barbigerum, *P. gratrixianum*, *P. henryanum*, *P. tigrinum*, and *P. helenae*. These are a group of closely allied species distinguished by their characteristic obcordate, prominently umbonate staminode. The relationship of these species to *P. druryi* and *P. spicerianum* is clear but both lack the umbonate staminode. *P. hirsutissimum* with broadly spreading spathulate petals and a convex subquadrate staminode and *P. fairrieanum* with elegant sigmoid petals and a lunate staminode which is three-toothed at the apex are distinctive species but I have followed Atwood (1984) in including them within sect. *Paphiopedilum*. The lunate staminode of *P. fairrieanum* is seen elsewhere in the genus only in sect. *Barbata*. (MAP 36).

A chromosome number of 2n = 26 is typical of all the species except *P. spicerianum* and possibly *P. druryi* where Duncan (1947) counted 2n = 26 but Karasawa (1979) reported 2n = 30.

30. PAPHIOPEDILUM HIRSUTISSIMUM

Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum is one of the most distinctive species in the genus, readily recognised by its very hairy peduncle, long spathulate petals, undulate on the upper margin, relatively small blunt dorsal sepal and convex subquadrate staminode.

The early collections were introduced from areas such as the Lushai Hills in Mizoram State (formerly Assam) but the commercial collection in recent times has been from Manipur close to the Burmese border. U. Pradhan (1976a) gives its distribution as Jowai (Meghalaya), Mizo (Mizoram) and Naga Hills (Nagaland and Manipur) where it grows as an epiphyte or lithophyte at elevations between 1200 m and 1800 m. A record from 200 m elevation in Moreh, Nagaland, is reported by Ghatak & Devi (1986). Its range in north-eastern India is subject to monsoonal rains from June to September and the temperature between December

Fig. 60. *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei* flowering in Malipo, China. A young flower which has yet to develop the undulate upper margin to the petals. (Photo.: P. Cribb)