

Australasian Orchids Illustrated

No. 24: *Dockrillia striolata* (Reichb.f.) Rauschert

Common Name:	Streaked Rock Orchid
Subfamily:	Epidendroideae
Tribe:	Epidendreae
Subtribe:	Dendrobiinae
Genus:	<i>Dockrillia</i> Brieger

Distribution: *Dockrillia striolata* is found in New South Wales (south of the Barrington Tops), south to eastern Victoria, the Bass Strait Islands and Tasmania.

Notes: In 1981 the genus *Dendrobium* was split into a number of genera which included the description of the new genus *Dockrillia*. The split up of *Dendrobium* and the description of these new genera was not accepted by orchid taxonomists in England, America and Australia. Recently some of the New Guinean and Australian species of *Dendrobium* have been placed in the genus *Dockrillia*, including *D. striolata* (syn. *Dendrobium striolatum*). This species is a lithophyte and can grow into large mats over boulders and down cliff faces. The stems of *Dockrillia striolata* are thin and wiry, occasionally branching and regularly producing aerial roots. The leaves are terete and up to 15 cm in length. The leaves are usually curved and may have purple hues in strong light. This orchid produces 1 or 2 flowers on a raceme, which do not twist during development leaving the labellum above the column. Hence, this is one of the minority of orchids where the flowers are not resupinate. The flowers are up to 2 cm in diameter, and the sepals and lateral petals are usually pale yellow, although there are ecotypes with green or brown tinges to these segments. These segments have brown or purple stripes or streaks which are more prominent on the outside, and it is these streaks which gives this orchid its common name. The labellum is white and strongly curls back. The margins of the lateral lobe of the labellum are ruffled and a feature of the flower. The flowers of this orchid have a delicate perfume which can be noticed in warm and still conditions.

Pollination: There is no pollinator recorded for *D. striolata*, although it is likely that a combination of the floral perfume and the colour of the flowers will attract the pollinators.

Conservation status: This species is not listed as being under threat.

Culture: *D. striolata* is suitable for cultivation on a mount or in plastic or terracotta pots. Some growers use slatted baskets. The plants can withstand mild frosts (0°C), although they will be damaged by severe frosts. This species requires more water or humidity over the summer months than most other native epiphytes. The plants are generally suitable to be grown in a shadehouse in the temperate regions of Australia.

Illustration: Painting: Illustrated is a small clump of *D. striolata* showing the curved terete leaves and a number of flowers. Note that the flowers are non-resupinate, with the labellum above the column. The painting also illustrates the natural habit of the plant growing over rocks, with this one establishing in a crevice between rocks.

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Illustration: Helene Wild, 56 Civic Parade, Seaholme, Vic. 3018





***Dockrillia striolata*,**
Watercolour by Helene Wild.©



Slater, Tony. 1997. "Radford, Phillip; Lowe, Tony." *The Orchadian* 12(3), 140–141.

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