

***Dendrobium officinale* Kimura & Migo**

1982

Orchidaceae

Nomenclatural reference 1217 Govaerts, R. (2022): The World Checklist of Vascular Plants (WCVP). – Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Checklist dataset of 2022-12-08. Retrieved from <https://sftp.kew.org/pub/data-repositories/WCVP/>, viewed 4.3.2023.

Summary

Intrinsic Traits

Distribution	<i>Dendrobium catenatum</i> is found in south-east China, Taiwan and southern Japan, and extends to the northern parts of Myanmar, Sikkim (northwest India) and Nepal.
Abundance	Remaining populations are small and sparsely distributed.
Habitat	The species grows on tree trunks, rocks and cliffs in sparse limestone area woodlands up to 1600 m.
Regeneration	Slow vegetative propagation (one clone per stem and year).
Reproduction	Very low fruit and seed set, probably due to limited numbers of simultaneously open flowers and low pollinator visitation. Long maturation period.
Plant Parts	The stems are used.
Lifeform	Lithophytic perennial herb.
Systematics	

Extrinsic Traits

Threat Status	Assessed globally as Critically Endangered by IUCN in 2004; needs updating.
Threats	Has increasingly suffered from overexploitation for medicinal purposes.
Purpose	The species is used in TCM.
Use Fields	
Trade Trend	Increasing demand and diminishing natural resources have led to establishments of modern large scale industrial propagation and cultivation facilities (4000 ha cultivated area in China with at least US\$39 billion market value).
Legislation	The species is listed in CITES Appendix II.

Taxonomy and Identification

Synonyms

Synonym	Eval	Ref
<i>Dendrobium catenatum</i> Lindl.	1217	Govaerts, R. (2022): The World Checklist of Vascular Plants (WCVP). –
<i>Dendrobium tosaense</i> Makino	1217	

Taxon Present in Pharmacopoeias and other References

Name as used in Source	Status	Reference
<i>Dendrobium tosaense</i> Makino	3586	Zhonghua Bencao Editorial Committee, Chinese State Administration of TCM (ed.) (1998): Zhonghua Bencao (Materia Medica of China), Vol. 1-10. Shanghai Scientific and Technical Press, Shanghai. Retrieved from http://www.zysj.com.cn/zhongyaocai/zhonghuabencana
<i>Dendrobium catenatum</i> Lindl.	3575	Eng Soon Teoh (2016): Medicinal orchids of Asia. Springer, sine loco.
<i>Dendrobium catenatum</i> Lindl.	3749	Leon, C. & Lin Yu-Lin (2017): Chinese medicinal plants, herbal drugs and substitutes. An identification guide. Kew Publishing, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i>	5888	Traffic East Asia (1999): Medicinal plant significant trade study (phase 2). Final report submitted to the Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany. TRAFFIC East Asia. Unpublished report, sine loco.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i>	9698	Brinckmann, J.A. (2014): Quick scan of Orchidaceae species in European commerce as components of cosmetic, food and medicinal products. Report for Bundesamt für Lebensmittelsicherheit und Veterinärwesen, Bern.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i> K. Kimura & Migo	1180	GRIN (17.3.2015): Download World Economic Plants report from GRIN Taxonomy for the query. Medizin = 'Alle Nutzungen'. Retrieved from http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxecon.pl?language=de

<i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo	3091	National Pharmacopoeia Commission (ed.) (2020): Zhōnghuá rénmin gònghéguó yàodiǎn. 2020 Niánbǎn. Yī bù [Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China. 2020 edition. Volume 1; in Chinese]. China Medical Science and Technology Press, Beijing.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo	3145	Brinckmann, J.A., Kathe, W., Berkhoudt, K, Harter, D.E.V. & Schippmann, U. (2022): A new global estimation of medicinal and aromatic plant species in commercial cultivation and their conservation status. <i>Economic Botany</i> 22(10): 1-15.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo	3439	Shih-Chung Chen (ed.) (2019): Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopoeia. 3rd edition. English version. Ministry Health and Welfare, Taipei. Retrieved from https://www.mohw.gov.tw/lp-3690-2.html , viewed: 28.04.2020.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo	6369	McGuffin, M., Kartesz, J.T., Leung, A.Y. & Tucker, A.O. (2000): Herbs of commerce. 2nd edition. AHPA, Silver Spring, USA.
<i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo	8871	China Pharmacopoeia Commission (ed.) (2010): Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China. English edition. Ed. 9. Stationery Office Books, s.loc.
<i>Dendrobium tosaense</i> Makino	3439	Shih-Chung Chen (ed.) (2019): Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopoeia. 3rd edition. English version. Ministry Health and Welfare, Taipei. Retrieved from https://www.mohw.gov.tw/lp-3690-2.html , viewed: 28.04.2020.
<i>Dendrobium tosaense</i> Makino	5888	Traffic East Asia (1999): Medicinal plant significant trade study (phase 2). Final report submitted to the Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany. TRAFFIC East Asia. Unpublished report, sine loco.

