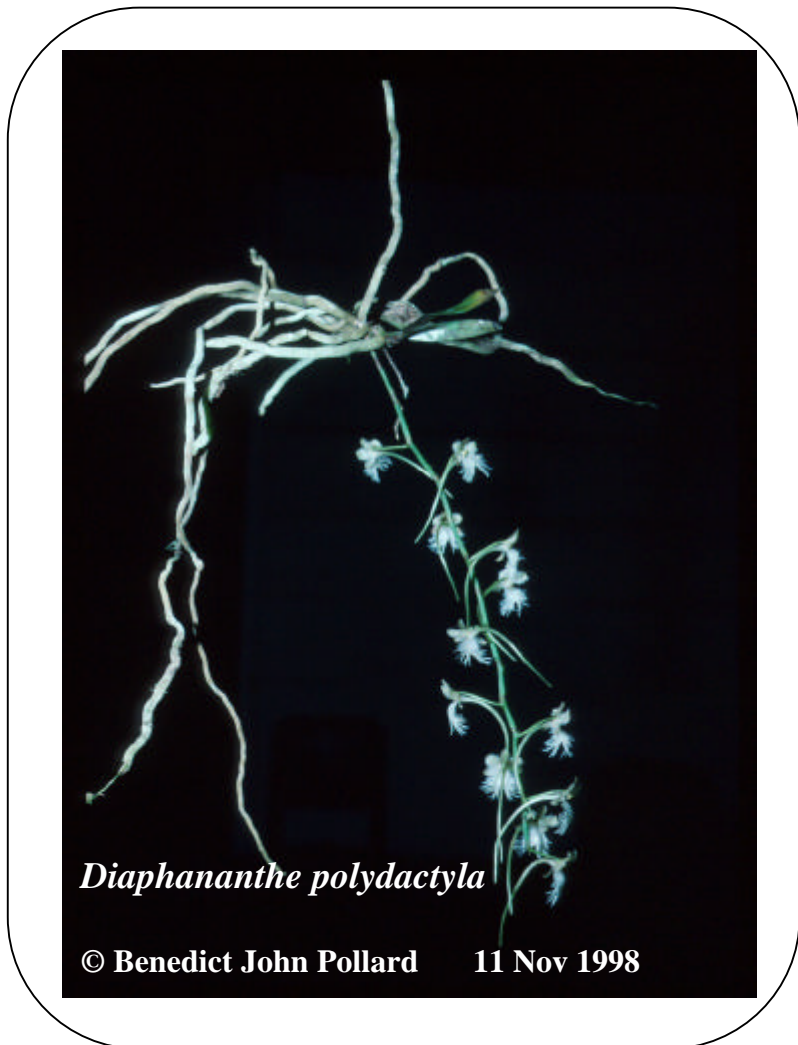


Threatened plants of Western Cameroon

Diaphananthe polydactyla (Kraenzl.) Summerh. (Orchidaceae)

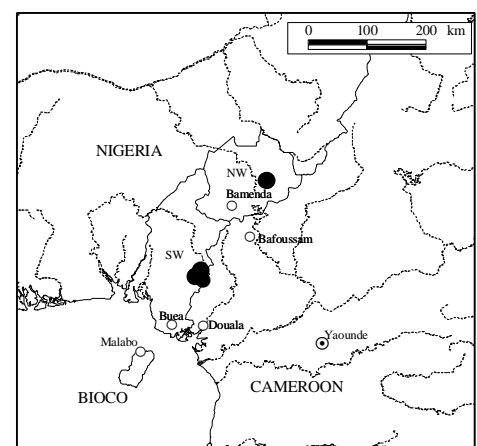


The specific epithet '*polydactyla*' means 'many-fingered' (Greek) referring to the highly divided labellum of each flower.

Known collections

Collector:	No	Gazette:	Alt:	Day	Month	Year	Locality:
Ledermann C. L.	5716	Banso	1750	17	10	1909	Kufum, Banso.
Sanford W. W.	5486	Manengouba Massif	1850	16	11	1968	Massif Manengouba, near Nkongsamba, above upper farm of "La Pastorale".
Sanford W. W.	5478	Manengouba Massif	1850	16	11	1968	Massif Manengouba, near Nkongsamba, above upper farm of "La Pastorale".
Euge M.	354	Bangem	1400	24	10	1986	Path from Mualong to Elumseh village Bangem
Manning S. D.	440	Bangem	1650	4	10	1986	c. 8 km W. of Bangem. In and just E. of Mejelet- Ntcho I along path from Ntcho I to Mejelet Ehumseh.
Cheek M.	7617	Nyasoso	1550	2	11	1995	Max's trail.
Pollard B. J.	172	Kodmin	1500	11	11	1998	Tree 50m behind Max's house, Earthwatch HQ, next to facilities.
Pollard B. J.	905	Enyandong	1760	13	11	2001	Bime Rock

Distribution of *Diaphananthe polydactyla*



Diaphananthe polydactyla is endemic to Western Cameroon and was until 1968 known only from a single collection, made at Kumbo, NW province, by the German botanist Carl Ledermann on his travels from Victoria (now Limbe) to Lake Chad in 1908 and 1909. On 16 November 1968, the orchidologist Bill Sanford collected two specimens from the Manengouba massif to the Southwest. Since 1986, 5 further specimens have been made, all on or near Mount Kupe and the Bakossi Mts, SW province.

D. polydactyla is an epiphytic herb only known to occur between 1400 and 1850m; an altitudinal range mostly associated with submontane forest in western Cameroon. Much of this vegetation type has been cleared in NW Province, so the forests of Kupe-Bakossi are likely to represent the best chance of survival for this species.

Diaphananthe polydactyla (Kraenzl.) Summerh.
in Hutchinson & Dalziel,
Flora West Tropical Africa ii. 456 (1936).

Originally as: *Listrostachys polydactyla* Kraenzl.
in Engl. Jahrb. li. 394 (1914).