
Accepted name: *Dendrochilum kingii* var. *tenuichilum* J.J.Wood, Dendrochilum Borneo: 150 (2001)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*.

**Synonyms**

*Acoridium sarawakense* (Ridl.) Rolfe, Orchid Rev. 12: 220 (1904).
*Dendrochilum palawanense* Ames, Orchidaceae 2: 103 (1908).

**Origin in the Wild**

var. *kingii*

Brunei, Kalimantan, Peninsula Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Palawan

var. *tenuichilum*

Sarawak

**Elevation in the Wild**

var. *kingii*

Philippines (1250 – 1885 metres)
Borneo (10 - 900 metres)

var. *tenuichilum*

200 metres

**Habitat in the Wild**

var. *kingii*

This widespread species is found within a variety of habitats. In Borneo it is found in lowland, hill dipterocarp forest and hill forest on limestone, growing on trunks of trees and rarely in the crown. There is a record of this species growing terrestrially in podsol forest. In the Philippines this species grows in mossy scrub.

This species is found near Nabawan, Ulu Segama Forest Reserve, the Long Pa Sia area, Kun-Kun River in Sandakan District in Sabah.

Within Sarawak it has been found on Mount Duit, Batu Hill, Semako Hill, Mount Matang and Mount Bengoh in Kuching District and on Mount Temabok.

On Palawan this species has been collected on Mount Mantalingajan and Mount Pulgar. Foxworthy found this species during March on Mount Pulgar at 1250 metres.

Within Kalimantan this species has been collected at Sungei Keribung.

var. *tenuichilum*
The type specimen was collected along the upper Ensirieng River in the Lanjak Entimau Protected Forest, Julau District. Another specimen has been collected from Upper Lawas close to the Kenaya River, Lawas District.

In Peninsula Malaysia a few specimens are recorded in the Taiping hills of Perak.

Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as Primary mixed dipterocarp forest.

**The Plants Description**

*var. kingii*

This is a tufted and clumping plant; the pseudobulbs are spaced 1.5cm apart along a branching rhizome. The rhizome grows to 10cm long. The pseudobulbs are shaped oblong to ovoid and measure 1.8-4cm long and 0.5-1.2cm in diameter. The leaves are petiolate; the petiole measures 1.5-8cm long. The leaf blades are shaped linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic and have obtuse to acute apices. The leaf blades measure 12-40cm long and 1-2.8cm wide. The leaves are leathery and have 5-6 distinct nerves.

*var. tenuichilum*

This is a tufted and clumping plant. The rhizome measures up to 10cm long and branches. The pseudobulbs are spaced 1.5cm apart along the rhizome, shaped oblong to ovoid and measure 1.8-4cm long and 0.5-1.2cm in diameter. The leaves are petiolate; the petiole measures 1.5-8cm long. The leaf blades are shaped linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic and have obtuse to acute apices. The leaf blades measure 12-40cm long and 1-2.8cm wide. The leaves are leathery and have 5-6 distinct nerves.

**Inflorescence**

*var. kingii*

The peduncle is erect and measures 12-33cm long. The rachis is curved and measures 9-11cm long. The rachis is quadrangular in cross-section and often zig-zag. The flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3-7mm apart. There are 1-3 non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. The flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

*var. tenuichilum*

The peduncle is erect and measures 17cm long. The rachis is curved and measures 2.5-11.5cm long. The rachis is quadrangular in cross-section and often zig-zag. The flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3-7mm apart. (?) There are 1-3 non-floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. (?) The flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis. (?)

I am unsure about parts of the description above and marked some parts with a ? to indicate where.

