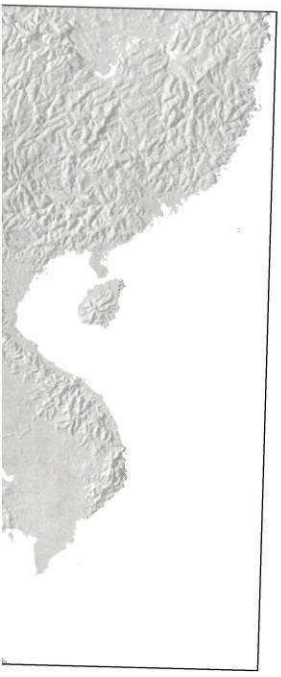
n broad, pubescent. 2n = 40.

IAP 75).

:24 (1965) & in *Orchid Dig.*
B.G., *Sukhakul* s.n. (holotype



arts of the Far East. If
/hen visited by Captain
nowledge of the area is
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not until the winter of
ants were sent back to
d at the Royal Botanic
's Botanical Magazine
yes who named it in

sidered to be native in western Yunnan, close to the Burmese border (Chen, pers. comm.). I have seen many plants in cultivation that are reputed to be of Chinese origin but have seen no authentic herbarium material from Chinese localities. The identification of a specimen (*Kingdon-Ward* 20277 at BM) from the Lohit Valley in Assam, close to the Burmese border, as *P. wardii* must be considered dubious. It comprises a plant with three infructescences and it is difficult to be certain of its correct identification. Attempts to relocate it in the Lohit Valley have proved unsuccessful (Rao 1986).

Summerhayes considered it intermediate between sections *Blepharopetalum* Pfitzer and *Phacopetalum* Pfitzer. It has the evenly spaced marginal hairs and lack of marginal warts found in the former but in general appearance resembles some species of the latter, in particular, *P. superbiens* from Sumatra. It differs from that species, however, in its smaller flowers, the relatively smaller brownish lip, more spreading petals, smaller dorsal sepal and leaves which are purple-mottled beneath.

A reassessement of the relationship of *P. wardii* has followed the recent discovery in north-east Thailand of the very closely allied *P. sukhakulii*. This is distinguished by its yellow-green, more widely spreading and broader petals, the leaves which lack purple-mottling on the underside and the staminode which has better developed apical teeth. Asher (1980–81) has placed it in a section with *P. venustum* citing their similar marbled foliage and recent cytological studies as evidence of their affinity.

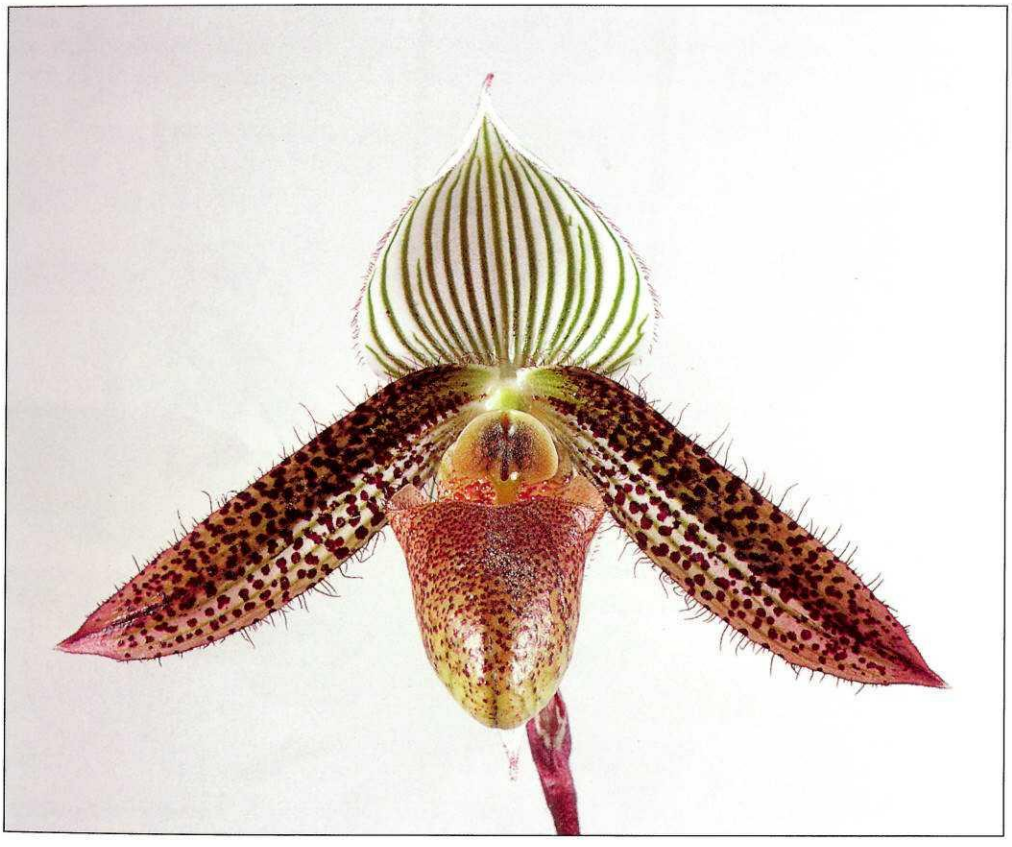

Fig. 123. *Paphiopedilum wardii,* flowering in cultivation. (Photo.: R.B.G., Kew)