Common Names

Common Name	Typ	Language	Country	Ref
Chinese orchid	ver	English		6369
dendrobium	scn			6369
dendrobium	scn	English		6369
hei jie cao	ver	Chinese		2413
hek dzik tsou	ver	Chinese		2413
Herba Dendrobii	pha	Latin		5935
Officinal Dendrobium	ver	English		5935
shi hu	ver	Chinese		6369
tie pi shi hu	ver	Chinese		1180
tie pi shi hu	ver	Chinese		2414
tie pi shi hu	ver	Chinese		6369
T'ieh-p'i-shih-hu	ver	Chinese		5935
tit pei sek huk	ver	Chinese		2414
wan nam tit pei	ver	Chinese		2414
yun nam tie pi	ver	Chinese		2414

Distribution Range

Distribution Range	Ref
"ASIA-TEMPERATE: China: China - Anhui, Fujian, Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang"	1100
China	1180
China (Anhui, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangxi, Yunnan, Sichuan), Myanmar, Sikkim/India and Nepal and southern Japan	3575
S. China, S. Japan to EC. Taiwan; 36 CHC CHS 38 JAP NNS TAI	1126

Distribution

Continent		Region		ICC	Status	Free Text	Ref
3	Asia-Temperate	36	China	CN		Anhui, Fujian, Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang	1100
				CN			1109
				CN		"CHT-XI"	1109
				CN		"CHC-GU"	1109
				CN		Guangxi	1109
				CN		"CHC-YU"	1109
				CN			1109
				CN		Hunan	1109
				CN		"CHS-AN"	1109
		38	Eastern Asia	CN			1109
				JP			1109
				TW			1109

Abundance / Local Population Size

ICC	Abundance	Reference
CN	"Known remaining populations of <i>D. catenatum</i> are small and sparsely distributed."	9450 Hong Liu, Yi-Bo Luo, Heinen, J

CN	"Patchy distribution in Anhui province and harsh conditions; rapidly diminishing occurrences of <i>D. catenatum</i> ; requires protection and simultaneous development of alternative supply through cultivation [...]"	3575	Eng Soon Teoh (2016): Medicinal Plants of China
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Ecology

TypeEc	ICC	Ecology	Ref
alti	CN	up to 1600 m	3575 Eng Soon Teoh (2016): Medicinal Plants of China
grow		deciduous	3575
habit	CN	"occurs on tree trunks and on rocks in sparse woods in limestone areas up to 1600 m."	3575
habit	CN	Lithophytic in moderately damp mountains; ca. 1600 m.	1117 eFloras. Flora of China. http://www.eflora.org/
repro	CN	"... ; its two- or three-years-old stems could be bloomed; higher seed-setting rate would be obtained when pollinated in time; the ovary began swelling after pollinated four or five days, until about 185 days later, the fruit matured; the seed-setting rate was very low (0.31%) in natural environment; only one clone was generated from one stem in a clump in annual. CONCLUSION: <i>D. officinale</i> mainly reproduces by clonal propagation;"	3600 He. P., Song, X., Luo, Y. & He, Y. (2016): <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 42(1): 1-10.
repro	CN	"Several pockets of orchids that were under investigation suffer from extremely low pollinator visitation and fruit set, likely the result of too small a flowering display, with only a small number of open flowers in a given area in any given day during the flowering season [...]"	9450 Hong Liu, Yi-Bo Luo, Heinen, J. (2019): <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 45(1): 1-10.

Life Form

LF_Standard	Duration	Lifeform	Woodiness	Height	Ref
perennial herb				9-35cm	1126 World Checklist of Selected Plant Families 3575 Eng Soon Teoh (2016): Medicinal Plants of China

Threat Situation

ICC	PopulationStatus	Ref
CN	"In Hainan regarded as endangered due to its overcollection in the past."	3601 Paul, A., Bharali, S., Latif Khar, M. (2016): <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 42(1): 1-10.
CN	"Wild populations of <i>D. catenatum</i> have declined rapidly due to overexploitation, as China's human population and purchasing power increased [...]"	3603 Osewa, S.O., Alamu, O., Inegb, L. (2019): <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 45(1): 1-10.

