

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum saccolabium* Kraenzl., Ann. K.K. Naturhist. Mus. Wien 30: 56 (1916)

## Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

### Synonyms

*Acoridium saccolabium* (Kraenzl.) Ames, Schedul. Orchid. 5: 2 (1923).

### Origin in the Wild

Luzon

### Elevation in the Wild

200 - 335 metres

### Habitat in the Wild

This species has been collected in Laguna Province at Kapatalan and Santa Maria. This species has also been collected from Rizal Province, the exact locality unknown.

This plant has been recorded as growing as an epiphyte in forest.

### The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along the rhizome and are shaped semifusiform. Pseudobulbs measure 1.3-3.3 cm long and 0.2-0.5 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 4-5 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate but not distinctly. Leaf blades are a narrowly linear shape and have acute apices. Leaf blades measure 22.5-35 cm long and 0.7-0.9 cm wide. Leaves are leathery and have five distinct nerves.

### The Inflorescence

Peduncles are enclosed for ½ of its length by the subtending leaf. Peduncles are suberect to curved and measure 16.2-31 cm long. Peduncles are quadrate in cross-section and finely setose. Rachises are nodding to pendent and measure 4.2-11.3 cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 1.5-2 mm apart. There are 3-6 appressed non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

### The Flowers

Flowers are reddish-brown to cinnabar-red. Up to 40 flowers can grow on an inflorescence (Cootes 2001). Spotted yellow bracts prevent the flower from opening properly. Dorsal sepals are an oblong shape and have rounded apices. Dorsal sepals measure 3.3-3.7 mm long. Dorsal sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are somewhat oblique, a nearly semiorbicular shape and have rounded to obtuse apices that are sometimes mucronate. Lateral sepals measure 2.4-2.6 mm long and 2.7-3.5 mm wide. Lateral sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Petals are an obliquely oblong shape and have subacuminate to rounded apices. Petals measure 2.5-3mm long and 1.0-1.2mm wide. Petals are three veined and have entire margins. Labella are porrect, 3-lobed and measure 1.0-1.2mm long and 1.4-1.9mm wide. Labella are obscurely three veined, glabrous and have entire margins although the side lobes are sometimes slightly dentate. Side lobes are erect, a

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falcately triangular shape and have acute apices. Side lobes are equal to or exceed the mid-lobe. Mid-lobes are a triangular shape and have acute apices. There are two tiny calli located at the base of each side lobe that are a subconical shape, there is no median callus. Columns are straight, bent forward distally and measure 0.7-0.8mm long. Columns are hooded. Stelidia and column feet are absent.

#### Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

Philippine National Herbarium, (PNH)

Specimen – destroyed

Isotype

AMES

[Specimen 98805](#) (photo) (specimen said to have come from the holotype)

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 72191.000](#)

#### Scent

I have not detected a scent. The Kew specimen states a faint scent of cucumber.

#### Flowering Season

In northern hemisphere cultivation this species flowers during the winter and spring. Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during September and from November to January.

#### Cultivation

This species is found in cultivation around the globe within specialist collections. I have seen evidence of plants growing in the USA, Australia, Brazil, and Europe.

Plants have been known to be mistakenly imported from the Philippines as *Dendrochilum arachnites* 'red' or *Dendrochilum wenzelii*.

The leaves tend to yellow and die. This could mean that the plant is sensitive to its environment. Water quality, air circulation and humidity will be needed.

#### Similar Species

*Dendrochilum wenzelii*

*Dendrochilum banksii*

#### Other Information

Oakes Ames wrote (1923) that the deeply saccate labellum makes this species unusual in the genus. Ames suggested an affinity to *Acoridium* (*Dendrochilum*) *wenzelii*. L.O. Williams wrote that this species is allied to *Dendrochilum wenzelii*, a

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statement which Henrik Pedersen agreed with. Pedersen also allied *Dendrochilum saccolabium* with *Dendrochilum javierii*.

At the time that Ames wrote his *Schedulae Orchidiana* (1923) he said that his knowledge of the plant came from cultivated material from Munich in Germany which was said to be from the type. From the text it appears that Schlechter sent Ames material.

The epithet refers to the labellum's sac like shape.



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### Reference –

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