

## 54. PAPHIOPEDILUM BARBATUM

Hugh Cuming, collecting for Messrs. Loddiges, discovered *P. barbatum* in 1838 on Mount Ophir in Johore, Malaya. One of Loddiges' plants was figured in the *Botanical Register* and described there in 1841 by John Lindley.

*Paphiopedilum barbatum* is very closely allied to *P. callosum*, and its variety *sublaeve*, and a case could be made for considering them as infraspecific taxa of one variable species. Plants from southern Thailand and from Gunung Jerai (Kedah Peak), treated in this account as *P. callosum* var. *sublaeve*, are indeed intermediate between typical *P. callosum* and *P. barbatum*. The consequences for horticulture in changing the rank of *P. callosum* far outweigh the merits of including it in a variable *P. barbatum*. I am therefore treating these taxa as distinct species whilst realising their close affinity and undoubted common ancestry. Further discussion is included under the treatment of *P. callosum* and its varieties.

In 1882, Reichenbach described *Cypripedium nigrinum* based on a plant sent him by the New Bulb Co. of Colchester and said to have been imported from Borneo. Many early importations were distributed with false provenance to mislead competitors and it is possible that this taxon originated elsewhere. Rolfe (1896b) in the *Orchid Review* equated plants imported by Messrs. Low & Co. from Borneo with *C. nigrinum*. However, Low's specimens preserved at Kew are, in my view, small-flowered *P. lawrenceanum* with warts on both upper and lower petal margins. The type of *C. nigrinum*, in contrast, has only the upper margin warted and matches well the type of *P. barbatum*. Schoser (1967b) in *Die Orchidee* follows Rolfe in applying the epithet *nigrinum* to a Bornean plant sent him by Neville Orchids but, in my opinion, this is again referable to *P. lawrenceanum*.



Fig. 102. *Paphiopedilum barbatum* in cultivation at R.B.G., Kew. (Photo.: P. Cribb)