



Fig. 53. *Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum* var. *moquettianum*, close-up of flower. (Photo.: E. Grell)

26. PAPHIOPEDILUM LIEMIANUM

The distinctive foliage of *P. liemianum* makes it the most easily identified of all the species in the complex. The leaves are marked beneath with dense rows of small, dark maroon-purple spots, and are also ciliate from base to apex. It was originally considered a subspecies of *P. chamberlainianum* by Fowlie who described it in 1971, based on a specimen sent him by Liem Khe Wie which had been collected on Gunung Sinabung in northern Sumatra. On the basis of its distinct leaf, weakly marked dorsal sepal and distinct chromosome number ($2n = 32$), Karasawa & Saito (1982) raised it to specific rank.

Its flower is, in fact, rather closer to that of the Javanese *P. glaucophyllum*, particularly in the dorsal sepal markings. However, it differs from the latter in having rather shorter more horizontal petals, shorter but broader staminode, truncate and shortly apiculate at the apex, and a broader more bulbously inflated lip. The leaves also clearly distinguish the two species.

Paphiopedilum liemianum has a very restricted distribution in the north of Sumatra where it grows on the roots of trees growing on limestone in ravines at 600–1000 m elevation.

A vivid description of its discovery there is given by Liem Khe Wie (1971) in the *Orchid Review*.

DESCRIPTION. A lithophytic herb of one or two growths. Leaves 4–7, narrowly oblong or oblong-elliptic, obtuse or rounded at apex, 16–24 cm long, 3–5 cm wide, green above, heavily purple-spotted in bands beneath, ciliate all along margins. Inflorescence many-flowered; peduncle 15–20 cm long, purple, finely pubescent; rhachis with internodes up to 3 cm long; bracts elliptic, obtuse, 1–1.7 cm long, green,