Accepted name: *Dendrochilum cobbianum* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. 1880(2): 748 (1880)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

**Synonyms**

*Acoridium cobbianum* (Rchb.f.) Rolfe, Orchid Rev.: 220 (1904).
*Dendrobium cobbianum* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron., n.s., 16: 780 (1881), orth. var.

**Origin in the Wild**

Luzon and Mindanao

**Elevation in the Wild**

1,400 - 2,500 metres

**Habitat in the Wild**

This species has been collected on Luzon in Benguet Province at Baguio, Mount Data, and Pauai. Within Mountain Province it has been collected from Bauko and on the Bontoc road. Further collections have been made in Rizal Province. On Mindanao this species has been collected in Agusan del Norte on Mount Urdaneta. The photo below of the plant in situ is from Mount Apo at 1,200 metres.

This species grows as a lithophyte and sometimes as a terrestrial in exposed conditions and within mossy forest. Jim Cootes observed this species growing on rocks in full sun (Cootes 2001).

**The Plants Description**

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short rhizome and are a fusiform to slenderly ellipsoid shape. Pseudobulbs measure 2.8-8.2 cm long and 0.4-1.7 cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are covered with 4-6 cataphylls when they are growing; the cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 0.4-8.8 cm long. Leaf blades are a lanceolate shape and have obtuse apices. Leaf blades measure 6.0-27.0 cm long and 1.5-5.8 cm wide. Leaf blades are thin-textured and have 7-9 distinct nerves.

**The Inflorescence**

Inflorescences are synanthous and appear with new growths. Peduncles are suberect to curved and measure 10.2-48 cm long. Rachises are pendent and measure 9.2-30.3 cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3.0-6.0 mm apart. There are 2-5 appressed non floriferous bracts at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

**The Flowers**

Up to 50 flowers can grow on an inflorescence. Flowers are white to yellow or green, the labellum is greenish yellow to orange (Pedersen 1997). Sepals and petals spread widely and have a few minute trichomes. Dorsal sepals are an elliptic to oblong shape and have an obtuse to acute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 5.0-10.4 mm long and 2.1-4.2 mm wide. Dorsal sepals are three veined (rarely five veined) and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are usually somewhat oblique, a broadly elliptic to ovate-
oblong shape and have obtuse to acute apices. Lateral sepals measure 5.2-10.2 mm long and 2.3-4.2 mm wide, are 3-5 veined and have entire margins. Petals are a broadly elliptic shape and have obtuse to acute or subacuminate apices. Petals measure 4.8-9.5 mm long and 2.3-4.3 mm wide, are three veined (rarely five veined) and have quite entire to slightly irregular margins. Labella are easily versatile, pendent, and 3-lobed. Labella measure 5.0-8.9 mm long and 3.3-6.6 mm wide, are three veined and have serrate margins along the side lobes; the remaining margins are entire. Side lobes are minute, erect, an obliquely triangular shape and have acute apices. Side lobes are distinctly shorter than the mid-lobe, are proximally recurved, a broadly obovate or obtriangular shape with rounded to truncate apices, sometimes slightly irregular or apiculate. There are two short keels that run from base and terminate just past the base of the mid-lobe. Columns are suberect, slightly incurved and measure 3.0-4.0 mm long. Apical wings are prolonged into truncate apices and with three dentate to finely erose-dentate margins. Apical wings distinctly exceed the anther cap. Column feet are moderately long. Stelids grow upwards from the middle of the columns and are subequal to the column apex. Stelids are a linear to narrowly lanceolate shape, often somewhat falcate and have acute apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype
I could not locate the type.

Other Herbarium specimens

Kew Botanical Gardens (K)
  Specimen 19467.000
  Specimen 43858.000
  Specimen K000364861
  Specimen K000364956
  Specimen K000364950
  Specimen 20281.000
  Specimen K000364832

National Herbarium, Netherlands, Leiden (L)
  Specimen L0322424
  Specimen L0322425
  Specimen L0322426
  Specimen L0322427
  Specimen L0322428

Scent
Yes

Flowering Season

Flowers have been collected in the wild from April to June and from August to December. Flowering plants generally flower from winter to spring.

Cultivation

This is one of the most encountered Dendrochilum in cultivation.

This species, when grown well, quickly becomes a specimen plant and can double in size each year. This plant is generally quite easy to cultivate.
Similar Species

*Dendrochilum amesianum*
*Dendrochilum pangasinanense*

Other Information

The epithet refers to the first person to flower this plant in the UK, Walter Cobb (Cootes 2001).

Flowers are usually white with yellow or orange labella, but other varieties exist. The cultivars commonly found in cultivation are:

*Dendrochilum cobbianum* 'Chartreuse Sentinel' (large flowers, sturdy succulent leaves)
*Dendrochilum cobbianum* 'Fat Leaf' (chartreuse flowers with yellow lip)
*Dendrochilum cobbianum* "Gold Chain" (with glittering, golden, fragrant flowers)
*Dendrochilum cobbianum* "Green white" (with long spikes of fragrant, green-white flowers)
*Dendrochilum cobbianum* 'Sentinel 1' (yellow flowers)
*Dendrochilum cobbianum* 'Sentinel's Poco' (miniature creamy flowers with yellow lip)
*Dendrochilum cobbianum* "Yellow Sentinel" (yellow flower with darker yellow lip)

This species is often seen mislabelled as other species.

There is a nectar gland in the centre of the labellum (Cootes et al 1995).
This photo was taken by Malcolm Perry and is used with permission, ©.
This photo was taken by Kemel on Mount Apo and is used with permission, ©.
This is an exceptionally large clone. Photo Malcolm Perry, ©.

A close up of the stelids. Photo Trey Sanders, ©.
A close up of the anther cap and apical hood. Photo Trey Sanders, ©.

A close up of the flower. Photo Trey Sanders, ©.
Reference –

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

COOTES, Jim. The Orchids of the Philippines, 2001. Timber Press, USA

COOTES, Jim. BANKS, David. 1995, The genus Dendrochilum A guide to the species in cultivation, Orchids Australia, AOC
