

A New *Dendrochilum* Species from the Philippines

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Abstract: A new *Dendrochilum* species from section *Acoridium*, *Dendrochilum tiongianum* COOTES, which is allied to *Dendrochilum tenellum* (NEES & MEYEN) AMES, is here, described as new.

Over the past 20 years the genus *Dendrochilum* has gained a lot of interest in orchid collections. The main reason for this is the fact that a specimen-sized plant can be grown in a relatively small pot, and the floral display, in season, is usually quite stunning.

During the year 2001, I was in the Philippines, with the view of bringing back a number of orchid species, upon my return to Australia. Plants were duly purchased from numerous sources, and brought back to Australia.

Several years later, the plants that survived the quarantine period, began to flower. The majority were as labelled, but as usual there were a couple of specimens that could not be identified. *Dendrochilum tiongianum* COOTES was one of these.

The blooming habit, of *Dendrochilum tiongianum*, was observed for a number of years, and when the untidy habit of the inflorescences remained constant I felt assured that the species represented an undescribed entity.

***Dendrochilum tiongianum* Cootes sp. nov.**

Affinis *Dendrochilo tenello* (NEES & MEYEN) AMES, sed folia applanatus, non teretia, rigido et erecto absque ullus arcuatus; labello laterilobo falcato, non midlobo longitudine transiens; pedunculi cadens a canalis folia, inflorescentio ita inordinatim aspectu differentia; differt.

Typus: COOTES 2011/01 cult. Riverwood. **Holotype:** NSW884481

Growth habit: upright, sympodial, epiphytic herb. **Roots:** fleshy; branching. **Pseudobulbs:** clustered on a short rhizome; slightly tapering to 1cm long by 1.5 mm in diameter; surrounded by persistent sheath. **Leaves:** upright; stiff; not arching; fully terete basally;

V-shaped channel for the upper three-quarters or more; overall 25 cm long by 1.2 mm in diameter; apex acute.

Inflorescences: appear with the new growth; peduncle hair-like, becoming detached from the channel near the centre of the leaf; bearing up to 20 opposite blooms, which open widely, about 2 mm in diameter. Floral bracts are very small, enclosing pedicel and ovary. **Flower colour:** sepals and petals are translucent white, labellum is pale orange. **Dorsal sepal:** ovate, apex acute, 1.5 mm long by .75 mm wide. **Petals:** broadly ovate, apex acute, 2 mm long by 1 mm wide. **Lateral sepals:** ovate, apex acute, slightly ridged, 2 mm long by .8 mm wide. **Labellum:** three lobed; side lobes falcate and do not pass the midlobe; midlobe square, apex obtuse. **Pedicel and Ovary:** tapering, 1 mm long.

Habitat and Distribution: *Dendrochilum tiongianum* is endemic to the Philippines, and according to the vendor, came from the mountains of Nueva Vizcaya, where it grows as an epiphyte on the mossy trunks and branches of trees at about 1,300 metres.

Comparison: *Dendrochilum tiongianum* is related to *Dendrochilum tenellum* but differs in the stiff, upright habit of the foliage which is also larger in diameter (1.2 mm in *Dchlm. tiongianum* when compared to .75 mm in *Dchlm. tenellum*); the hair-like peduncle of *Dchlm. tiongianum* separates from the V-shaped leaf channel near the middle of the leaf. In *Dchlm. tenellum* there is no such separation between the leaf and the peduncle. The flowers of *Dchlm. tiongianum* are considerably smaller (2 mm) than those of *Dchlm. tenellum* (3 mm.)

Etymology: Named in honour of Dr. George TIONG, close friend of the author.

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References

PEDERSEN, H.Æ. (1997): The genus *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae) in the Philippines – a taxonomic revision. *Opera Botanica* Number 131.

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