

In recent years, Fowlie (1975b) has attempted to distinguish the collections from the eastern side of the peninsular Thailand from those on the western side. For the latter, he raised Rolfe's *Cypripedium godefroyae* var. *leucochilum* to specific rank as *P. leucochilum*, thereby confining the use of *P. godefroyae* to specimens from eastern peninsular Thailand and adjacent islands. *P. leucochilum* is said by him to differ in its habitat, staminode shape, unspotted lip and larger flower size, but these assertions only hold true for selected specimens. Seidenfaden (1972) has illustrated the staminodes of several specimens which show all gradations from undentate to tridentate and varying degrees of pubescence. Comparison of 25 assorted west and east coast plants preserved at Kew has shown a continuous variation in flower size (see scatter diagram on page 120). West coast specimens with a spotted lip are not uncommon and, furthermore, the type of *C. godefroyae* was described as having a pure white lip. Finally, Fowlie's assertion of the different habitats of *P. godefroyae* and *P. leucochilum* is not borne out by his own accounts (Fowlie 1975a & b and 1977).

The taxonomic status of *P. ang-thong* is less easily resolved. Plants from the Ang Thong Islands off the east coast of peninsular Thailand were included in *P. godefroyae* by Seidenfaden (1972), although he states that they come close to *P. niveum* in the length of their peduncles and flowers. Fowlie (1975a) stated categorically that plants from the Ang Thong Islands are *P. godefroyae* but in 1977 changed his mind and described *P. × ang-thong*, based on a collection from the island of Koh Ngua Lub in the Ang Thong group, as a natural hybrid of *P. godefroyae* and *P. niveum*.

He considered *P. × ang-thong* to be intermediate between the putative parents in its flower colour, scape length and staminode shape. I have included several specimens from the Ang Thong Islands in a comparative study of *P. niveum* and *P. godefroyae*. All the plants fall within the range of variation of the latter in floral characters (see page 119). I would,

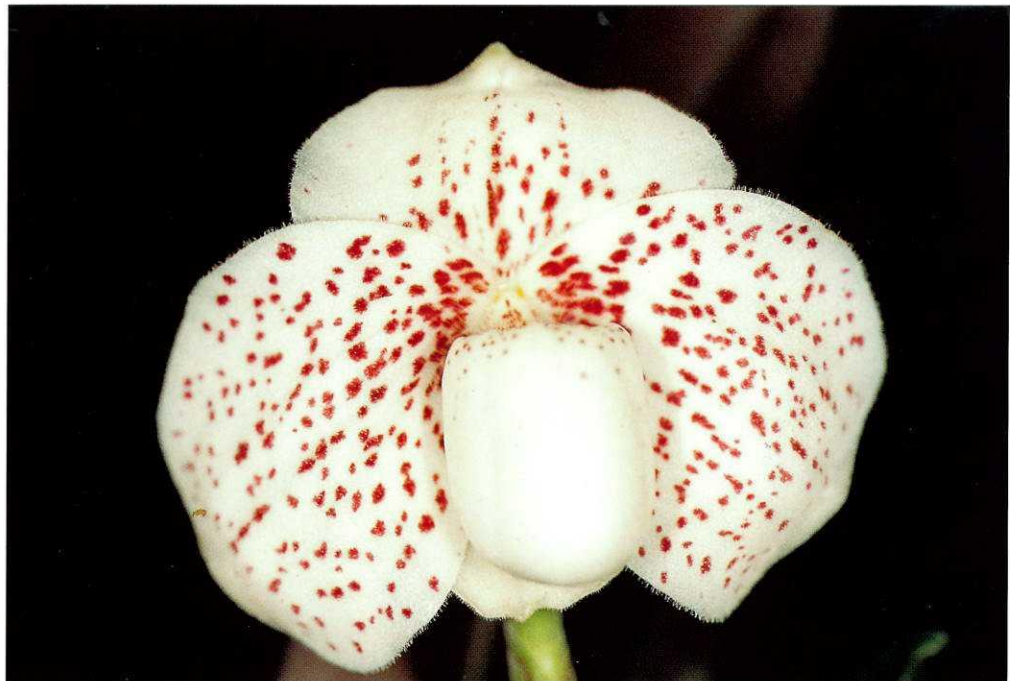


Fig. 28. *Paphiopedilum godefroyae* ("ang-thong" type), flowering in cultivation. (Photo.: E. Grell)