

Dendrobium stockelbuschii

A new species
of section
Spatulata

During an orchid trip to the Indonesian island of Java in 2014 Andreas STOCKELBUSCH bought a *Dendrobium* from a small orchid shop in Bandung. The stock of the orchid business made quite clear that all the plants for sale were no hybrids but wild plants with no names.

Not one of the plants was in flower and they were all not rooted, including the plant described here.

When the first spike opened about one year later it became clear that the plant belonged to the *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata*. Comparing the flowers with the known and previously described *Spatulata* species of *Dendrobium* it became obvious that none of those had the same colour and shape. For this

reason it shall here be described as a new representative of the *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata*. It is my pleasure to name it after my long-standing orchid friend and expert on the Asian orchid flora, Andreas STOCKELBUSCH, particularly since he was the one to find this plant.

***Dendrobium stockelbuschii* SCHET. sp. nov.**

Type: origin unknown, probably from the Eastern part of Indonesia, leg. Andreas STOCKELBUSCH s.n., holotype: BO

Description: herbal plant, growths about 60 cm (+) long, the biggest diameter of the pseudobulb is 15 mm and circular (about 13 cm above the growing roots), slowly and regularly decreasing to 7 mm diameter at the end, where the diameter is slightly oval (egg-shaped) with 4 x 7 mm.

The plant described here has 17 to 19 internodes on the new growths, the last year's growth (now flowering) has 10 leaves on the upper part of the pseudobulb, this year's growth has 18 leaves (10.0 cm long, 5.5 cm wide), egg-shaped and acute, leathery structure. The fully developed pseudobulb are covered by whitish bracts in the lower third of its length. Flower spike: about 20 cm long, straight and upright. 6 flowers in the top 6 cm of the Rhachis, each about 1.4 cm from the next one. Directly below the pedicels

a floral bract each (1.5 mm wide, about 2.0 mm long, acute top) can be found. The single flower (and thus also the floral bracts) have a sort of circular array, each being turned around the Rhachis for 120 degrees, so that flower 1 stands exactly below flower 4, flower 2 below flower 5 and so forth. Flowers: The Pedicel is 4.5 cm long, the overall size of the flower is about 4.2 cm high and 2.2 cm wide. Colour of the flowers: the sepals and petals is pale yellow with a thin more intense red stripe along the middle. The labelum (measured flat: 20 mm wide and 19 mm long) has a pale earthen brown colour with soft reddish-purple veins. The column has soft purple stripes and dots, the top of the anther is light yellow. Below the column we find three yellow, closely spaced keels (the Mentum, about 22 mm long and 7 mm wide) with a white cap each (about 1 mm high and half round, the central one is clearly larger with about 2 mm high) leading almost down to the undulated, acute end of the labellum. They end about 2 mm above. The lateral sepals are 25 mm wide (at the base) and 15 mm long, acute and strongly reflected. The dorsal sepal (12 mm at the base and 15 mm long) also acute and strongly reflected. The petals (5 mm wide at the base, length about 27 mm) stand upright and have a 90 degree twist. They narrow at the upper third into an acute end. The labelum is clearly three-lobed. Two side-lobes are half-moon shaped, with an even rim and stand upright on the



base of the labellum, about 1.7 cm long and 11 mm wide. The midlobe is 21 mm long and 20 mm wide, clearly undulate and partially rolled up, acute. The column (9 mm long and 7 mm wide) has an almost right angle connection with the mentum (also 7 mm wide) which leads – slightly bent – L-shaped to the labellum.

Comparing this plant with other species of the section *Spatulata* we can state a similarity with *Dendrobium conanthum* SCHLTR. and *Dendrobium pseudoconanthum* J.J. SMITH, but *Dendrobium conanthum* has a very different colour of the flowers (yellow to chocolate brown sepals and petals), the labellum is much wider and flatter. The plants are found in a different location. The swampy forests of

New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Philippines and Vanuatu. In contrast to *D. stockelbuschii* almost all sepals and petals are clearly undulated. The new species has a boat-shaped labellum and the keels lead almost right down to the end. As for *Dendrobium conanthum* they end on the middle of the labellum.

Dendrobium pseudoconanthum from Sulawesi: it has a horizontal to slightly erect inflorescence (in contrast to *D. stockelbuschii*, which has an erect spike), the lateral sepals are clearly twisted (about 360°) and they are much thinner. *D. pseudoconanthum* is large to giant sized and has 25 (+) flowers per spike plus different colouring. *Dendrobium parnatatum* can also be regarded as a close relative because

the dorsal sepal is reflected (but half twisted in contrast to *D. stockelbuschii*) but the lateral sepals are fully twisted (not twisted in the new species) the lip is completely different to the new species: straight and spade-shaped in intense yellow. All this makes quite obvious that *D. parnatatum* and *D. stockelbuschii* are two very different species in their own rights.

All photos: © A. STOCKELBUSCH

Roland SCHESSLER
Mittel Carthausen 2
D-58553 Halver

Anmerkung der Redaktion: Zur Anerkennung des Artnamens ist dieser Artikel hier noch einmal auf englisch erschienen.