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#### A new species of Dendrobium Blume from Vietnam page 3

Roland Schettler & Pham Duc MINH

**Summary:** A new species of the genus *Dendrobium* Vietnam is described as *Dendrobium congii*.

Keywords: Vietnam, Dendrobium congii.

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## A new species of Dendrobium Blume from Vietnam

Roland Schettler and Pham Duc MINH

Abstract: A new species of Dendrobium has been discovered in a collection from Kon Ka Kinh, Vietnam. Its habit was similar to Dendrobium fuerstenbergianum, however upon blooming those plants proved to be a very different species, related to Dendrobium wattii RCHB.F. We therefore decided to describe Dendrobium vocongii sp.nov. SCHETTLER & PHAM as a new species. The name honors its discovered, Mr. Vo Van CONG of Kontum.

Dendrobium vocongii sp.nov. **SCHETTLER & PHAM** 

Type: Cultivated in Kontum by Mr. Vo Van Cong, original collector, and bloomed in March 2016 at his nursery. Holotype: Pham 3/2016 VNP16301, Institute for Tropical plant improvement, Trung tam ung khao hoc va cong ngh

Lam Dong, 35 Tran Hung Dao, District 10, Da Lat, Vietnam

#### Plant description:

Growth habit: plant upright, sympodial, epiphytic, occasionally lithophytic, roots 1-1.8 mm diameter. Pseudobulbs: clustered, fusiform to ovate, to 15 cm long by 1.3 cm in diameter, bearing 3-7 leaves that last for several years. Leaves: obovate to lanceolate, from 3 to 6 cm long, 1.2-1.8 cm wide, coriaceous, apex slightly bilobed, sheats covered with dark brown hairs. Inflorescences: appear both on the old and the emerging new growth, very short peduncle of 5 mm - 1 cm, bearing 1-4 flowers. Flower 3 to 5cm diameter. Flower colour: white with the exception of light orange veins on the lateral lobes and callus ridges of the labellum. The lateral parts of the labellum have a distinctive faint orange horizontal striping. The base of the labellum varies from pure white to yellow. Dorsal sepal: lanceolate, 2 x o.8 cm. apex mucronate. Petals: obovate to aristate, 2.5 x 1.7 cm, apex rounded to cuspidate. Lateral sepals: attached to the column base, in front partially fused for 8 mm, 2 x 1.8 cm; mentum shape conical to slightly quadrangulare. Labellum three lobed, lateral lobes obovate, 3 cm long from lip base to apex, o.8 cm wide, apex rounded; midlobe decurved, shape: transversely rectangular, 2.8 x 1cm, apex deeply emarginate, margin coarsely dentate; median part of the lip with two callus ridges extending from the base to the base of the midlobe, with a shorter, raised lamella between them towards the apex.

Comparison: This species bears a passing resemblance with Dendrobium wattii, which has an orange lip throat



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and obvious callii. The midlobe of the lip is much longer than wide in that species. *Dendrobium infundibulum* is similar as well, but the midlobe of the lip is much wider than the side-lobes. *D. virgineum* from Burma, Laos and Vietnam is a close relative, but it differs mainly in having only two low callus ridges, having white flowers with faint red markings, and a different lip shape. Dendrobium infundibulum and virgineum vegetative growth is as well several times bigger.

**Etymology:** Named after Mr. Vo Van Cong of Kontum, discoverer of the present species in the wild.

**Habitat:** Kon Ka Kinh, Vietnam, at an altitude of about 1,000 m. It grows on epiphytic fern roots.

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