Accepted name: *Dendrochilum glumaceum* Lindl., Edwards's Bot. Reg. 27(Misc.): 23 (1841)

**Subgenus – Platyclinis.**

**Synonyms**


*Acoridium glumaceum* (Lindl.) Rolfe, Orchid Rev. 12: 220 (1904).

**Origin in the Wild**

Kalimantan Timur, Luzon, Mindanao, and Leyte

**Elevation in the Wild**

500 – 2,330 metres

**Habitat in the Wild**

In Luzon, this plant has been recorded from Bataan Province, Mount Mariveles along the Lamao River. In Ilocos Norte Province this plant is recorded en-route from the miner's camp to Mt. Burnay within the Mt. Sicapoa range. In Benguet Province this species has been collected on Mount Simakoko, Bosoboso, Mount Data, Mount Pulog and Mount Sinapsapan. In Cagayan Province it has been collected on Mount Cagua and in Camarines Sur on Mount Iriga and Mount Isarog. In Ifugao Province this species has been collected on Mount Himi-o and Mount Polis. In Laguna Province this plant has been found on Mount Maquiling. In Pampanga province it has been collected on Mount Arayat and in Quezon province on Mount Cadig and Mount Malaiaga. In Rizal province this species has been collected at Angilog, Antipolo, Mount Irid, Mount Susungdalaga and Mount Tokuanbanoy.

On Mindoro this species has been collected on Mount Halcon.

Within the Visayas, on Biliran Island, this plant has been found on the summit of Mount Suiro. On Leyte at Masaganap, Conpagal and Buenavista both near Jaro and at Cabalian in Southern Leyte. There has been a collection from Capiz Island on Mount Bulialo.

In Mindanao, this species has been collected in Davao Province on Mount McKinley, Davao del Sur on Mount Apo, Davao del Norte on Mount Kampalili and Davao Central on Mount Mansamuga. In Lanao del Sur Province, it has been found at Camp Keithley on Sacred Mountain and in Agusan del Norte on Mount Hilonghilong.

The record from Borneo is from a plant in cultivation at Bogor that came from Kotawaringan in Kalimantan Timur is now considered to be an error.

This species is recorded growing as an epiphyte in rainforest, in mossy forest and exposed summits of mountains.

**The Plants Description**

Pseudobulbs are crowded along the rhizome and are a fusiform to obpyriform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.1-5.2 cm long and 0.3-1.3 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered by 3-6 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 1.8-12 cm long. Leaf blades are a linear-lanceolate, lanceolate, or elliptic shape and
have obtuse to subacute apices. Leaf blades measure 7.6-41.5 cm long and 1.9-4.8 cm wide. Leaves are thin textured and have 5-7 distinct nerves.

Inflorescences are synanthous and grow as the new leaves expand. Peduncles are suberect and measure 9-37 cm long. Rachises are nodding and measure 7-21.5 cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 2.0-3.5 mm apart. There are either 1 or no non-floriferous bracts at the base of rachises. Flowers open from the proximal or central part of rachises. Some plants show variation in the colour of the bracts, the flower bracts are usually green but can be apricot or pink.

The sepals and petals are white to cream, labella are yellow or orange and occasionally white or brown. Sepals and petals spread widely. Dorsal sepals are a linear to lanceolate shape and have acuminate apices that are often finely mucronate. Dorsal sepals measure 5.3-12.4 mm long and 1.2-2.4 mm wide. Dorsal sepals have entire margins and are three veined. Lateral sepals are a linear to lanceolate shape, sometimes slightly oblique, subfalcate and have acuminate apices, often finely mucronate. Lateral sepals measure 5.1-13.7 mm long and 1-2.9 mm wide. Lateral sepals have entire margins and are three veined. Petals are a lanceolate-elliptic shape and have acute to acuminate apices that are often finely mucronate. Petals measure 3-11 mm long and 1-2.5 mm wide. Petals have finely erose margins and are 3 veined. Labella are pendent, 3-veined, and finely papillose. Labella measure 2.3-3.7 mm long and 1.5-2.7 mm wide. Side lobes are erect to spreading and a narrowly triangular to obliquely triangular-oblong shape with obtuse or acute apices. Mid-lobes are a broadly elliptic to suborbicular shape and have rounded, obtuse or acute apices. The margins are irregular on the mid-lobes and serrate-dentate on the side lobes. There are two short keels that run along the lateral nerves from the base and terminate at the base of the mid-lobes. The keels sometimes join at the base. Columns are suberect and measure 1.5-2.7 mm long. Column feet are short. Apical hoods are laciniate and with a 2-5 dentate apex. Stelids grow upwards from the base of the column and terminate below the apical hood. Stelidia are a triangular-oblong to ligulate-falcate shape with obtuse or acute apices.

**Herbarium Specimens**

**Holotype**

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

I could not locate the specimen.

**Other herbarium specimens**

BO

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

Specimen L0267579
Specimen L0267580
Specimen L0267581
Specimen L0267582
Specimen L0267583
Specimen L0269578
Specimen L0269579
Specimen L0269580
Specimen L0269581
Specimen L0269582
Specimen L0269583
Specimen L0269584
Specimen L0269586
Specimen L0269587

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Specimen L0269588
Specimen L0269589

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic gardens Kew, (K)

Specimen 60421.000
Specimen K000079156 (photo)
Specimen 20283.000
Specimen 61476.000
Specimen 20285.000
Specimen 20284.000
Specimen 22293.000

Scent

Yes, a strong sweet and woody scent.

Flowering Season

In the Philippines, this plant has been collected in every month except July. Flowering plants on Luzon have been collected in the wild during April, September to October and December. Flowering plants on Mindanao have been collected in the wild during August and October. Flowering plants on Leyte have been collected in the wild during February, May, and December. In northern hemisphere cultivation plants usually flower in the winter and spring. In Australian cultivation flowering occurs in the winter months.

Cultivation

This species is one of the most encountered Dendrochilum in cultivation. Ames claimed as far back as 1908 that it was the most cultivated Dendrochilum.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum niveum (see this page for the differences).

Other Information

Plants are varied; I have seen large plants and plants with pink bracts, smaller flowers and narrowly leaved. In 1893 Rolfe described Platyclinis glumacea var. valida based on leaves that were twice as wide as the normal form. Henrik Pedersen wrote (1997) that they were just broad-leaved types.

Jim Cootes wrote that this species is extremely common over parts of its range (Cootes 2001).

This species can have a white labellum so care should be taken to avoid confusion with Dendrochilum niveum.

The epithet refers to how the bracts make the unopened inflorescence look like a husk of corn.
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