

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum cootesii* H.A.Pedersen, Lindleyana
12: 205 (1997)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Pseudacoridium cootesii (H.A.Pedersen) Szlach. & Marg., Polish Bot. J. 46: 114
(2001).

Origin in the Wild

Luzon

Elevation in the Wild

1,200 – 2,000 metres

Habitat in the Wild

This species has been found in Ifugao Province on Mount Himi-o and in Nueva Vizcaya Province from the Dalton Pass and Maliit.

Plants grow in submontane and montane forest and close to the ground as an epiphyte. This species favours very damp moss and areas that are well lit with plenty of air movement such as the edges of mossy forests.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short rhizome, are a terete-fusiform shape and measure 4.1-6.2cm long and 0.3-0.8cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are dark green and covered by 3-5 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.4-2.1cm long. Leaf blades are convolute, a lanceolate to oblong shape and have obtuse to subacute apices. Leaf blades measure 7.2-11.7cm long and 1.7-2.8cm wide, are leathery and have 7-9 distinct nerves; median nerves are prominent on the abaxial side.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are erect to somewhat curved and measure 7.8-13.2cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in transverse section, nodding to pendent and measure 4.7-8.5cm long. Flowers alternate distichously around twisted rachises, appearing cylindrical. Flowers are spaced 3-4mm apart. There are two non-floriferous bracts at the base of each rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section.

The Flowers

Flowers are a cream to light green colour suffused with pink. Dorsal sepals are a narrowly elliptic-ovate to elliptic-lanceolate shape with acute apices that are strongly recurved. Dorsal sepals measure 7.2-8.5mm long and 3.2-3.4mm wide. Dorsal sepals have an entire margin and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are a falcately-lanceolate shape and have acute apices that are somewhat recurved. Lateral sepals measure 8.6-10.5mm long and 3.3-3.5mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Petals are a obliquely-lanceolate shape and have acute to acuminate apices. Petals measure 7.0-8.3mm long and 2.1-2.4mm wide. Petals are three veined and have entire margins. Labella are porrect, 3-lobed and obscurely 3-veined. Labella

measure 2.3-2.5mm long and 6.3-7.8mm wide at the side lobes. Side lobes embrace the column, are a falcately oblong shape and have obtuse apices. Side lobes are distinctly longer than the mid-lobe. Mid-lobes are small and shaped like a triangular apiculum with two less distinct lobes. The margins of mid-lobes are entire. There are two crescent shaped and slightly hooded calli at the base of each side lobe. There is a median keel that starts from the base of the hypochile and terminates half way along the mid-lobe apiculum. Column are straight and measure 2.5-3.0mm long. There is no column foot. Apical hoods are prolonged into a truncate and dentate apex. There are no stielidia.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

NSW

Isotype

C

Other herbarium specimens

AAU

PNH

Scent

Plants are either scented like soap or not at all.

Flowering Season

In northern hemisphere cultivation I have observed this plant flowering from late winter to spring but have read that plants can flower in autumn. Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during November. The flowers generally last for 10 to 15 days.

Culture

This plant is relatively common in cultivation worldwide. This species is often mislabelled as *Dendrochilum anfractum* see the note below.

Similar Species

There are no similar looking species

Other Information

Jim Cootes collected this plant in 1991 from the Luzon Province of Nueva Vizcaya at the Dalton Pass and Maliit. This plant featured in the Orchids Australia article as unidentified species 'K' (Cootes et al 1995). During 1994 Henrik Pedersen collected this species on Mount Himi-o in Ifugao Province, but due to the lack of flowers Pedersen was not able to describe the new plant. This plant found its way into cultivation during the early 1990s and was commonly mislabelled as a *Pholidota*. Jim Cootes wrote that this species has been mistakenly labelled as *Dendrochilum pumilum* var *recurvum* (Cootes et al 1995)

Dendrochilum cootesii is an isolated species and mainly differs by its leathery leaves, spirally twisted rachis, ornamentation on the labellum, shape of the labellum, the apical wing that exceeds the anther cap.

There are many plants and photos labelled as *Dendrochilum anfractum* on the internet, nurseries, show tables etc. These photos and plants are all *Dendrochilum cootesii*. As far as I am aware there are no plants of *Dendrochilum anfractum* in cultivation and only one photo of *variety anfractoides* in existence.



This photo was taken by Jim Cootes and is used with permission, ©.



This photo was taken by Trey Sanders. ©.



Left: This photo of Jim Cootes was taken by David P Banks and is used with permission, ©.

Below: This photo was taken by Malcolm Perry and is used with permission, ©.





This photo was taken by Ron Rayher of a plant in his collection. Used with permission

Reference –

COOTES, Jim. *The Orchids of the Philippines*, 2001. Timber Press, USA

COOTES, Jim. BANKS, David. 1995, *The genus Dendrochilum a guide to the species in cultivation*, Orchids Australia, AOC

PEDERSEN, Henrik. 1997, *Dendrochilum Cootesii*, A New Protandrous Species from the Philippines, *Lindleyana* 12 (4): 205-207.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 18 August 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **18 August 2009**.