

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum exasperatum* Ames, Orchidaceae 6: 50 (1920)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*.

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Sabah and Sarawak

Elevation in the Wild

900 – 2,500 metres

Habitat in the Wild

The type was collected in Sabah on Mount Kinabalu on the Marai Parai Spur. The only place in Sarawak this species has been collected is on Mount Dulit in Marudi District.

Elsewhere in Sabah this species has been collected in Tenom District at Sapong and Mount Anginon. Within the Sipitang District it has been collected on Mount Lumaku and along the Rurun River. This species has been collected from many locations on Mount Kinabalu and on Mount Alab within the Crocker Range.

This species is an epiphyte and has been known to grow as a terrestrial. Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as lower montane ridge forest on sandstone soils, mossy forest (Wood 2001). This species is also recorded growing fully exposed in sunlight high up in the forest canopy. Todd Barkman found this species growing on the trunk of a *Leptospermum javanicum*.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short rhizome. Rhizomes can reach a length of 8 cm long. Pseudobulbs are a narrowly cylindrical or fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1-6 cm long and 0.4-0.6 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 4 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into non-persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.5-4 cm long. Leaf blades are an oblong-elliptic to elliptic shape and have obtuse to minutely mucronate apices. Leaf blades measure 5-16 cm long and 1.5-3.5 cm wide. There are 7 distinct nerves on the blade.

Peduncles are suberect and measure 5-15 cm long. Rachises are curved and measure 8-25 cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 2-4 mm apart. There is 1 non-floriferous bract at the base of the rachis.

Flowers are either greenish with a brown labellum or reddish-ochre with a darker red labellum which is pink at the mid lobe apex, or white or greenish yellow with a triangular spot at the base of each mid-lobe. Dorsal sepals are a narrowly oblong-elliptic shape and have acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 6 mm long and 1.5 mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals are an obliquely oblong-elliptic shape, somewhat falcate and have acute apices. Lateral sepals measure 4.6-5 mm long and 1.7-1.8 mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire

margins and are 3-veined. Lateral sepals can sometimes overlap at their apices. Petals are a narrowly elliptic shape and have acute, somewhat falcate apices. Petals measure 4-5 mm long and 1.1-1.5 mm wide. Petals have entire margins and are 2 or 3-veined. Labella are obscurely 5-lobed, measure 2.5-3 mm long and 1.8-2 mm at the widest point. Side lobes are flat, small, a triangular shape with rounded to truncate apices. Mid lobes are cruciform and have erect side lobules that are an oblong with rounded to truncate apices. Median lobules are decurved, cuspidate, a triangular shape and have acuminate apices. Labella margins are entire. There are 2 keels that join to form a U shape near the base of the labellum; the keels terminate at the base of the side lobules. Columns are slender and measures 2.8-3 mm long. Column feet are absent. Apical hoods are elongated and an oblong-triangular shape and have obtuse to acute apices. Apical hoods have entire margins. Stelidia grow from the base of the column and do not exceed column apices. Stelidia are a ligulate shape and have obtuse apices that are hooked.

#### Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 48120](#) (photo)

Isotype

NA

Other herbarium specimens

National herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0322473](#)

[Specimen L0322474](#)

[Specimen L0322475](#)

[Specimen L0322476](#)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 61473.000](#)

[Specimen 60415.000](#)

[Specimen K000078185](#)

[Specimen 50998.000](#)

[Specimen 60414.000](#)

#### Scent

The flowers are recorded as having 'little or no scent'. Jeffrey Wood wrote that the flowers are scented or unscented (Wood 1997).

#### Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during April and from September to January.

#### Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation.

[www.dendrochilum.com](http://www.dendrochilum.com)

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### Similar Species

*Dendrochilum gibbsiae*

### Other Information

Jeffrey Wood wrote that this species is similar to *Dendrochilum gibbsiae* because of the similar labellum and column. This species differs from *Dendrochilum gibbsiae*, by the shorter and broader leaves with more obtuse apices. The flowers are larger and the side lobes less developed (Wood 1997).

Ames described the flowers as yellow in the original description. Ames also wrote that *Dendrochilum exasperatum* is almost a counterpart of *D. quinquelobum* (*D. gibbsiae*) but is larger.

The epithet refers to the Latin word *exasperatus* which means covered by small, short hard points.



Above: This photo was taken by Kath Barrett and is used with permission ©

Right: This photo was taken by Todd Barkman and is used with permission ©





Above: This photo was taken by Tom Ballinger and is used with permission ©

Reference -

AMES, Oakes. 1920, Illustrations and studies of the Family Orchidaceae Facsimile 6 The Orchids of Mount Kinabalu British North Borneo, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts, Boston.

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

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World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 15 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **15 January 2009**.