

A new Species in the Aeridinae (Orchidaceae), from the Philippines

Jim Cootes & George Tiong

Abstract: *Thrixspermum ravanii* a new species from Mindoro, Philippines is described. An attractive species from the genus *Thrixspermum* Loureiro, was recently brought to the attention of the authors. A study of the literature for the Philippines, and surrounding countries, has not revealed any matching epithet. Therefore we are naming this plant as a new species: *Thrixspermum ravanii* Cootes and Tiong *sp. nov.*

Key Words: *Thrixspermum ravanii*, Orchidaceae, Mindoro, Philippines

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TYPE: Cultivated in Puerto Galera, Mindoro, flowering in September 2011, in the collection of Ravan Schneider. Holotype originating from Mount Talipanan, in northern Mindoro, Philippines.

Holotype: NSW902484 Philippines, Mindoro, Puerto Galera.

Section: *Dendrocolla* (Blume) J.J. Smith

Growth habit: epiphyte; upright; monopodial.

Stems: terete; to 16 cm tall; occasionally branching.

Leaves: leathery, alternate, narrowly oblong, unequally lobed at the apex, upper surface channelled; to 12 cm long by 1.8 cm wide; bright green.

Inflorescences: semi-erect, becoming pendulous with age, equal or longer than the leaves, smoothly surfaced.

Peduncle: about 1.3 mm in diameter; with one triangular bract, positioned centrally. **Rachis:** congested, flowers produced successively around the rachis, with only one bloom opened at any time, flowers short-lived. Floral bracts triangular to 3 mm long by 1.3 mm wide. Plants flower 5 to 6 times a year.

Flower colour: sepals and petals white; labellum white with a dull orange apex, and reddish brown to purplish stripes internally. Callus orange. Flowers about 8 mm across and they do not open widely.

Dorsal sepal: ovate, 4 mm long by 2 mm wide, hooded, apex rounded.

Petals: oblanceolate, 3.5 mm long by 1.75 mm wide; curving inwards, apex rounded.

Lateral sepals: broadly ovate, 4.5 mm long by 2.5 mm wide; ridged on back; apex obtusely pointed.

Labellum: rigidly attached to column; saccate at base, sac about 3 mm long by 2 mm wide, bearing a squarish callus at the opening of the sac; edges and internal surface bearing minute hairs, apex of sac bilobed; no midlobe.

Side lobes: triangular, pointing forward, 2 mm long.

Pedicel and Ovary: 6 mm long by .5 mm in diameter.

Column: very short, about 1.5 mm long.

Comparison: *Thrixspermum ravanii* Cootes and Tiong, is related to *Thrixspermum robinsonii* Ames, but differs from that species by the much larger plant dimensions, and having flowers which are considerably smaller. It also differs in the triangular shape of the side lobes, and the oblanceolate shape of the petals.

Habitat and Distribution: *Thrixspermum ravanii* appears to be endemic to the island of Mindoro, in the Philippines. The senior author (JC) has recently been shown images of a species, from the central Philippine island of Leyte, which may prove to be *Thrixspermum ravanii*. On the island of Mindoro it grows as an epiphyte, at elevations of about 880 metres, in sub-montane forest. The species from Leyte grows at much lower elevations.

Etymology: Named in honour of our good friend, Mr. Ravan Schneider, who has done much to add to our knowledge of the orchids of the Philippines, particularly those of northern Mindoro. Mr. Schneider has added numerous new locality records, for both genera and species, for both Mindoro and the Philippines.





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