

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum barbifrons* (Kraenzl.) Pfitzer in H.G.A.Engler (ed.), Pflanzenr., IV, 50 II B 7: 96 (1907)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*.

Synonyms

Platyclinis barbifrons Kraenzl., Gard. Chron. 1902(1): 366 (1902).
Acoridium barbifrons (Kraenzl.) Rolfe, Orchid Rev. 12: 219 (1904).

Origin in the Wild

Sumatra

Elevation in the Wild

Not known

Habitat in the Wild

Nothing is known about the habitat. The description is based on a plant in cultivation.

The Plants Description

Rhizomes are ascending. Pseudobulbs are a narrowly ovoid shape, almost terete and measure 4-5cm long and 1cm in diameter at the base. Leaves are petiolate; leaf blades are a lanceolate shape with acute apices. Leaf blades measure 12-18cm long and 2-2.5cm wide.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescence are pendent. I could find no other information.

The Flowers

Flowers measure approximately 4mm across and are whitish-green. Sepals and petals look much the same and are an ovate-lanceolate shape with acuminate apices. Labella are entire, an obovate shape and have apiculate apices. Labella are 2mm wide. Labella have a transversely bilobed ridge at their base; a semicircular callus on the upper third of the labellum and are densely hairy. Columns are small and the apical hood tridentate. Stelidia emerge from the top 1/3 of the column and are subulate.

Herbarium Specimens

I could find no on line specimens

Unfortunately, the specimen used by Kranzlin for his descriptions was at Herbarium Berolinense and this was destroyed in the second world war. It is likely that the holotype of this species is amongst those destroyed. As more herbaria digitalise their collections it is possible that other specimens of this species may be found.

Scent

I could find no record

Flowering Season

I could find no record

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation. It was in the past but all plants of it must now be lost.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum appendiculatum (see this page for the differences)
Dendrochilum cornutum

Other Information

Kränzlin compared this species to *Dendrochilum filiforme* but Jim Comber wrote that the labellum on *Dendrochilum barbifrons* is very different (Comber 2001).

Based on the recently discovered (April 2020) drawings at the library in Chicago (see below), this species looks superficially similar to *Dendrochilum cornutum*. Plants will be different by the hairy labellum. However, please note that the drawing in the Kränzlin collection of manuscripts does not entirely match the description, such as an apiculate apex of the labellum. There are a few Kränzlin drawings of *Dendrochilum* which are problematic and are probably not the species they are depicted as (see *Dendrochilum bistortum* on the *Dendrochilum convallariaeforme* page).

This species is distinguishable by the dense hairs on it labellum.



Above and next page. Close up images of the Kränzlin drawing found in his manuscripts. The full drawing is on the next page



Reference –

COMBER, J.B. Orchids of Sumatra, 2001, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

PFITZER, E., KRANZLIN, Fr. 1907, Das Pflanzenreich, Regini Vegetabilis Conspectus, IV 50 II B 7, Orchidaceae-Monandreae-Coelogyninae

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 01 October 2008. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **01 October 2008**.