

Doritis natmataungensis (Orchidaceae), a New Species from Myanmar

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A new species, *Doritis natmataungensis* T. Yukawa, Nb. Tanaka & J. Murata (Orchidaceae) is described from Myanmar. It is easily distinguished from the closely related *Doritis stobartiana* (Rchb. f.) T. Yukawa & K. Kita by the following combination of characters: 1) mottled sepals and petals; 2) differently shaped ridge of lateral lobes of labellum; 3) broadly obovate midlobe of labellum; and 4) thick, exserted ridge of midlobe of labellum.

Key words: *Doritis*, Myanmar, new species, Orchidaceae, taxonomy

Owing to its horticultural importance, the *Phalaenopsis* group, including *Phalaenopsis* Blume, *Doritis* Lindl., *Kingidium* P. F. Hunt, *Lesliea* Seidenf., and *Nothodoritis* Z. H. Tsi, has received much attention from taxonomists. Several monographic treatments of the genera have been published, notably by Rolfe (1886), Sweet (1968a, 1968b, 1969a, 1969b, 1969c, 1969d, 1969e, 1969f, 1980) and Christenson (2001). Further, Yukawa *et al.* (2005) revised the generic classification and recognized two genera, *Phalaenopsis* and *Doritis*, based both on morphological and macromolecular characters. We hereby describe a new species of *Doritis* from the Natma Taung National Park, located in Chin State, southwestern Myanmar. Field expeditions to inventory the flora of the region were conducted by the Makino Botanical Garden in cooperation with the Forest Department, Union of Myanmar Ministry of Forestry (Tanaka 2005).

Doritis natmataungensis T. Yukawa, Nb. Tanaka & J. Murata, **sp. nov.** (Figs. 1–3).

Affinis *D. stobartiana*, sed sepalis petalisque maculosis,

lobo medio labelli late obovato, et callis labelli dissimilibus differt.

Typus. MYANMAR. Chin State, Natma Taung (Mt. Victoria), Opho–Kyet Chan, alt. 1740 m. Disturbed forest, along stream, epiphyte. 26 April 2003, Yukawa & *al.* 029689 (holo- TNS; iso- MBK, TI).

Herbs, epiphytic. *Roots* elongate, fasciculate, fleshy, compressed, glabrous, chlorophyllous, greenish gray. *Stem* abbreviated. *Leaves* usually absent at flowering, present during growing season, patent, fleshy, conduplicate, deep green, elliptic-obovate, base cuneate, apex obtuse to obliquely obtuse, mucronate, 5.4–6.8 cm long, 2–2.6 cm wide; sheaths persistent, clasping, green, brownish after defoliation. *Inflorescences* suberect-pendent, in axils of cauline leaves, subdensely 4–16-flowered, terete, dull green mottled with purple; peduncle 4.2–10.5 cm long, bearing 3–4 sheaths; rachis 3.5–10.5 cm long; bracts adherent to ovaries, obliquely triangular, acute, slightly erose, 4–5.8 mm long, 3–4.5 mm wide. *Flowers* patent, fleshy, fragrant; pedicellate ovary dull green with purplish tints; sepals and petals mustard yellow, mottled with purplish brown on adaxial surface; labellum creamy yellow, lat-