Threat Status: Global and Supranational

<i>Glo</i>	<i>Threat Category</i>		<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Ass.</i>	<i>Publ.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
glo	CR	Critically Endangered		2004	2023	1223 2023 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2023-1. www.iucnredlist.org. Download of plant data received from IUCN website 16.12.2023.
		Name used in redlist:	Dendrobium officinale Kimura & Migo	Accepted		Name used in redlist: Dendrobium officinale Kimura & Migo
glo	CR	Critically Endangered	A4c	2004	2004	3626 China Plant Specialist Group (2004): Dendrobium officinale. The IUCN red list of threatened species 2004. e.T46665A11074270. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2004.RLTS.T46665A11074270.en, viewed: 07.10.2016.
		Name used in redlist:	Dendrobium officinale			Name used in redlist: Dendrobium officinale
glo	CR	Critically Endangered	A4c	2004-04-30	2004	1206 2020 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020-3. www.iucnredlist.org. Download of plant data received from IUCN 14.1.2021.
		Name used in redlist:	Dendrobium officinale Kimura & Migo	Accepted		Name used in redlist: Dendrobium officinale Kimura & Migo

Threat Status: Countries

ICC Region	Threat Category	Assd.	Publ.	Ref
CN	CR	Critically Endangered	2017	3293 Haining Qin & al. (2017): Threatened species list of China. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 43(1): 1-10.
		Name used in redlist: <i>Dendrobium catenatum</i>	Synonym	Accepted Name: <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo
CN	CR	Critically Endangered – 极危	2013	3319 Chinese Academy of Sciences (2013): Chinese biodiversity red list. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 39(1): 1-10.
		Name used in redlist: <i>Dendrobium catenatum</i>	Synonym	Accepted Name: <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo
JP	EN	Endangered Class I B – 絶滅危惧IB類	2019	3373 Biodiversity Center of Japan & Japanese Ministry of Environment (2019): <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 45(1): 1-10.
		Name used in redlist: <i>Dendrobium catenatum</i>	Synonym	Accepted Name: <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo
TW	NVU	Vulnerable	2017	3358 Editorial Committee of the Red List of Taiwan Plants (2017): <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo. <i>Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica</i> 43(1): 1-10.
		Name used in redlist: <i>Dendrobium catenatum</i>	Synonym	Accepted Name: <i>Dendrobium officinale</i> Kimura & Migo

Purpose of Use

Purpose		Ref
medicine - traditional Asian medicine	"The stems of <i>D. officinale</i> are used as a traditional Chinese hygienic food named "Tiepi Fengdou". It is beneficial to human health in many ways, such as nourishing yin and clearing away unhealthy heat, benefiting the stomach, resisting cancer and prolonging life"	3176
	Used in TCM	5888
	Used in TCM	5888
	Used in TCM	5888
	Used in traditional Chinese medicine	5888

medicine - traditional herbal medicine	Medic. (folklore)	1180
	Medicines: folklore (fide Herbs Commerce ed2)	1100

Purpose: Standardized Use Fields

Purpose: Fields of Use	Frequency
medicine - traditional Asian medicine	5
medicine - traditional herbal medicine	2

Purpose: Number of Use Fields

Purpose: Number of use fields

Taxon used in 2 different standardized use categories (max. 27 categories possible).

Plant Parts Used

Plant Part (standardized)	Plant Part (free text)	Remark	Ref
stem			3176 Ding, G., Xu, G., Zhang, W., Lu, S., Li, X., Gu

