

44. PAPHIOPEDILUM BULLENIANUM

Paphiopedilum bullenianum and its allies present one of the most complex taxonomic problems in the genus. Altogether, around eight or more specific names are involved and many of these are still freely used for plants in cultivation. In addition to *P. bullenianum*, the main names involved are *P. amabile*, *P. robinsonii*, *P. linii*, *P. johorensense*, *P. celebesense* and *P. tortipetalum*. Of these, the last four have been described since 1966 and have further confused an already complex problem.

H.G. Reichenbach described *Cypripedium bullenianum* in 1865 based on a Bornean plant sent him by Messrs. Low & Co. of Clapton, naming it in honour of Mr Bullen their orchid grower. Reichenbach distinguished it by its white and green tessellated leaves which he compared with those of *C. venustum* and green and purple-marked flower which resembled a small *C. insigne*. It is, in fact, closely allied to *P. appletonianum* and to *P. hookerae*. Its differences from the former have already been mentioned but it can readily be confused with the latter when not in flower. It differs, however, in having a less pubescent flower with a lip that is less flared at the mouth and less inflated at the apex, the narrower petals and smaller, narrower subrhombic glabrous staminode with more or less parallel apical lateral teeth.

The type of *P. amabile* was collected by Hallier in 1893 in the Klamm Mountains of Borneo at 700–950 m altitude. He described it in 1895 comparing it with the tessellated-leaved species *P. javanicum*, *P. mastersianum*, *P. dayanum*, *P. hookerae* and *P. virens* but not *P. bullenianum* of which he was apparently unaware. Examination of the type of *P. amabile* shows it to be identical with *P. bullenianum* in all critical vegetative and floral features.



Fig. 86. *Paphiopedilum bullenianum* var. *bullenianum*, close-up of flower in cultivation. (Photo.: P. Cribb)