49. PAPHIOPEDILUM BOUGAINVILLEANUM

Paphiopedilum bougainvilleanum was described by Jack Fowlie in 1971, based on a plant collected on Bougainville by C.B. Wentworth and flowered at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in 1968. Fowlie distinguished *P. bougainvilleanum* from the recently described *P. wentworthianum* by the marginal hairs on the petals and the 'different petals and semilunate (not narrowly incised) staminode'. He was certainly mistaken in supposing that *P. wentworthianum* lacked marginal hairs on the petals whilst the staminode of some specimens of *P. bougainvilleanum* approximates closely that of *P. wentworthianum*. They differ markedly, however, in dorsal sepal and petal shape and flower colour.

'Kip' McKillip, the owner of the Arawa Plantation in Bougainville who first discovered *P. bougainvilleanum* and *P. wentworthianum* is quoted as saying of the former 'the paphiopedilums were variable in colour in their habit, some being green, some yellow and occasionally a white one could be found'. Plants grown at Kew, one of which is illustrated here, vary in the amount of purple-flushing of the petals.

I have visited the type locality, which is at a lower altitude than that quoted by Wentworth. Only a few plants remained from a previously sizeable colony due to the depredation of collectors. They were growing around the base and sides of a granitic outcrop in the very wet montane forest at about 1200 m altitude. This is apparently the only known locality of this species which must therefore be considered threatened in the wild.

Fig. 92. Close-up of a flower of *Paphiopedilum bougainvilleanum*, (Photo.: P. Cribb)

P. bougainvilleanum is most closely allied to *P. violascens* and they undoubtedly have a common ancestry. It differs, however, in having a predominantly green flower with a relatively much smaller lip, boldly green-striped dorsal sepal and less deflexed acute, green-veined petals usually flushed with purple towards the apex only. The staminode differs from that of *P. violascens* in having more acute lateral apical teeth. The leaves of *P. bougainvilleanum* are usually longer and less boldly tessellated and the plant often produces sizeable clumps in the wild with each growth at the end of a short but obvious rhizome.

Braem (1988) sank *P. bougainvilleanum* into the synonymy of *P. violascens*, while Koopowitz (1995) treated it as a