

56. PAPHIOPEDILUM HENNISIANUM

Although *P. hennisianum* had been in cultivation for over 20 years and was first named as such by Schoser (1971), in the *Proceedings of the Sixth World Orchid Conference*, it was not validly described until 1976 by M.W. Wood. He described it using the name coined by Schoser but as a variety of *P. barbatum* subsp. *lawrenceanum*. The following year it was raised to specific rank by Fowlie. Braem (1988) went a step further than Wood and sank it into the synonymy of *P. lawrenceanum*.

The treatment of it at varietal rank by Wood or as a synonym of *P. lawrenceanum* by Braem has puzzled horticulturists. However, Wood in his writings has consistently adopted a broad species concept. It cannot be denied that *P. hennisianum* is morphologically similar to and closely allied to both *P. barbatum* and *P. lawrenceanum*. In particular, it resembles the latter in having black warts on both upper and lower margins of the petals. However, it differs in flower size, dorsal sepal shape and relative size and staminode shape. Furthermore, *P. lawrenceanum* is confined to Borneo while *P. hennisianum* is found only in the Philippines.



Fig. 106. *Paphiopedilum hennisianum*, in cultivation. (Photo.: P. Cribb)