

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum linearifolium* Hook.f., Hooker's Icon. Pl. 19: t. 1850 (1889)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Platyclinis linearifolium (Hook.f.) Ridl., J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 32: 231 (1896).

Acoridium linearifolium (Hook.f.) Rolfe, Orchid Rev. 12: 220 (1904).

Platyclinis pulchella Ridl., J. Fed. Malay States Mus. 6: 56 (1915).

Origin in the Wild

Peninsula Malaysia

Sumatra

Elevation in the Wild

1,520 metres - (Sumatra)

746 - 2,100 metres - (Peninsula Malaysia)

Habitat in the Wild

In Sumatra C.E. Carr found it growing on the Merek-Sidikalang Road.

On Peninsula Malaysia this species has been collected in the Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Gunung Ulu Kali, Gunung Tahan and Gunung Mengkuang in Pahang.

This species is widespread throughout the mountains of Peninsula Malaysia. This species grows on rocks in exposed positions (Wood 2001)

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs are an ovoid shape and are spaced 5-8 mm apart along the rhizome. Pseudobulbs measure c1.5 cm long and 1 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs wrinkle with age and are an orange colour when exposed to bright light (Seidenfaden et al, 1992). Leaves are petiolate. Leaf blades are a linear (Ridley stated lanceolate) shape and have obtuse apices. Leaf blades measure 3.5–10 cm long and 4-8 mm wide. Ridley stated that there is a prominent keel underneath the leaf.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous and appear as the pseudobulbs are developing. Rachises is nodding and measures 5-6 cm long.

The Flowers

Between 8 and 12 flowers grow on an inflorescence. Flowers are green or yellowish and with brown keels on the labellum. Flowers do not open widely. Sepals and petals are a lanceolate shape and have acute apices. The veins or whether the margins are erose or entire is not recorded. Sepals and petals measure 6.0-8.5mm long. Labella are 3-lobed and more or less pandurate. Side lobes look quadrangular and have triangular apices. Side lobes have undulate margins. Mid-lobes are an ovate shape. There are 2 incurving keels that run from the base of the hypochile and finish 2/3 of the way along the mid-lobe. There is an elevated nerve which runs to the end of the mid-lobe. Columns measure 3-4.5mm long and are curved. Apical hoods are rounded, margins are erose or entire (*Platyclinis pulchella*). Stelidia grow from either the base

or the middle of the column and terminate half way up the column. Stelidia are a linear shape and have acute apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Syntype

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K)

I could not locate the specimen

Other herbarium specimens

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

[Specimen L0322546](#)

[Specimen L0322547](#)

[Specimen L0322548](#)

[Specimen L0322550](#)

[Specimen L0322551](#)

Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (K)

[Specimen 29640.000](#)

[Specimen 23124.000](#)

[Specimen K000364709](#)

The Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh (E)

[Specimen E00304043](#)

Scent

I could find no record

Flowering Season

On Peninsula Malaysia this species has been collected in flower during February, March, April, May and June.

Cultivation

This species is in cultivation but is very hard to find.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum tenompokense

Dendrochilum basale (see this page for the differences)