**The Flowers**

*var. kingii*

I have counted up to 24 flowers on an inflorescence but have not seen enough plants to give a variable answer. Jeffrey Wood wrote that the sepals are either green, greenish orange, pale brown, pinkish-brown, ochre-brown, lemon yellow, pale apple green with pink at the base. The flowers on Palawan specimens have been described as brick red. The petals are straw coloured or any colours mentioned for the sepals. The labellum is orange-brown, yellow, salmon-pink, dark pinkish-brown, greenish ochre. The calli are olive green. The column is yellowish-pink or orange brown. The stelidia are cream or white. The sepals and petals are widely spreading. The dorsal sepal is shaped oblong-
elliptic, ovate-elliptic to narrowly elliptic and has an acute to acuminate apex. The dorsal sepal measures 5.5-8mm long and 2-3mm wide. The dorsal sepal has an entire margin and is three veined. The lateral sepals are slightly oblique and shaped oblong-elliptic, ovate-elliptic and have acuminate to narrowly acuminate apices. The lateral sepals measure 6-8mm long and 2-3.1mm wide. The lateral sepals have entire margins and are three veined. The petals are shaped obliquely ovate-elliptic, oblong-elliptic or narrowly-elliptic and have acute or subacute apices. The petals measure 4-6.6mm long and 2-3mm wide. The petals have entire or minutely erose margins and are three veined. The labellum is 3-lobed and measures 4-5.5mm long and 2.6-5mm wide. The side lobes are auriculate, erect and shaped subquadrate with obliquely rounded to obtuse apices. The mid-lobe is shaped oblong-ovate, broadly ovate to sub-elliptic and has an obtuse and shortly cuspidate or acute to acuminate apex. The margins are either entire or minutely dentate. There are two rounded calli located between the side lobes; they often touch in the middle of the disc. The column is decurved and 2-3.5mm long. The column foot is short but noticeable. The apical hood is ovate, sub orbicular and has an entire or minutely dentate apex.

Jeffrey Wood wrote that the flowers are brownish orange, the column light salmon-pink and the pollinia pale yellow. The sepals and petals spread widely. The dorsal sepal is shaped ovate-elliptic and has a subulate-acuminate apex. The dorsal sepal measures 4.8-6mm long and 2-2.6mm wide. The dorsal sepal has an entire margin and is three veined. The lateral sepals are shaped ovate-elliptic and have subulate-acuminate apices. The lateral sepals measure 5-6.1mm long and 2-2.6mm wide. The lateral sepal margins are three veined. The petals are shaped oblong-elliptic and have acute apices. The petals measure 4-5.2mm long and 1.7-2.6mm wide. The petals have entire margins and are three veined. The labellum is 3-lobed and measures 3.9-4mm long. The side lobes are auriculate, erect and shaped subquadrate with obliquely rounded to obtuse apices. The mid-lobe is shaped oblong-subspathulate and has a rounded to subtruncate apex, apiculate in its centre. The margins are entire. There are 2 rounded calli between the side lobes. The column is decurved and 2.5-2.6mm long. The column foot is short and less noticeable than on variety kingii. The apical hood is ovate, sub orbicular and has an entire apex. The stelidia grow from below the middle of the column and are equal to the column apex. The stelidia are wing like and either bidentate, tridentate or even reduced to 2 triangular teeth.

**var. tenuichilum**

Jeffrey Wood wrote that the flowers are brownish orange, the column light salmon-pink and the pollinia pale yellow. The sepals and petals spread widely. The dorsal sepal is shaped ovate-elliptic and has a subulate-acuminate apex. The dorsal sepal measures 4.8-6mm long and 2-2.6mm wide. The dorsal sepal has an entire margin and is three veined. The lateral sepals are shaped ovate-elliptic and have subulate-acuminate apices. The lateral sepals measure 5-6.1mm long and 2-2.6mm wide. The lateral sepal margins are three veined. The petals are shaped oblong-elliptic and have acute apices. The petals measure 4-5.2mm long and 1.7-2.6mm wide. The petals have entire margins and are three veined. The labellum is 3-lobed and measures 3.9-4mm long. The side lobes are auriculate, erect and shaped subquadrate with obliquely rounded to obtuse apices. The mid-lobe is shaped oblong-subspathulate and has a rounded to subtruncate apex, apiculate in its centre. The margins are entire. There are 2 rounded calli between the side lobes. The column is decurved and 2.5-2.6mm long. The column foot is short and less noticeable than on variety kingii. The apical hood is ovate, sub orbicular and has an entire apex. The stelidia grow from below the middle of the column and are equal to the column apex. The stelidia are bifid, with one tooth longer and falcate.

