

A NEW *DENDROBIUM* FOR NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND.

By REV. H. M. R. RUPP.

(Four Text-figures.)

[Read 30th November, 1927.]

DENDROBIUM TENUISSIMUM, n. sp.

Planta semper pendula, cum ramis tenuissimis et lentis, 30-100 cm. longis. Folia tereta, tenuissima, saepe brevia, obscure striata. Flores solae vel 2-3. Sepala $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm. longa, lata, purpureo-fusca vel fusco-virida. Petala angusta, virida. Labellum album, cum 5-6 maculis stipatis purpureis utrimque, et marginibus crispis. Columna tenuis, apice purpureo.

An extremely slender, pendulous species occurring in dense brush-forests. Stems almost like fine wire, very flexible, much branched. Leaves terete, in young plants and branches somewhat robust, but becoming very slender in maturity, occasionally as much as 15 cm. long, but more often very short, obscurely fluted. Flowers solitary or in racemes of 2 or 3. Sepals equal, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm. long, rather broad, purplish-brown, or dark-green on the inner surface. Petals shorter and very narrow, green. Labellum nearly as long as the sepals, recurved, white with a yellowish-green median raised line, on either side of which are 4-6 closely-packed oval bright-purple blotches. Margins crisped-undulate, pure white. Column slender, its apex and the stigmatic plate purplish. Ovary rather long, pedicel long and exceedingly slender. Fl. September-October.

This plant has obvious affinities with *D. Becklerii* F.v.M., and *D. Mortii* F.v.M., but could never be mistaken for either. It is far more slender than even the less robust forms of *D. Becklerii*, and never has the erect or semi-erect habit of that species; the sepals are relatively much broader, the petals shorter; the labellum is more obscurely lobed, and its margins are never bordered with purple, while the brilliant purple blotches closely set on either side of the median plate are never found in *D. Becklerii*. It differs from *D. Mortii* (which flowers in late summer and autumn) in the slenderness and flexibility of the much longer branches; the absence of angularity in the leaves; the relative dimensions of sepals and petals (the latter in *D. Mortii* being very broad); and the brilliant purple markings of the labellum. The ovary and pedicel in the new species are both relatively longer than in either of the others. The perfume is very distinctive, and unlike that of any other terete-leaved *Dendrobium* known to me. It is not particularly pleasant, and has considerable resemblance to that of the common little liliaceous plant *Anguillaria dioica*.

Habitat.—Upper Allyn River, Oct., 1925 (John Hopson and H.M.R.R.); Upper Williams River, Oct., 1926 (C. Barrett); Upper Paterson River, 1927 (P. Laney); Tambourine Mountain, Queensland, Sept., 1927 (Mrs. H. Curtis).

This orchid is found throughout the brushes among the foothills of the Barrington Tops in New South Wales, the three rivers all having their origin in that range. As it occurs also in South Queensland, it may be confidently looked for in between.



- Text-fig. 1. *Dendrobium tenuissimum*, n. sp., small flowering branch, about natural size.
 Text-fig. 2. Enlarged front view of flower of *D. tenuissimum*.
 Text-fig. 3. The same of *D. Becklerii*.
 Text-fig. 4. The same of *D. Mortii*.



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