

## 57. PAPHIOPEDILUM FOWLIEI

*Paphiopedilum fowliei* was described by Lance Birk (1981) based on material collected by Paul Matthes on Palawan Island of the Philippines. Matthes had been alerted to the presence of a slipper orchid on Palawan by a reference in Ames (1924) to a collection of *P. barbatum* (as *Cordula barbata*) made by Foxworthy from above the falls near Victoria Peak on Palawan. It certainly belongs to that alliance but is more closely related to *P. hennisianum* and to *P. lawrenceanum*. It differs from these in bluish green foliage, smaller flowers, small dorsal sepal and narrower deflexed petals with more marginal warts. The staminode is broader at the base and with longer apical lateral teeth.

In my earlier account (Cribb 1987) I had referred *P. fowliei* to varietal status within *P. hennisianum* while Braem (1988) sunk it into the synonymy of *P. lawrenceanum*. Neither view seems tenable now that I have examined much more living material of these species and I therefore recognise *P. fowliei* at specific rank. Current concepts of specific delimitation have led other recent authors such as Koopowitz (1995) also to take this view.

On Palawan, the original introduction of *P. fowliei* came from an elevation of 600–950 m where it grows in leaf mould and detritus on limestone rocks, in an exposed situation but not in direct sunlight. It flowers in the wild between March and June.

**DESCRIPTION.** A *terrestrial* or rarely *subepiphytic* herb with clustered growths. Leaves 4–6, narrowly elliptic, acute or subacute and minutely tridenticulate at apex, 10–14 cm long, 2.5–3.5 cm wide, obscurely tessellated with dull, dark and light bluish green on upper surface, sparsely ciliate on basal margins. Inflorescence 1-flowered; peduncle 20–28 cm long, pale purple, pubescent; bract ovate, 1.4–2.4 cm long, green, pubescent. Flower with white sepals, veined with green and purple, white petals with a



Fig. 108. *Paphiopedilum fowliei*, in cultivation. (Photo.: P. Cribb)

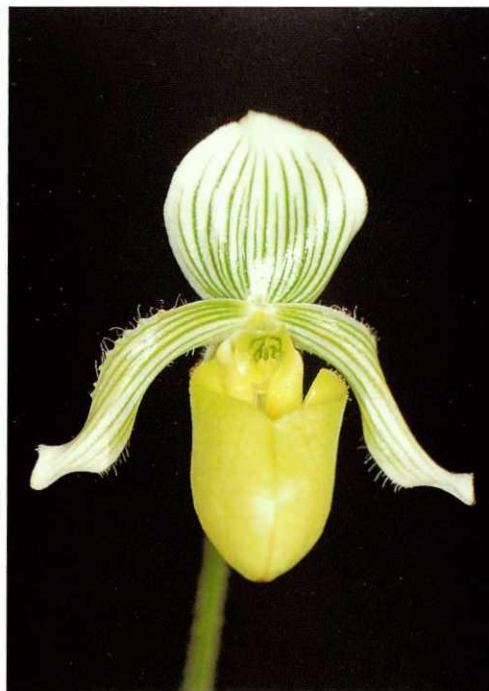


Fig. 109. *Paphiopedilum fowliei* f. *album*, in cultivation. (Photo.: E. Grell)