Accepted name: *Dendrochilum apoense* T.Hashim., J. Jap. Bot. 56: 335 (1981)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

None

Origin in the Wild

Mindanao

Elevation in the Wild

c1,600 metres in Bukidnon (Mark Naive pers comm)

The elevation has not been recorded in literature or on herbarium specimens and I have not been able to find the elevation of the Mount Apo Forestry Development Office.

Habitat in the Wild

This species has been collected near the Forestry Development Office on Mount Apo in the Davao del Sur province of Mindanao. The species also occurs in the Kalatungan mountains in Bukidnon Province.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short rhizome, and are a narrowly pyriform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.5-2.0cm long and c0.5cm in diameter and are covered by cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls soon disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.4-0.6cm long. Leaf blades are a linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic shape and have retuse and obtuse apices. Leaf blades measure 2.3-5.5cm long and 4-8.5mm wide, are coriaceous and have seven distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and appear as the leaves are subtending. Peduncles are suberect. Rachises are gently curved and measure 2.5-3.5cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and the rachis twists to form a spiral. There are no appressed non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

The Flowers

Hashimoto's description states that between 20-25 flowers are found on an inflorescence. However, plants in cultivation seem to have 10-28 flowers on an inflorescence (personal observation). Sepals and petals are yellowish to creamy pale yellow and the labellum is orange-red or orange. Sepals and petals spread widely. Dorsal sepals are an ovate-oblong shape with truncate-obtuse and mucronate apices. Dorsal sepals measures c2mm long and 0.7-1.0mm wide, do not appear to be veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an obliquely ovate-oblong shape and have truncate, obtuse-apiculate apices. Lateral sepals measure c2.2mm long and 1.1mm wide. Lateral sepals are obscurely one veined and have entire margins. Petals are a narrowly elliptic shape with subacute apices. Petals measure 2.2?mm long and 0.8mm wide. Petals are obscurely one veined and have erose margins. Labella are pendent

and entire. Labella are an ovate shape and have obtuse apices; measure 1.7mm long and 1.2mm wide. labella are obscurely 1-veined and have erose margins. There are no ornaments on the labellum. The column is suberect measures 0.5mm long. The column apex is four dentate. Stelidia grow upwards from the middle of the column and are equal to or slightly exceed the column apex. Stelidia measure 0.25-0.3mm long.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

TNS

Scent

Yes, a faint sweet scent

Flowering Season

Cultivated plants flower during April and May in Europe.

Cultivation

This species was formally very rare in cultivation and has been quite common since 2015 when it was readily imported into north America and Europe from the Philippines. The plant was originally imported from the Philippines into Europe as an unknown *Dendrochilum* species during 2005-2006. The plant was identified by Henrik Pedersen when Malcolm Perry flowered his plant and emailed the pictures to him at that point it had not been photographed before.

I have found this species to be one of the more difficult in the genus to cultivate, it seems to be extremely sensitive to water quality, salinity in potting mix, lack of air movement and repotting. Plants need bright light and day time warmth. After repotting one plant it subsequently lost its leaves quite quickly. The leaves are very susceptible to rotting if the air circulation isn't constant. I have best success when cool moist air continually circulates around the plant, hydrofoggers produce this environment well.

I have seen a plant with false red spider mite.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum ambangense (see this page for the differences)
Dendrochilum eymae (see this page for the differences)
Dendrochilum marknaivei

Other Information

At the time that Henrik Pedersen wrote his enumeration of Philippine *Dendrochilum* this species was only known from the holotype. Pedersen was unable to obtain the herbarium material so used Hashimoto's description (Pedersen 1997).

This species differs from *Dendrochilum eymae* and *Dendrochilum ambangense* by the erose petals and entire labellum with erose margins.

This species differs from *Dendrochilum marknaivei* as the flowers of *Dendrochilum marknaivei* have a central ridge on the labellum, and the margins of the petals and labellum are entire. Please note that some photos below of *Dendrochilum apoense* have entire margins on the petals but with no central ridge.

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This photo was taken by Mark Naive of plant from the Kalatungan Mountain range, Bukidnon Province. Used with permission ©.

The photos above were taken by Mark Naive in the Kalatungan Mountain range, Bukidnon Province. Used with permission ©.

Reference –

COOTES, Jim. 2017. Dendrochilum marknaivei A New Species from the Southern Philippines, Die Orchidee 3 (18) 121-126 (2017).

PEDERSEN, Henrik. 1997, The Genus Dendrochilum (Orchidaceae) in the Philippines – A Taxonomic Revision. Opera Botanica, Denmark

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 24 July 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; http://www.kew.org/wcsp/ accessed **24 July 2009**.