

## *Dendrobium ejirii* (Orchidaceae) – A New Species from Vietnam

by

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遊川知久\*: *Dendrobium ejirii* – ベトナム産ラン科の 1 新種

***Dendrobium ejirii* Yukawa, sp. nov.** TYPE: Vietnam. Former South Vietnam, precise locality unknown, *Kawasaki s. n.* Grown by K. Ejiri (Holotype: TNS).

Affine *Dendrobio capillipedi* Rchb. f., sed planta et floribus major, foliis coriaceis et persistentibus, inflorescentiis longioribus et 4–9-floris, operculo subtriangulati et basaliter elongato differt.

Epiphytic plant to 20 cm tall. Pseudobulbs clustered, erect, clavate, middle green, yellowish when old, 6- to 9-noded, 11–17 cm long  $\times$  0.9–1.5 cm wide, covered with black-edged sheaths. Leaves coriaceous, persistent more than 1 year, oblong-ligulate, obtuse, unequally bilobed at apex, middle green, 7.1–10.3 cm long  $\times$  1.9–2.6 cm wide. Inflorescences patent to pendulous, lateral on foliated stems, up to 24.5 cm long, 4- to 9-flowered; rachis laxly flowered, up to 14.7 cm long; fertile bracts oblong-oblancoate, acute, 9 mm long. Flowers thin in texture, patent, up to 3.6 cm wide, scented, golden yellow, blotched orangish towards base of labellum, with a few red streaks on the claw of labellum; pedicellate ovary slender, cylindrical, 29 mm long. Dorsal sepal oblong-lanceolate, acute, up to 16 mm long  $\times$  6.5 mm wide. Lateral sepals oblong-lanceolate, acute, with a mucro at back of apex, up to 20 mm long  $\times$  6 mm wide; mentum conical-pyramidal, obtuse, 7 mm long. Petals obovate-elliptic, slightly erose on margins, obtuse, up to 21 mm long  $\times$  17 mm wide. Labellum transversely elliptic-transversely oblong with a very short claw, erose and undulate on margins, pubescent on adaxial and abaxial surfaces, up to 28 mm long  $\times$  36 mm wide; callus basal, short, rounded towards claw. Column 4.5 mm long; column-foot 5 mm long; operculum conical-pyramidal, with an elongated basal part, gradually attenuate towards apex, slightly retuse at apex, glabrous, 2.5  $\times$  1.8 mm; pollinia 4 in 2 pairs.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet honours Koichi Ejiri, an eminent horticulturist, who first noticed the distinctive characters of this species.

Without a doubt, *Dendrobium ejirii* shares features such as the growth habit and overall floral structure with *D. capillipes* and these two species certainly form a sister group relationship. Nevertheless, the two species are readily separated by several features (Table 1). Salient differences are also illustrated in Fig. 1. In both vegetative and floral parts, *D. ejirii* has larger dimensions. The leaf of *D. ejirii* is coriaceous and persistent when the plant blooms. The inflorescence of *D. ejirii* is more than twofold longer than that of *D. capillipes* and bears more flowers. Among characters of the flower, the shape of the labellum of the former tends to be wider in proportion. The conical-pyramidal, glabrous operculum is a shared feature of *D. ejirii* and *D. capillipes*, but the adaxial shape of the

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Table 1. Comparison of diagnostic characters between *Dendrobium ejirii* and *D. capillipes*

Character	<i>D. ejirii</i>	<i>D. capillipes</i>
Stem length	11 to 17 cm	5 to 10 cm
Leaf texture	coriaceous	papery
Leaf longevity	more than 1 year	less than 1 year
Inflorescence length	up to 24.5 cm	5 to 10 cm
Pedicellate ovary	29 mm	14 mm
Flower number	4 to 9	1 to 4
Flower width	up to 3.6 cm	2.5–3 cm
Labellum shape	transversely elliptic- transversely oblong	nearly orbicular
Adaxial shape of operculum	subtriangular with an elongated basal part	trapezoid without an elongated basal part

operculum in both species is diagnostic. Generally, the outline is subtriangular in *D. ejirii*, while trapezoid in *D. capillipes*. The former also has an oblong, elongated, basal part covering the rostellum; but the latter does not have such an extended part. Furthermore, in *D. ejirii*, the apical part is gradually attenuate; however, in *D. capillipes*, the corresponding part is abruptly constricted.

T. Toida informed me that *D. ejirii* grows on trees in the vicinity of Simao, Yunnan, China. A specimen collected in Kunluodong, Yunnan (KUN) is also likely to represent this species.

Among horticulturists in Japan, the new species has been called "*Dendrobium capillipes* var. *elegans* Rehb. f.". In the original description, Reichenbach (1880) noted that this variety has stems of 5 to 6 inches. In this respect it is comparable to *D. ejirii*; Reichenbach, however, did not mention any other differences between the type variety and var. *elegans*. The Director of W kindly sent me a photograph of the holotype of *D. capillipes* var. *elegans*. This specimen, devoid of any vegetative parts, comprises two flowers only. The flower is identical with that of the type variety of *D. capillipes* in shape and size, while it does not exhibit any diagnostic features of the flower of *D. ejirii* (Fig. 2). Consequently, *D. capillipes* var. *elegans* does not represent the species described here.

