

Dendrochilum ewae

A Spectacular New *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae) Species from Samar, Philippines

Ronny BOOS, Jim COOTES & Wally SUAREZ

During a field trip to the Visayan island of Samar, in the central Philippines, in December 2010, Ronny BOOS, Ravan SCHNEIDER and Mietek KUZMA found a most spectacular species of *Dendrochilum*. Digital images were taken and sent to Jim COOTES, Wally SUAREZ and colleagues. After considerable research we have concluded to have found a new species. Mietek KUZMA, who is an orchid enthusiast himself, and often explores for plants with his wife Ewa, wants to honor the latter by naming it in her honour.

***Dendrochilum ewae* Boos, Cootes, and W. SUAREZ sp. nov.**

Holotype: NSW821686 cult: Ronny Boos, 26 June 2014, Philippines, Leyte, Tacloban.

Type: Philippines, northern Samar: alt. ca 400 metres, in broadleaf forest.

Plant Description:

Growth habit: an upright, climbing, sympodial, epiphytic herb. **Roots:** 0.5 to 1 mm in diameter, appearing basally from pseudobulbs and internodes of the rhizome. **Rhizome:** one to two cm long by 3 to 5 mm in diameter; internodes from 5 mm to 1 cm apart. **Pseudobulbs:** narrowly ovate, 2 to 3 cm long by 1 cm wide at the base and 0.5 cm at the apex; basally persistent bracts surround the pseudobulb. **Leaves:** lanceolate, dark green, shiny, up to 25 cm long by 4 cm wide and 3 mm at the base a distinct ridge running lengthwise, petiole 5 cm long by 3 mm in diameter, channelled lengthwise. **Bracts:** pinkish in colour, 6 mm long by 1 mm wide. **Inflorescence:** appear with the new growth; from 25 to 35 cm long, 0.5 mm at the base by 1 mm at the apex, bearing up to 35 odourless blooms, 1.5 cm long by 1.3 cm wide, which all open at the same time. **Flower colour:** translucent cream. **Dorsal sepal:** oblong, 8 mm long by 3 mm wide at the base and 1 mm at the apex, inner surface densely covered with

short trichomes, apex obtuse. **Lateral sepals:** narrowly ovate, 8 mm long by 3 mm wide at the base and 1 mm at the apex, inner surface densely covered with short trichomes. **Petals:** lanceolate, 7 mm long by 2 mm wide at the base and 1 mm at the apex, inner surface densely covered with short trichomes. **Labellum:** 6 mm long by 1 mm wide at the base and 2 mm towards the apex, one central raised ridge runs from base to apex, two veins from base to apex, tapering and curved at the apex; both surfaces glabrous. **Column:** 2 mm long by 0.5 mm wide, round at the base, cavity in the centre, semi-circular towards apex, hood-like with flattened edges extending over the anther cap; there are two very short arms at the base of the column. **Anther cap:** circular, 4 pollinia, birds head-like appearance. **Pedicel:** 3 mm long and 0.5 mm wide, channelled.



Habitat:

Several flowering plants were found in northern Samar, in dense broadleaf forest, at an altitude of approximately 400 metres.

Discussion:

Dendrochilum ewae seems unrelated to any other known *Dendrochilum* species. The sepals and petals are densely covered, on the inner sur-



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

SEIDENFADEN G. and WOOD J.J. (1992). The Orchids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore - Olsen and Olsen, Fredensborg.

SMITH J.J. (1984). (Reprint) *Die Orchideen von Java*. Figuren Atlas. - Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, India.

SMITH J.J. (1905). *Die Orchideen von Java*. E.J. Brill Leiden.

VALMAYOR H.L. (1984). *Orchidiana Philippiniana* - Eugenio Lopez Foundation, Inc. Manila, Philippines.

WOOD J.J. (2001). *Dendrochilum of Borneo*. Natural History Publications (Borneo.)

faces, by short trichomes, and this feature appears to be unique in the genus. The labellum is glabrous on both surfaces. *Dendrochilum ewae* is a member of section *Platyclinis* (BENTHAM) PFITZER.

Etymology:

The specific epithet honors Ewa KUZMA, the wife of orchid and bromeliad enthusiast Mietek KUZMA.

Acknowledgements:

The senior author would like to thank Mietek KUZMA for financing the field trip, and Ravan SCHNEIDER for accompanying.

Wally SUAREZ
98 Brgy. Sintangtala Mabitac
Laguna · Philippines