the shelter of stunted trees (Carr 1935). Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species is abundant above 3,200 metres (Wood 2003).

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along shortly creeping rhizomes. Rhizomes measure up to 5cm long and pseudobulbs are spaced 1cm apart along them. Pseudobulbs are a golden yellow, orange or red colour, are an ovoid shape and minutely rugulose. Pseudobulbs measure 1.8-2.7cm long and 0.8-1cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by three cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into non-persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.8-3cm long. Leaf blades are a narrowly-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Leaves narrow from their middle to their conduplicate apex. Leaf blades measure 7-14.5cm long and 0.7-1.5cm wide. The leaves have five distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Peduncles are arching and measure 3-10cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 7.5-12cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 5-6mm apart. There are 1-2 non-floriferous bracts at the base of each rachis.

The Flowers

Jeffrey Wood wrote that between 11 and 20 flowers grow on an inflorescence (Wood 2001). Flower colour is either salmon-pink or yellow and salmon pink, labella either brownish or salmon-pink. Columns are salmon-pink, and stelidia are brown. Dorsal sepals are incurved and an oblong to oblong-elliptic shape with acute apices often minutely apiculate. Dorsal sepals measure 7.8mm long and 4.4mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are an ovate-oblong shape and have acute or obtuse apices. Lateral sepals measure 7.8-7.9mm long and

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4mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Petals are an oblong or obliquely-oblong shape and have obtuse apices. Petals twist 90 degrees from vertical. Petals measure 7.8mm long and 3.8mm wide. Petals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Labella are entire and a broadly ovate shape with shallowly retuse or subacute apices. Labella are incurved above their middle and elevated along the median nerve. Labella measure 6.4mm long and 5.8mm wide. The margins of are entire. There are two curved keels that are tall and fleshy. Columns measure 1.2-2mm long. Apical hoods are sometimes obscurely 3-lobed to rounded and have an entire margin. Stelidia grow from the base of columns, are an oblong-oblancoolate shape and have obtuse apices, 1.7-1.8mm long. Stelidia exceed column apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

SING

Isotype

AMES

[Specimen 98744](#) (photo)

Kew Botanical Gardens (K)

[Specimen K000078204](#) (photo)

Other herbarium Specimens

Kew Botanical Gardens (K)

[Specimen 61486.000](#)

[Specimen 61488.000](#)

[Specimen 52771.000](#)

[Specimen 61487.000](#)

Sabah Parks Herbarium

SING

British Natural History Museum (BM)

[Specimen 50669](#)

UKMS

Scent

I could find no record.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected from June to July and in October and December.

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Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum pseudoscriptum

Other Information

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species is abundant above 3,200 meters (Wood 2001). Wood also wrote that this species has the largest flowers and pseudobulbs of any species from section *Eurybrachium* found on Mount Kinabalu (Wood 2003).

This species differs from others by its 90 degree petals and deeper coloured labella in contrast to the colour of the sepals and petals.

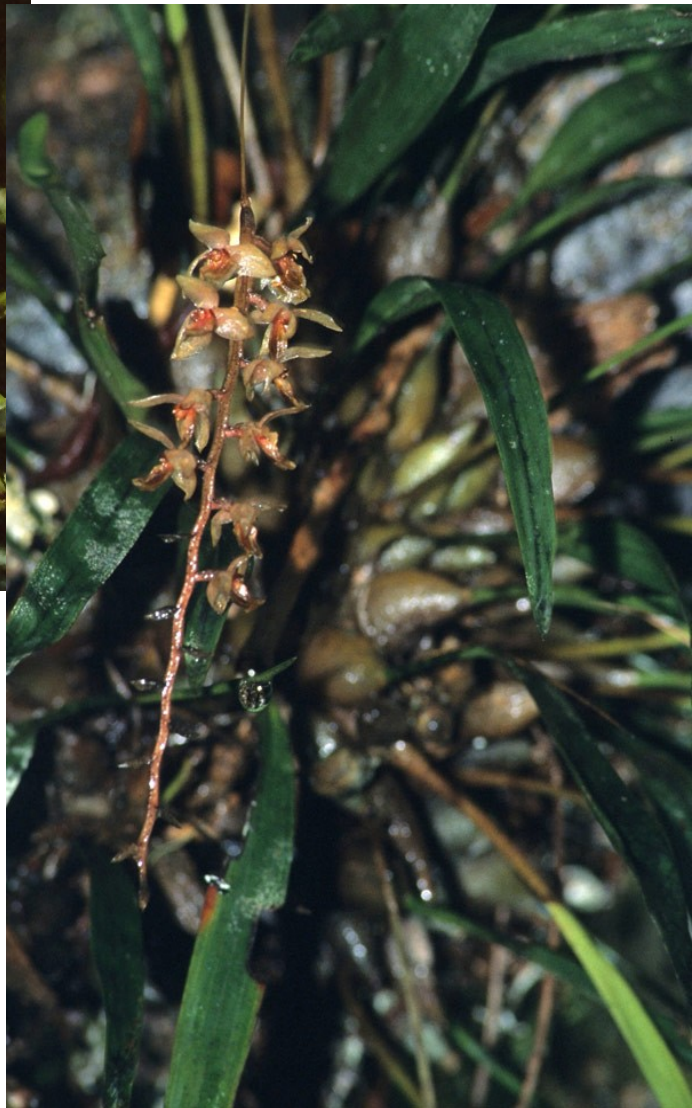
The epithet refers to the high elevation that this species is commonly found.



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Reference -

CARR, C.E. 1935, Gardeners. Bulletin. Straits Settlem. 8: 235

WOOD, Jeffrey. 2003, Orchids of Borneo volume 4. The Sabah Society, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

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

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 04 March 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **04 March 2009**.

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