Scale and Trend of Trade

Utilization: Commodity, Cultivation, Harvest, Sustainability, Trade

Type	ICC	Utilization	Ref
cul		"..., motivated by market demands in the face of depleted natural resources, mass artificial cultivation of Dendrobium orchids, including that of D. catenatum, using modern in vitro seed germination and tissue culture techniques, was developed recently. This mass production, mostly done in industrial shade houses and currently estimated to be around 500 ha in area with a total market value of ¥250 billion RMB (US \$39 billion), seems to have satisfied most of the market demand [...]."	9450 Hong Liu, Yi-Bo Luo, Heinen, J
cul	CN	"A large scale tissue-culture factory and plant production facility for D. officinale has been built in China. The cultivated area was over 60,000 mu (4000 ha) in 2014. Key technologies employed for cultivation of improved varieties of D. officinale have been developed by studying the relationship between factors such as growth medium, light, water, air and temperature on plant growth and development."	3602 Yi-bo Luo (2015): Major breakt
cul	CN	Controlled Cultivation; Yunnan, Zhejiang, and Tibet	3145 Brinckmann, J.A., Kathe, W.,
cul	CN	cultivated	3145
cul	CN	Natural Fostering; Yunnan, Guizhou, Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Fujian	3145
tra		"At present, the natural resources of D. officinale are so limited that the great demand has led to a severe shortage and high price,"	3176 Ding, G., Xu, G., Zhang, W., L
tra		CITES Trade data: 1 international transaction under the term "derivatives" between 1975 and 2017	7150 UNEP-WCMC (2019): CITES
tra		CITES Trade data: 1 international transaction under the term "stems" between 1975 and 2017	7150
tra		CITES Trade data: 10 international trade transaction under the term "powder" between 1975 and 2017	7150
tra		CITES Trade data: 3 international trade transactions under the term "medicine" between 1975 and 2017	7150
tra		CITES Trade data: 7 international trade transactions under the term "stems" between 1975 and 2017	7150
tra		Leaf; Stem used in European commerce as component in cosmetics	9698 Brinckmann, J.A. (2014): Quic
tra		Stem used in European commerce as component in medicinals	9698
tra	US	"sold in this country"	6369 McGuffin, M., Kartesz, J.T., Le

Legislation

Legislation	Annex	Source Taxon
CITES	II	6386 UNEP-WCMC (2001): Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations. C

Regulation

Bibliography

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- 1109 UNEP-WCMC Threatened Species Database. Download of 1997 regional threat assessments sent 15.6.2011 by H. Gillett. Cambridge, UK (cf. Walter & Gillett, 1997 IUCN Red List of threatened plants)
- 1117 eFloras. Flora of China. http://www.efloras.org/flora_page.aspx?flora_id=2
- 1126 World Checklist of Selected Plant Families, RBG Kew. apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do
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- 1223 2023 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2023-1. www.iucnredlist.org. Download of plant data received from IUCN website 16.12.2023.
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- 3293 Haining Qin & al. (2017): Threatened species list of China's higher plants [in Chinese and English]. *Biodiversity Science* 25(7): 696-744. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalredlist.org/files/2018/01/China-Higher-Plant-Red-List-BIODIVERSITY-SCIENCE.pdf>, vi
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- 3358 Editorial Committee of the Red List of Taiwan Plants (2017): *Táiwān wéi guǎnshù zhíwù hóng pí shū mínglù*. 臺灣維管束植物紅皮書名錄 [The red list of vascular plants of Taiwan; in Chinese]. Endemic Species Research Institute, Forestry Bureau, Jiji Township. Retrieved f
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Suggested citation:

Schippmann, U. (2025): Vulnerability factsheet for *Dendrobium officinale* Kimura & Migo- A report from MAPROW database, generated 10.12.2025.

Abbreviations and Standards

ICC = ISO Country Codes Ref = literature reference

Altitude: Low / High = minimum and maximum limits of altitude range [m]

Legislation: Source Taxon = name of taxon as contained in legislation

Utilization: TypeUtil

Distribution Status: Standard

<i>TypeUtil</i>	<i>TypeUtilLong</i>
com	commodity
cul	cultivation
exp	export
har	harvest
imp	import
man	management
price	price
rem	remark
socu	socio-cultural significance
sus	sustainability
tra	trade
trend	trend and scale of trade

Common names: Type

<i>TypeShort</i>	<i>Type</i>
?	<unknown>
ayn	ayurvedic name
hom	homoeopathic name
pha	pharmaceutical name
scn	standardized common name
tra	trade name
ver	vernacular name

<i>Status</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
chk	check entry
nat	native
int	introd., established
adv	introduced, not established
ocd	occurrence doubtful
unc	status unclear
ext	extinct
cul	cultivated
sou	source doubtful
ica	introduced (casual or naturalized)
don	doubtfully native
pex	(presumably) extinct
ali	casual alien
nzd	naturalized
nna	not native
dpn	status doubtful, possibly native
abs	absent but reported in error

Ecology: TypeEcol

<i>TypeEcol</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
alti	altitude
grow	growth rate
habit	habitat
morph	morphology
regen	regeneration
repro	reproduction