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.

MOTS CLÉS
Dienia,
Orchidaceae,
Australie.

RÉSUMÉ
Dienia seidenfadeniana, une nouvelle espèce d'Orchidaceae d'Australie.
Dienia seidenfadeniana Szlach., Marg. & Rutk. est décrit et illustré. Cette nouvelle espèce est affine de *Dienia latifolia* (J.J. Sm.) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones, dont elle se distingue facilement par la forme du labelle.

The genus *Dienia* Lindl. has been recently reinstated by CLEMENTS & JONES (1996). According to these authors it includes 6 species: *Dienia benguetense* (Ames) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones, *D. curranii* (Ames) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones, *D. latifolia* (J.J. Sm.) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones, *D. montana* (J.J. Sm.) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones, *D. truncicola* (Schltr.) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones and *D. volkensii* (Schltr.) M.A. Clem. & D.L. Jones. It is worthy to note that CLEMENTS & JONES (1996) transferred *Epidendrum ophrydis* J. Koenig to the genus *Crepidium* Blume, despite its similarity to both *Malaxis latifolia* Sm. and *Dienia congesta* Lindl. (GARAY, pers. comm.; SEIDENFADEN, pers. comm.). Both of the latter taxa are treated by SEIDENFADEN (1995) as synonyms of *Malaxis ophrydis* (J. Koenig) Ormerod.

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 latiori, lobis lateralibus oblique ovato-triangu-*

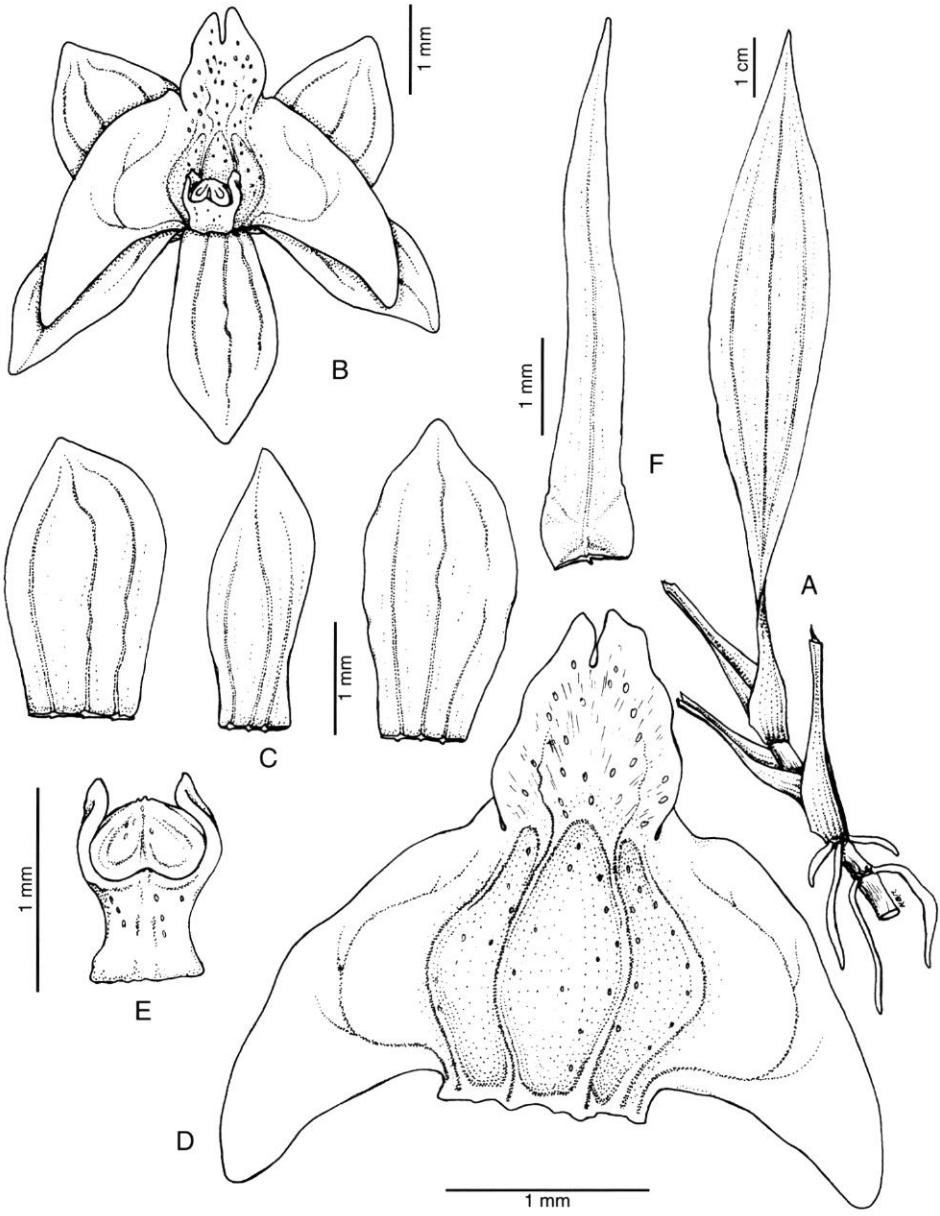

Fig. 1.—***Dienia seidenfadeniana*** Szlach., Marg. & Rutk.: **A**, part of the pseudobulb; **B**, flower; **C**, tepals; **D**, lip, callus partially removed; **E**, gynostemium; **F**, floral bract. (*Bartlett & la Rue 254* (*260*), L).

latibus plus minusve falcatis, lobo mediano fisso 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 Pennisula, Alfat River Valley, path from Sururem 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-obovate, 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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