**Herbarium Specimens**

**Holotype**

AMES

Specimen 45 (photo) (*Dendrochilum palawanense*)

National Herbarium Netherlands, (L)

I could not find the specimen (var. *tenuichilum*)

**Isotype**

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

Specimen K000078250 (photo)
Specimen K000078252 (photo)
Specimen K000078253 (photo) (*Dendrochilum palawanense*)
Specimen 60711.000 (var. *tenuichilum*)
Syntype

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

Specimen L0056509 (photo)

BO

Specimen (Dendrochilum bigibbosum)

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

Specimen 60709.000
Specimen 55490.000
Specimen 24053.000
Specimen 53396.000
Specimen 63261.000
Specimen 70990.000
Specimen 61324.000
Specimen 53371.000
Specimen K000078251
Specimen 60708.000
Specimen 55758.000
Specimen 61325.000
Specimen 60710.000 (var. tenuichilum)
Specimen 61479.000 (var. tenuichilum)

FI

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

Specimen L0322562
Specimen L0322563
Specimen L0322564
Specimen L0322565
Specimen L0322566
Specimen L0322567
Specimen L0322568
Specimen L0322569 (var. tenuichilum)

AMES

Specimen 98789 (photo) (Dendrochilum palawanense)

SAR

SING

A

KEP

MEL

AAU
The Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh (E)

Specimen E00061402

SAN

BO

Scent

Yes, a sweet scent, however some plants are unscented.

Flowering Season

var. kingii

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild from May to February. I have not seen this species in flower outside of the tropics. Flowering plants from Palawan have been collected in the wild from March to May.

var. tenuichilum

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild October.

Culture

var. kingii

I have not seen this species in cultivation in Europe. This species is in limited cultivation in South East Asia.

This species should be grown warmer than most other Dendrochilum.

var. tenuichilum

I have not seen any evidence of this species being grown in cultivation outside of the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden.

Similar Species

Dendrochilum rufum
Dendrochilum saccatum
Dendrochilum glossorhynchum (see this page for differences)

Other Comments

When Ames described Dendrochilum palawanense he wrote that this species was similar to Dendrochilum rufum and Dendrochilum kingii. Ames wrote that the stelidia in Dendrochilum palawanense and Dendrochilum rufum are basal and in Dendrochilum kingii the stelidia grew from the middle of the column (Ames 1908).

This species differs from D. kingii var. tenuichilum in the width of the epichile on the labellum, variety kingii is 2-3mm wide and variety tenuichilum is 1-1.6mm wide. The flower colour on D. kingii var. tenuichilum is usually brownish orange.

Jeffrey Wood wrote that the column is similar to Dendrochilum rufum but Dendrochilum kingii differs by its labellum shape, less prominent calli and no saccate hypochile. Jeffrey also wrote that Borneo populations show much variability in leaf length, inflorescence density, number of non-floriferous bracts, flower size, labellum mid lobe shape and degree of toothing on the stelidia.
The epithet is named after Sir George King who assisted in the publication of the Orchids of the Sikkim Himalaya. Var tenuichilum refers to the slender mid-lobe of the labellum.

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Above: This is the illustration provided by Hooker
Below: An illustration by Ames
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www.dendrochilum.com
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This is the variety *tenuichilum*

Reference –

AMES, Oakes. 1908, Illustrations and studies of the Family Orchidaceae Facsimile 2, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts, Boston

BEAMAN, Teofila, WOOD, Jeffrey, BEAMAN, Reed, BEAMAN, John. 2001, Orchids of Sarawak, Natural History Publications Borneo, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.


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