Dendrochilum rigidifolium

Dendrochilum tuberculatum

Dendrochilum galbanum

Other Information

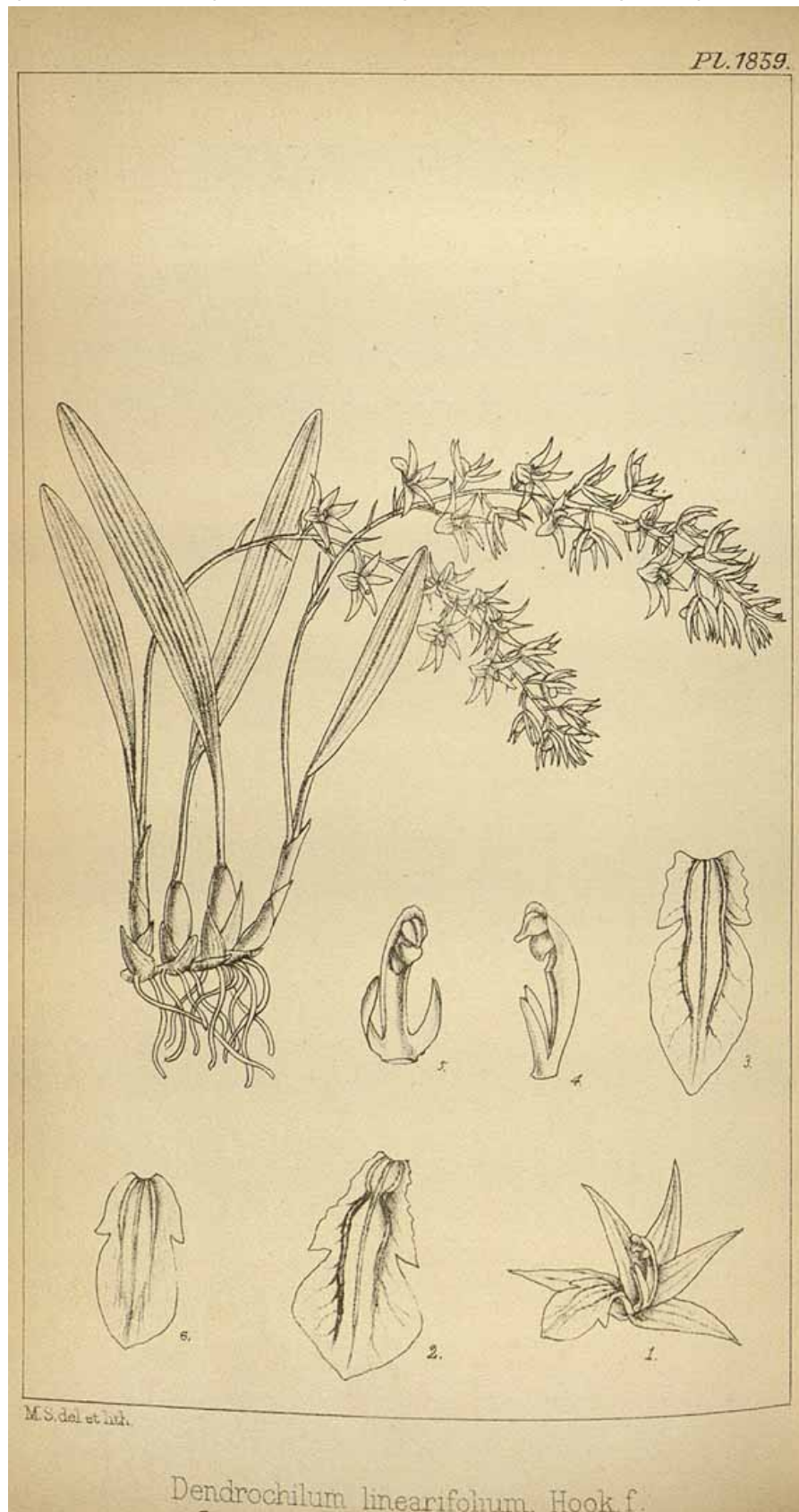
Jim Comber wrote that the plants can be epiphytic but are more commonly found as lithophytes.

Jeffrey Wood wrote that there is variability in the labellum shape and the position on the column that the stelidia grow from. Wood also wrote that reports of plants on Borneo probably represent *Dendrochilum galbanum* and *Dendrochilum tenompokense*.

www.dendrochilum.com

Written by Trey Sanders - Please use with permission

Ridley described the apical hood's margin as entire in *Platyclinis pulchella*.



Above, Hooker's engraving from his 1859 publication



Above: Photos by Bill Temple and taken on location. Used with permission ©



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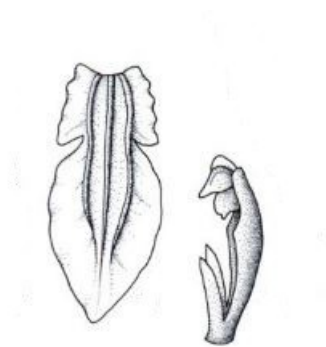
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Above: Photo by Rogier van Vugt. Used with permission ©



Two further
illustrations;

Left – Seidenfaden et al

Right - Kranzlin



Reference –

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

HOOKE, W.J., HOOKE, J.D, 1859, Icones Plantarum [Hooker's Icones plantarum], vol 19 t 1859 (1889)

RIDLEY, Henry. 1915, An Expedition to Mount Menuang Gaising, Selangor, Journal of the Federated Malay States, Volume 6

SEIDENFADEN, Gunnar;, WOOD, Jeffrey;, HOULTTUM, Eric;. 1992, The Orchids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore

WOOD, Jeffrey. Dendrochilum of Borneo, 2001. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Malaysia.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 09 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **09 January 2009**.