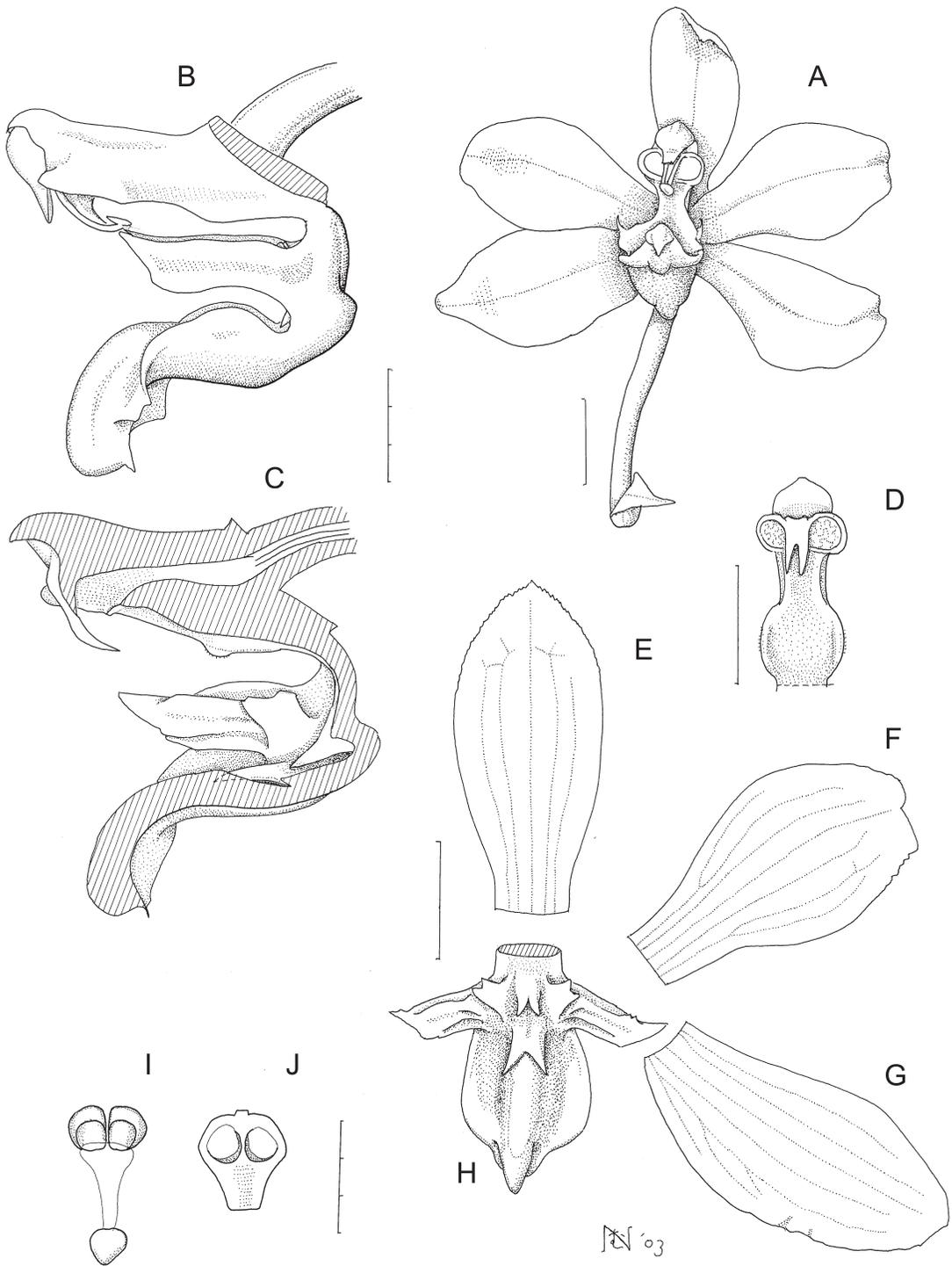


FIG. 1. *Doritis natmataungensis* T. Yukawa, Nb. Tanaka & J. Murata (A–J). A: flower, front view. B: column and labellum, side view. C: longitudinal section through column and labellum. D: column, from below, operculum and pollinarium removed. E: dorsal sepal. F: petal. G: lateral sepal. H: labellum. I: pollinarium. J: operculum, interior view. Drawn from holotype (Yukawa & al. 029689) by M. Nakajima. Scale bar = 5 mm (A, D–H) or 3 mm (B, C, I & J).



FIG. 2. Flowering individual of *Doritis natmataungensis* T. Yukawa, Nb. Tanaka & J. Murata. Photograph at the type locality (Yukawa & al. 029689).



FIG. 3. Close-up of a flower of *Doritis natmataungensis* T. Yukawa, Nb. Tanaka & J. Murata. Photograph from paratype (Tanaka & al. 20040156).

eral lobes mottled with purplish brown, ridge of midlobe dark purplish red; column creamy yellow, stained with dull red; operculum creamy yellow; pollinia orangish yellow, translucent. *Pedicellate ovary* terete, slightly sulcate, 27–32 mm long. *Dorsal sepal* obovate–oblanceolate, obtuse, apical third weakly erose, 16–17.5 mm long, 6–6.8 mm wide. *Lateral sepals* obliquely obovate–oblanceolate, obtuse, apex slightly erose, posterior margin recurved, 15.2–17 mm long, 7.3–8 mm wide. *Petals* spatulate, apex rounded-truncate, slightly erose, 13–15 mm long, 6.8–8.2 mm wide. *Labellum* trilobed, clawed; shallowly saccate between lateral lobes, claw and midlobe connected at right angle; claw oblong, 3.5–4 mm long; lateral lobes erect, falcate, acuminate, ridge prominently thickened toward base, 4–5 mm long, 1.7–2.5 mm wide at base; midlobe broadly obovate, abaxially excavated, margins folded

over, with a thick, fleshy ridge terminating in a truncate exertion, 6.1–6.6 mm long, 4.9–5.5 mm wide; disc between lateral lobes with a pair of superimposed bifid calli. *Column* ascending, subcylindrical, constricted in middle, papillate, 6–6.7 mm long; rostellum narrowly bifid, hook-like; stigma transverse, elliptic-oblong; operculum triangular, cucullate, obtuse, truncate, 2.5–2.6 mm long, 2–2.1 mm wide; pollinia attached ventrally to stipe, 4 in 2 pairs, each pair divided in unequal semiglobular free halves, 0.5–0.8 mm long; stipe spatulate, curved, 3.6–3.9 mm long; viscidium 1.1 mm long.

Flowering period. April to May.

Distribution. Myanmar (Chin State). Thus far known only from the type locality.

Etymology. The specific epithet reflects the local name of the type locality, Mt. Victoria.

Other specimens examined. MYANMAR. Chin

State, Natma Taung (Mt. Victoria), Kanpetlet, alt. 1950 m. Lower to upper montane rain forest, along path, epiphyte, 21 May 2004, *Tanaka & al.* 20040156 (MBK, TNS).

Note. *Doritis natmataungensis* is closely related to *D. stobartiana* (Rchb.f.) T. Yukawa & K. Kita, but can be distinguished from the latter by its mottled sepals and petals, the differently shaped ridge of the lateral lobes of labellum (see a figure in Sweet [1980: 46]), the broadly obovate midlobe of labellum, and the thick, exerted ridge of the midlobe of labellum. *Doritis braceana* Hook.f. also has a marked affinity with *D. natmataungensis*, but differs by having a distinct spur and a differently shaped labellum.

The group including *Doritis natmataungensis* was formerly known as *Phalaenopsis* subg. *Aphyllae* (H. R. Sweet) Christenson. *Phalaenopsis* sp. (subg. *Aphyllae*), used in a molecular phylogenetic analysis by Yukawa *et al.* (2005), corresponds to this new taxon.

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