



Fig. 27. *Paphiopedilum godefroyae*, flowering in cultivation. (Photo.: P. Cribb)

(1957) also suggested that it might prove to be a natural hybrid of *P. bellatulum* and *P. concolor*. However, Seidenfaden (1972), in admirably summarising previous taxonomic treatments of *P. godefroyae*, dismissed a recent hybrid origin involving *P. bellatulum* whose present distribution, at its nearest, lies some 800 km to the north of the northernmost locality of *P. godefroyae*. He also suggested that a hybrid origin involving *P. concolor* and *P. niveum* is unlikely on morphological grounds. Braem (1988) has recently resurrected a putative hybrid origin for *P. godefroyae*. He cited Rolfe (1898, 1903), Holttum (1957) and Karasawa (1979) as preferring this explanation of the origin of this variable species. Braem argued that, although the nearest known populations of *P. bellatulum* are 800 km distant from those of *P. godefroyae*, the former probably occurs in places in between which have yet to be discovered. This supposition is unconvincing, peninsular Thailand and adjacent Burma have been relatively well explored by orchid hunters for over a century.

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