Dienia seidenfadeniana, a new orchid species from Australasia

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ABSTRACT
Dienia seidenfadeniana Szlach., Marg. & Rutk., is described and illustrated. The new species appears to be related to Dienia latifolia (J.J. Sm.) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones, from which it is easily distinguishable by the lip form.

RESUME


Although the gynostemium structure of Dienia Lindl. is similar to Crepidium Blume and Fingardia Szlach., this genus is characterised by the lip form. Additionally, unlike Crepidium and Fingardia, the lip of Dienia possesses a transverse, rather thick, ridge at the lip base.

While revising the herbarium materials of Malaxidinae from Australasia we found two specimens that in our opinion represent the same unknown taxon that deserves to be separated as a new species. We describe it below.

Dienia seidenfadeniana Szlach., Marg. & Rutk., sp. nov.

Species haec D. latifoliae proxima, sed recedit labello distincte laitori, lobis lateralibus oblique ovato-trian-
Fig. 1.—Dienia seidenfadeniana Szlach., Marg. & Rutk.: A, part of the pseudobulb; B, flower; C, tepals; D, lip, callus partially removed; E, gynostemium; F, floral bract. (Bartlett & la Rue 254 (260), L).
Dienia seidenfadeniana (Orchidaceae)

latibus plus minusve falcatis, lobo mediano fisco et callo trilocularis in parte centrali labelli locato.

TYPUS.—Bartlett & la Rue 254 (260), Sumatra, east coast, Karo-land, Kampong, 2 July 1918 (holo-, L).

PARATYPE.—van Royen & Sleumer 7508, Irian Jaya, Vogelkop Peninsula, Alfat River Valley, path from Sururam to Son Village, 720 m, 26 Oct. 1961 (L).

Pseudobulbs 4.5-10 cm long, fusiform, more or less ascending, internodes few to several mm long, 0.2-0.3 cm in diameter. Leaves (2-)9-14, spirally arranged along pseudobulbs; petiole 0.4-2 cm long, narrow, canaliculate, transformed basally into sheath, dark purple; blade 2.2-10.2 cm long, 1.2-2.6 cm wide, oblanceolate to obliquely ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, yellowish-green with purple veins on undersurface.Inflorescence 12.8-17.3 cm long, dark purple, erect, spike 3.8-5.6 cm long, probably longer, 20-60-flowered, dense. Flowers small, non-resupinate, tepals purple with light green edges, lip green. Floral bracts 3.8-6 mm long, linear-lanceolate to linear-triangular, acuminate. Pedicel and ovary 2.5-5 mm long, slender. Dorsal sepal 2-3 mm long, 1-1.6 mm wide, elliptic-ovate to oblong-ovobate, obtuse to subobtuse, 3-nerved. Petals 1.8-2.5 mm long, falcately oblong to oblong-oblanceolate, subobtuse to subacute, single- or obscurely 3-nerved. Lateral sepals 2-2.6 mm long, 1.3-1.8 mm wide, obliquely oblong-obovate to oblong-elliptic, subobtuse to subacute, 3-nerved. Lip 2.2-3.4 mm long, 3.2-4 mm wide, distinctly 3-lobed, the basal callus 3-chambered; the middle lobe 0.6-1.4 mm long, 1-1.2 mm wide, ovate to almost triangular in outline, obtuse, notched in apical third; side lobes falcately ovate-triangular, widely divergent, subacute to subobtuse, with small single tooth near the base of the middle lobe. Gynostemium 1-1.2 mm long, typical for the genus.—Fig. 1.

ETYMOLOGY.—Named in honour of the great Danish orchidologist, Dr. Gunnar SEIDENFADEN.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known so far from Sumatra and Irian Jaya, but probably more widely distributed.

ECOLOGY.—Terrestrial in oak-forest and “deep jungle”.

NOTES.—Dienia seidenfadeniana Szlach., Marg. & Rutk. shares the same habit as closely related D. latifolia. Both species differ, however, in the lip form. In the newly described entity, the lip is distinctly wider, side lobes of lip obliquely ovate-triangular, more or less falcately divergent, the middle lobe is ovate, split in apical third. The basal lip callus is shallowly 3-chambered.

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REFERENCES


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