



Coelogyne pachystachya

A new *Coelogyne* species from Thailand

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grower and photos: © M. Perry

When we first saw that *Coelogyne* in 2007, it was displayed on an Internet website as a jungle collected species offered for sale by a Thai trekker. We immediately noticed the stout erect spikes and the showy flowers, pure white sepals and petals nicely contrasting with a yellow and copper lip, that looked like those of no other *Coelogyne* species we knew. We tried to get more information about the plant but got no reply from the seller. Two years later similar species were displayed again on another Thai website : this time their grower kindly answered us and agreed to send us a dry flower for examination, but he only knew that the plants originated from “somewhere” in Thailand. Almost at the same period we were asked both by Australian and American friends to identify the plants imported from Thailand they’d just flowered, once again stout erect spikes bearing similar flowers.

Thus when we received plants labeled *Coelogyne* “sp. Thai” from Orchids & More (Germany), their pseudobulbs and leaves left but few doubts, they should be that species, but we had to see one of them flower to be sure. One of those plants grown by Malcolm PERRY recently flowered, as hoped its flowers were similar to those we noticed

in 2007. The fresh flowers we could at last examine confirm it to be an undescribed species we choose to name *C. pachystachya*, referring to its very stout erect spike. With slightly tomentous petioles, leaves and inflorescence, an expanded lip showing long side-lobes and a short mid-lobe, about 1/3 the total length of lip, the species is to be placed in section *Tomentosae*. The nearest species we could find in that section is *Coelogyne velutina* DE VOGEL, despite its drooping inflorescence. *C. pachystachya* is close to *C. velutina* by its ovoid-oblong pseudobulbs growing close to each others, sheathed in tomentous bracts, its coriaceous strongly nerved leaves, its inflorescence emerging from enclosing bracts at the base of an adult pseudobulb, its flowers of similar size, with sepals and petals strongly veined, side-lobes of the lip brown veined white, mid-lobe yellow and a callus of 3 keels with undulating erode margins running from the base down to the middle of the mid-lobe. It differs though by shorter pseudobulbs and leaves, a very stout inflorescence, erect and not drooping, creamy white sepals and petals, a different lip shape when expanded: obovate and not elliptic side-lobes with a shorter free part, a narrow

triangular mid-lobe ; the keels on the lip are high with a dentate margin for *C. velutina* whereas they are somewhat lower and thicker with a crenate margin for *C. pachystachya*, ending rather abruptly on the mid-lobe. Flowering : june–july, flowers opening almost simultaneously.

Coelogyne pachystachya Elis. GEORGE et J.-Cl. GEORGE, **sp. nov.** (sect. *Tomentosae*)

Species nova *Coelogyne velutina* DE VOGEL affinis, a qua imprimis differt inflorescentia crassioribus erecta; tepali alba, labellum brevioribus et angustioribus, lobi laterales obovati nec elliptici, antici brevi rotundati, lobus medius obtriangularis acutus, carinae 3 laminiformes, crenulato nec dentato, discus lobi medii 2 lateralibus additae.

Typus: Thailand, without collector, flowered july 2011 in cultivation in England, grown by Malcolm PERRY. (Holotype L).

Description:

Pseudobulbs growing close to each others, 6–8 x 2,5–4 cm, ovoid-oblong, bifoliate, dark olive green, longitudinally grooved with age, sheathed

in persistent scales higher than the pseudobulb, roots about 0,3 cm diameter, orange-tipped. **Leaves** 22–33 x 6–9 cm, erect, rather coriaceous, blade oblanceolate, slightly undulate, margin entire, apex acuminate, 5 prominent nerves below, strong carinate petiole, 5–10 cm long. **Inflorescence** heteranthous, erect, 8–10-flowered, enclosed at base in olive-green scales and sometimes a short leaf but not developing into a pseudobulb, peduncle 10–15 cm long, straight, tomentous, almost entirely hidden by 4 to 5 salmon-pink lanceolate sterile bracts, rachis 10–15 cm long, slightly zigzag, internodes 2 cm, floral bracts 2,5–3 cm long, salmon-pink, ovate, acute, persistent.



Flowers about 5 cm across, widely open, sepals and petals creamy white, lip white, inner part of side-lobes copper, veined and bordered with white, mid-lobe copper, keels yellow at base, copper on the mid-lobe, column white, base of front part veined copper; **sepals** 7-nerved, midrib prominent below, dorsal sepal 3,1–3,4 x 0,6–1,2 cm, erect, ovate-lanceolate, lateral sepals 3,1–3,4 x 0,5–1 cm, oblong-lanceolate, oblique, tip slightly concave, **petals** 2,8–3 x 0,7–0,8 cm, obliquely upwards, oblong-lanceolate; **lip** 2,1–2,4 x 1,7 cm when spread, three-lobed, side lobes 1,6 x 1,7 cm, erect, obovate, margins entire, free part

0,1 cm long, rounded, mid-lobe 0,9 x 0,7 cm, obtriangular, margins entire, apex acute; **3 keels** running from base of lip to middle of mid-lobe, parallel, plate-like with an irregularly crenate margin, 2 lateral additional similar ones present on mid-lobe only; **column** 1,8 cm long, slightly curved, widening from its base, winged, front part recurved with an irregular margin; **ovary** 2,5 cm, green, covered with fine dark hairs, pedicel green, 2,5 cm long.

Distribution and ecology:

Thailand: epiphytic, alt. unknown. Our plants are grown in the intermediate greenhouse and appreciates a coo-