

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum aurantiacum* Blume, Bijdr.: 398 (1825).

Subgenus – *Dendrochilum*

Synonyms

Dendrochilum beyrodtianum Schlechter, Berlin Botanical Garden, .:(1922)

Origin in the Wild

Java and Sumatra

Elevation in the Wild

1,525–2,000 metres (Sumatra)

1,000-1700 metres (Java)

Habitat in the Wild

Jim Comber wrote that on Sumatra this species is not as common as it is on Java.

Within Sumatra herbarium specimens are recorded from Ketambe in the Mount Leuser Reserve, Aceh and to the north of Lake Toba at 1525 metres. Plants are also recorded from Sicikeh-cikeh forest north west of Lake Toba. I observed plants on Mount Kerinci, Kerinci District, Jambi Province.

Within Java this species has been collected from Gunung Halimun, Mount Gedeh, and Gunung Salak near the hot springs. All herbaria collections of this species on Java have mainly been in the west of the island.

Jim Comber wrote that where this species grows in shade it has green pseudobulbs and in brighter light the colour is orange. This species can be found high in trees on exposed tree branches and scrambling over rocks on mountain ridges (Comber 1990). There are pictures below of a Javan plant with green pseudobulbs, these photographs were taken of a plant growing about 0.5 metres from the forest floor in shade at c1500 metres.

The Plants Description

This species has long branching rhizomes that bear pseudobulbs spaced 3-9cm apart. Pseudobulbs are spaced more widely apart at the base of the rhizome. The distance between the pseudobulbs varies and the rhizome is generally orange. Pseudobulbs are orange or a yellow green colour, a narrowly oblong shape and measure c4cm long and 1cm in diameter. Petioles are very short. Leaf blades are a lanceolate shape and have obtuse apices. Leaf blades measure up to 10cm long and 2cm wide.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are curved and can grow up to 10cm. Flowers open from near the base of inflorescences. Inflorescences can be an orange or green colour.

The Flowers

About 30 flowers grow along an inflorescence (Comber 1990). I have counted more than 30 on some plants. Flowers open widely and range in colour from yellow, orange

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to red. The sepals are a lanceolate shape and measure 6mm long and 1.75mm wide. Petals are shorter and narrower at their base. Dorsal sepals are incurved. Labella are entire, recurved apically and an oblong shape. There are two keels that run from the base of the labellum and terminate at its middle. Columns are curved and have an apical hood with two teeth. Stelidia grow from the middle of the column and are equal to the column apex.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimens L0058458 - L0058464](#)

Isotype

AMES

[Specimen 98747](#) (photo)

[Specimen 98749](#) (photo)

[Specimen 98748](#) (photo)

Other herbarium Specimens

Kew Botanical Gardens (K)

[Specimen K000079162](#)

[Specimen K000079163](#)

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0058465](#)

[Specimen L0322403](#)

[Specimen L0322404](#)

[Specimen L0322406](#)

[Specimen L0322407](#)

[Specimen L0322408](#)

[Specimen L0322409](#)

[Specimen L0322410](#)

[Specimen L0322411](#)

[Specimen L0322412](#)

[Specimen L0322413](#)

[Specimen L0322414](#)

[Specimen L0322415](#)

AMES

[Specimen 98755](#) (photo) (*Dendrochilum beyrodtianum*)

[Specimen 98754](#) (photo) (*Dendrochilum beyrodtianum*)

Scent

Yes, quite a strong sweet scent

Flowering Season

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Flowering Sumatran plants have been collected in the wild during May and July. From evidence I have seen, plants can flower at any time of the year in Sumatra.

Flowering Javan plants have been collected in the wild at anytime throughout the year. In the regions of Java that have dry seasons this species tends to flower at the end of the wet season (Comber 1990).

Cultivated plants flower from early spring to summer in the northern hemisphere.

Cultivation

This species is very rare in cultivation and seldom seen.

Similar Species

NA

Other information

This is the type species for the *Dendrochilum* genus. Blume collected the holotype from Java and noted that the plant bloomed in February



This photo was taken by Peter O'Byrne in Sumatra and is reproduced courtesy of Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium, Jany Renz. <http://orchid.unibas.ch>



This photo was taken by Thilo Nordhausen on a plant on Mount Tujuh next to Mount Kerinci and is reproduced courtesy of Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium, Jany Renz. <http://orchid.unibas.ch>

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Above: This photo was taken by the late Jim Comber and bequeathed to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The photo is reproduced with permission from the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

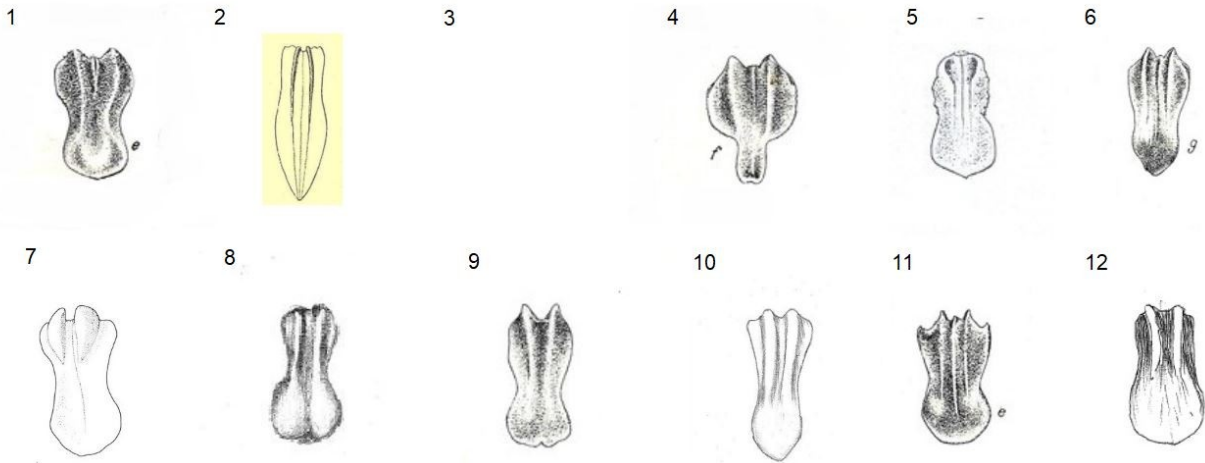
Left: This photo was taken by Renanta Prabata in West Java at 1,500 metres ©.



These two photos were taken by Renanta Prabata in West Java at 1,500 metres ©.



Sumatran *Dendrochilum* in subgenus *Dendrochilum*



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 – <i>Dendrochilum alborivide</i> | 7 – <i>Dendrochilum pallidiflavens</i> |
| 2 – <i>Dendrochilum aurantiacum</i> | 8 – <i>Dendrochilum panduratum</i> |
| 3 – <i>Dendrochilum brevilabre</i> | 9 – <i>Dendrochilum rhodobulbum</i> |
| 4 – <i>Dendrochilum complectens</i> | 10 – <i>Dendrochilum sulfureum</i> |
| 5 – <i>Dendrochilum devoogdii</i> | 11 – <i>Dendrochilum taeniophyllum</i> |
| 6 – <i>Dendrochilum korintjense</i> | 12 – <i>Dendrochilum wichersii</i> |

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Image created by Trey Sanders, www.dendrochilum.com



Kranzlin's illustration

Reference –

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