



Fig. 14. Close-up of flower of *Paphiopedilum micranthum* in cultivation. (Photo.: P. Cribb)



Fig. 15. Close-up of flower of *Paphiopedilum micranthum* 'var. *eburneum*', north-western Guangxi. (Photo.: P. Cribb)

coloured flower with a distinctive conduplicate staminode. The latter feature also allows its ready distinction from the only other pink-flowered species, *P. delenatii*, which also lacks the purple-veined petals and sepals of *P. micranthum*.

In nature, *P. micranthum* is found on the karst limestone hills of south-eastern Yunnan, northern and western Guangxi (Fig. 13) and south-western Guizhou. It can form large clumps in the wild by sending out purple-spotted rhizomes of several cm length.

I have seen it in three localities in south-west Guizhou, in each it grew towards the summit ridges of north or more or less north-facing slopes of karst limestone hills at between 1025 and 1225 m. The plants grew in deep shade on the top edges of rocks in thin soil, in crevices in thin soil, or on the steeply sloping faces of the rocks with thin soils, mosses and leaf litter. The range of pH was more or less neutral from 6.99 to 7.05. I have also seen it in four localities in northern Guangxi, ranging from 450 to 1050 m elevation. As in Guizhou, all were on north or north-east facing slopes in shade of trees or shrubs. The soils were brown and crumbly in texture and more or less neutral. The only undisturbed habitat visited was a ridge-top with trees of several conifers such as *Pseudotsuga brevifolia*, *Keteleeria calcarea*, *Calocedrus macrolepis*, and *Taxus chinensis* and an understorey of *Illicium*, *Rhododendron*, *Guihaia* and *Hypericum*. In another it grew in cracks and on sheltered ledges on a steep north-facing slope under the endemic fan-palm *Guihaia* and *Pterocarya*. Two *Pholidota* species, *Cymbidium lancifolium* and *C. floribundum* also grew nearby in some numbers. Only one of these seven localities boasted a reasonably large population, however, *P. malipoense* in the same place had been almost collected out. In all the other localities, the colonies were less numerous; with

Fig. 16 (opposite). *Paphiopedilum micranthum* flowering in south-eastern Yunnan, China. (Photo.: P. Cribb)