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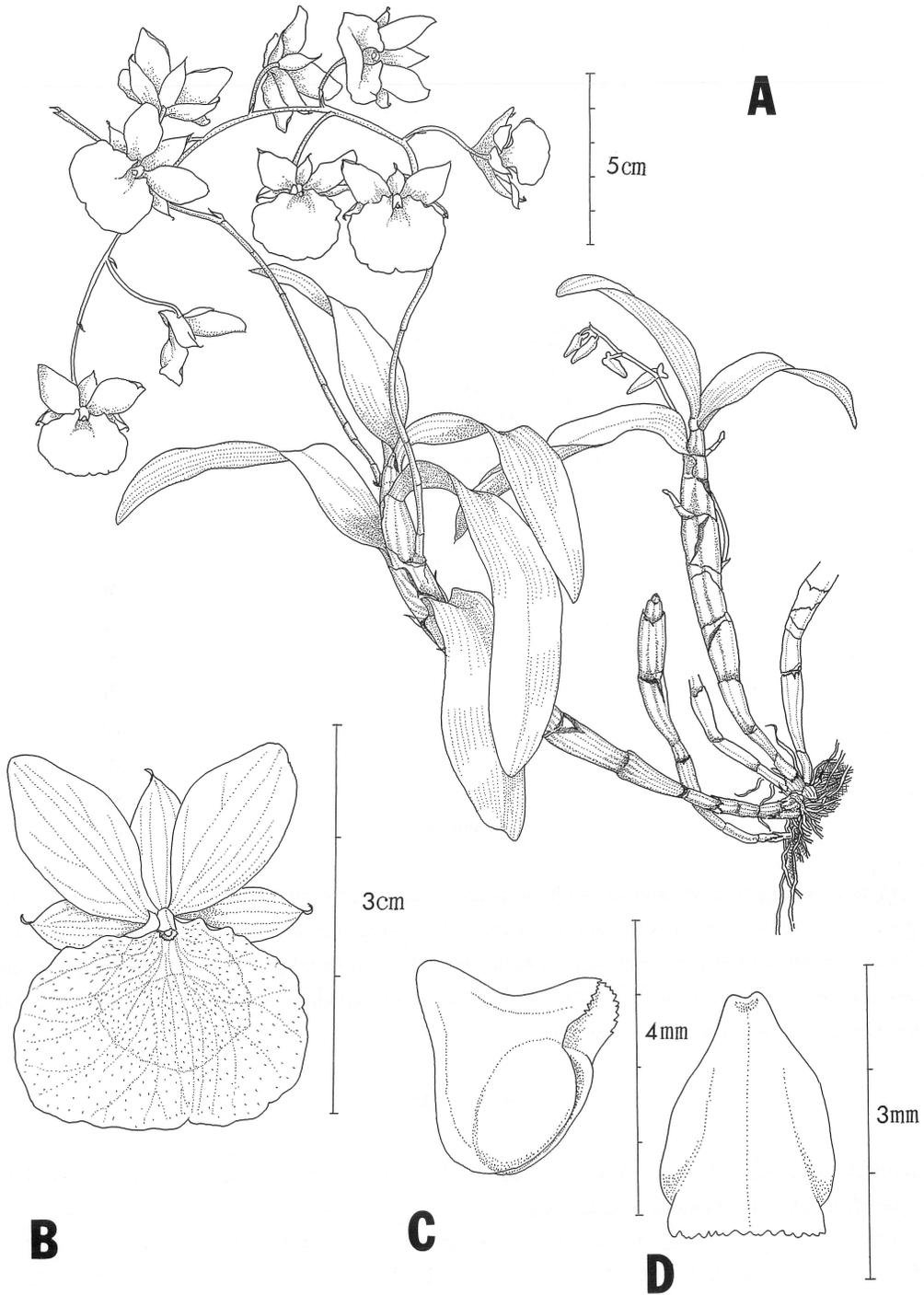


Fig. 1. *Dendrobium ejirii* Yukawa. A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Operculum, side view; D. Operculum, adaxial view. Drawn from *Kawasaki s. n.*



Fig. 2. *Dendrobium capillipes* var. *elegans* Rchb. f. Type specimen (R. Curnow, s. n.) at W.  
Photo: Courtesy of G. Oettel, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien.

### Summary

*Dendrobium ejirii*, a new species of Orchidaceae, is described from Vietnam. Although this species shares features such as the growth habit and overall floral structure with *Dendrobium capillipes* Rchb. f., the combination of larger dimensions in both vegetative and floral parts; coriaceous and persistent leaves; longer inflorescences with 4 to 9 flowers; and a subtriangular operculum with an elongated basal part can distinguish the new species.

### 摘 要

故川崎倫一氏が南ベトナムで採集し、江尻光一氏が今日まで栽培保全されてきたラン科の1新種、*Dendrobium ejirii* Yukawa を記載する。

栄養器官ならびに花の形態は *Dendrobium capillipes* Rchb. f. に類似するものの、各部分のサイズがより大きいこと、葉が革質で常緑であること、花序がより長く、より多くの花を着けること、葯帽の向軸面が三角形に近く、基部が伸びて小唇体を覆うことで、*D. ejirii* は区別される。

### Reference

Reichenbach, H. G., 1880. New garden plants. Gard. Chron. n. s. 13: 742-743.