

## *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 subtriangulari 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-<br>transversely oblong | nearly orbicular                             |
| Adaxial shape of operculum | subtriangular with an elongated<br>basal part | trapezoid without an elongated<br>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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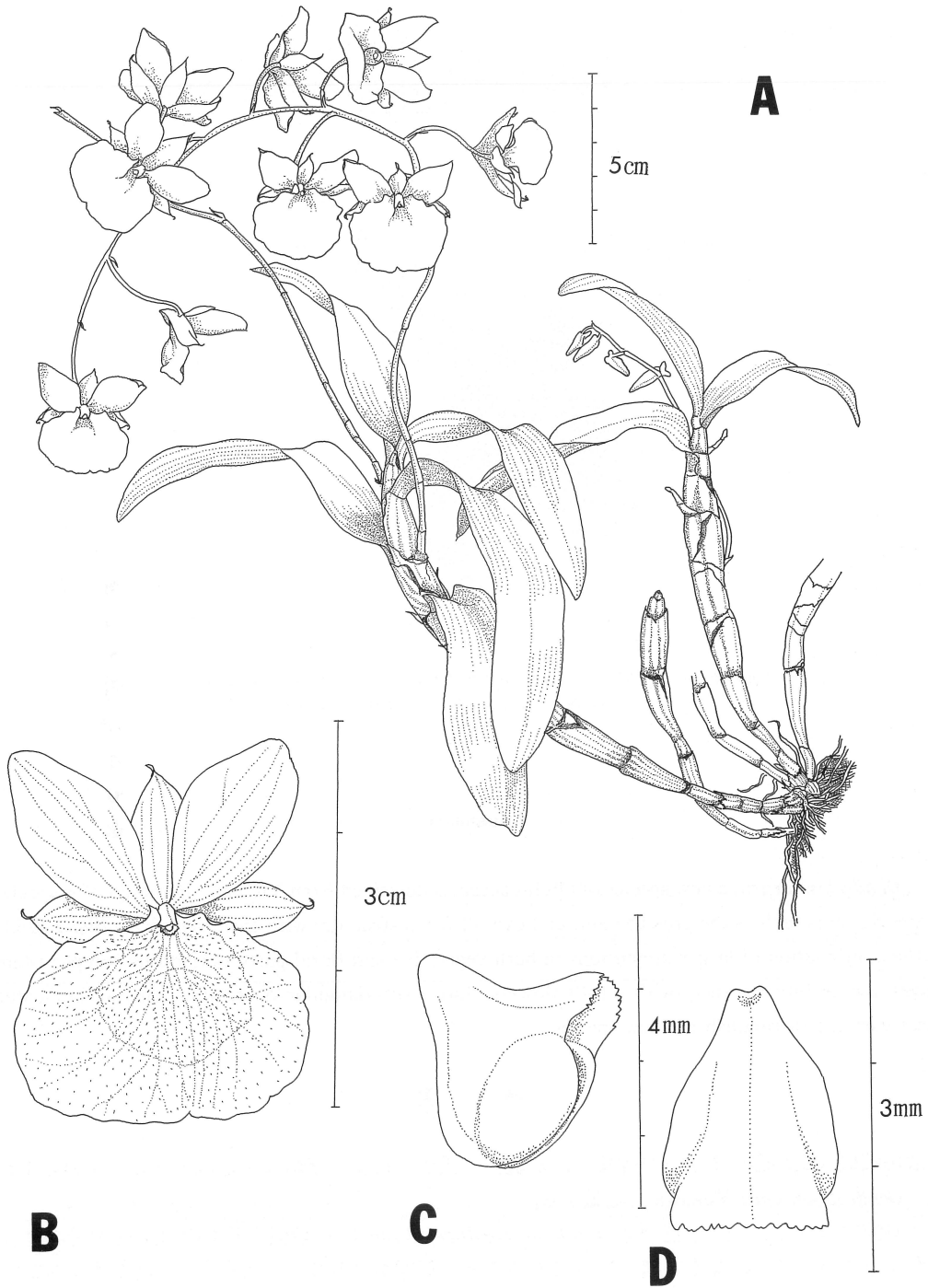


Fig. 1. *Dendrobium ejirii* Yukawa. A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Operculum, side view; D. Operculum, adaxial view. Drawn from *Kawasaki s. n.*



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.