

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum karoense* J.J. Wood, Lindleyana 7: 74 (1992)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sumatra

Elevation in the Wild

1,550 – 1,625 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This species is endemic to north Sumatra where it grows in lower montane forest on rocks and in exposed positions often in bright light and even full sun. This species has been collected along the Merek to Sidikalang road. The holotype was described as growing on small mossy branches in lower montane forest.

The Plants Description

Rhizomes branch and measure up to 6cm long. Pseudobulbs cluster close together along the rhizome. Pseudobulbs are an ovate shape and measure 1.2cm long and 0.6cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are green; Jim Comber wrote that they turn brown in exposed conditions (Comber 2001). Leaves are petiolate, petioles measure 5-8mm long. Leaf blades are a linear-elliptic shape and have obtuse to minutely apiculate apices. Leaf blades measure 3-4.2cm long and 4-5mm wide.

Peduncles are erect and measure 3.6-4.2cm long. Rachises are erect or arching and measure 2.5-3.2cm long.

Between 10 and 15 flowers grow on one inflorescence. Flowers are pale pinkish-brown and have darker brown labella. Dorsal sepals are an oblong-elliptic shape and have obtuse apices that are minutely apiculate. Dorsal sepals measure 3.5mm long and 2mm wide. Lateral sepals are nearly the same shape but are oblique and slightly wider. Petals are an ovate shape and measure 3mm long and 2.5mm wide. Petals have erose margins. Labella are entire and an ovate shape. The base of the labellum is wider than its apex. Lateral margins are erect. Labella measure 2.8mm long and 2mm wide. There are two keels. Columns are 0.8mm long. Apical hoods have truncate apices; the margins are indented. Stelidia grow from the bases of columns and slightly exceed column apices. Stelidia are a narrowly oblong shape and have obtuse apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen K000078213](#) (drawing)

[Specimen K000078212](#) (photo)

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen 55378.000](#)

[Specimen 61480.00](#)

Scent

I could find no record.

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during January and October. Jim Comber's *in-situ* photograph was taken during October.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum lamellatum

Dendrochilum carinatum

Other Information

This species is like *Dendrochilum lamellatum* but differs because it is smaller in all measurements. *Dendrochilum karoense* has 2 keels not 4 as *D. lamellatum* does. *D. karoense* has erose margins and the shape and length of the stelidia differ. This species differs from *Dendrochilum carinatum* by having 2 keels and obtuse stelidia that grow from the base of the column. *Dendrochilum carinatum* has stelidia that grow from the top of the column, 4 keels and acute apices on the stelidia.



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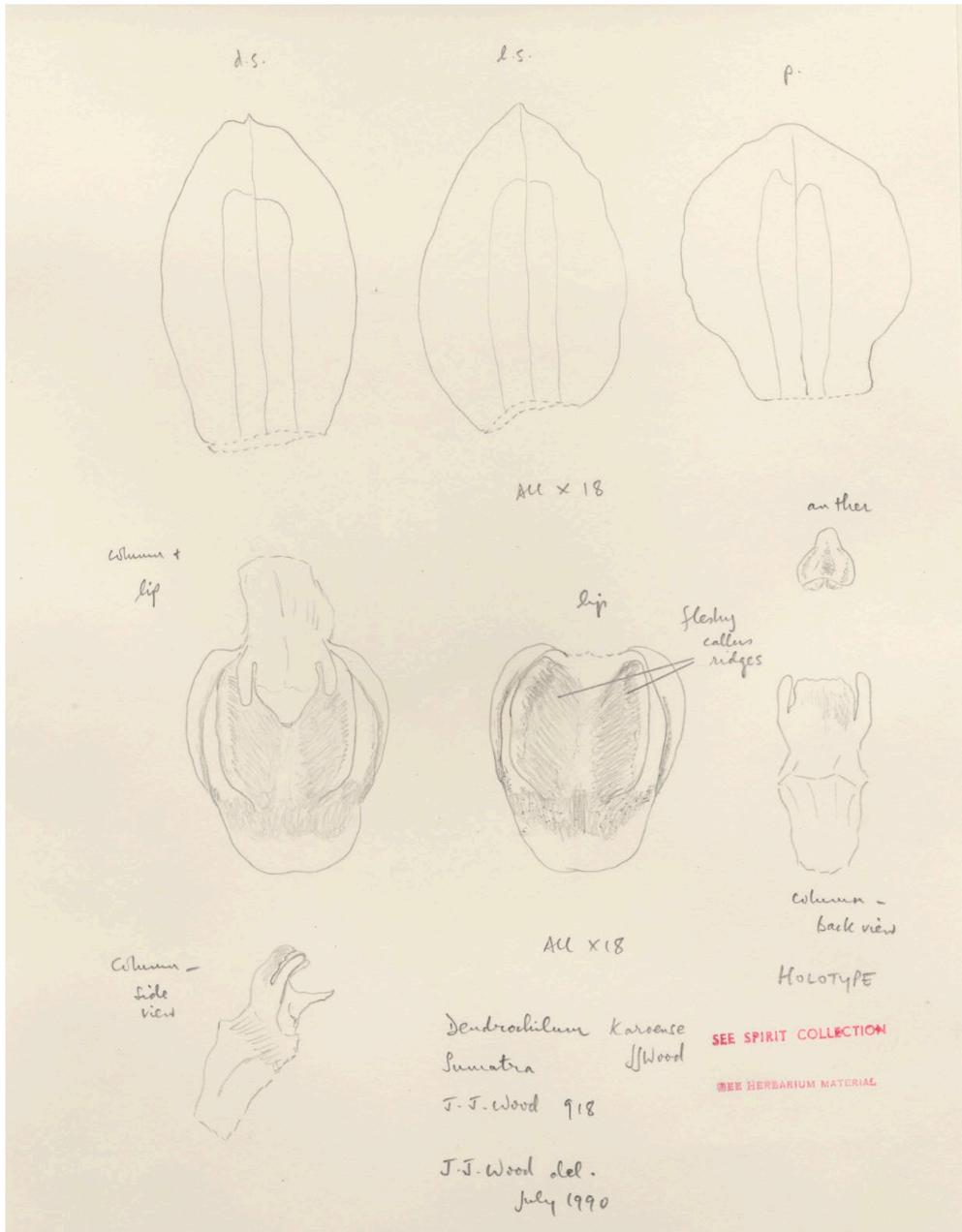
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Jeffrey Wood's illustration of the holotype

Reference -

COMBER, J.B. Orchids of Sumatra, 2001, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 19 October 2008. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **19 October 2008**.