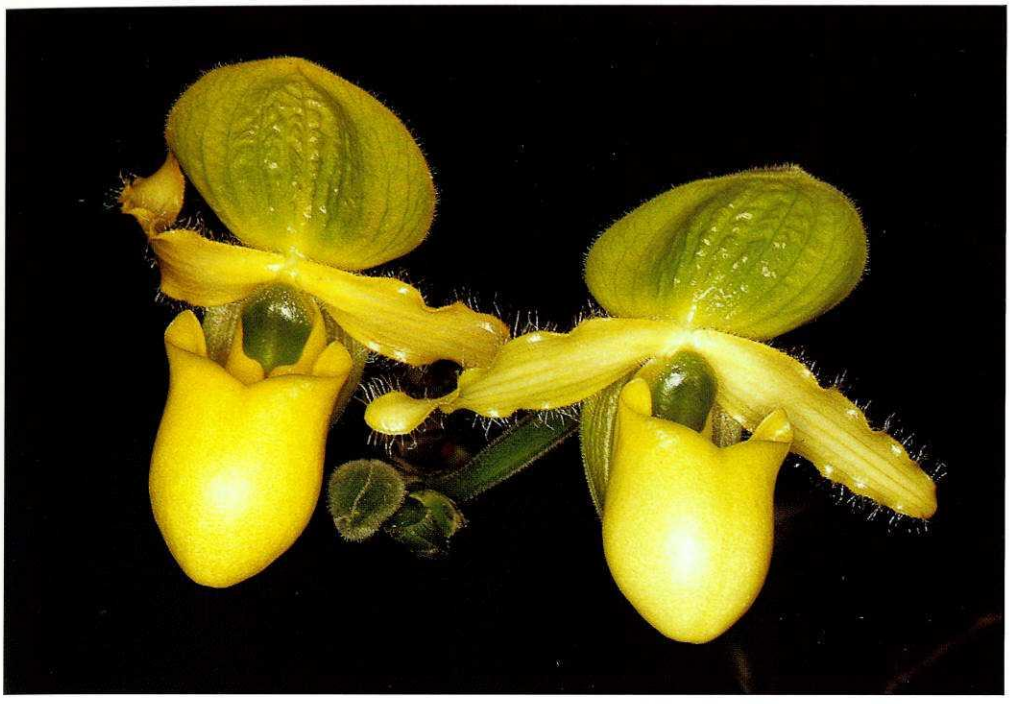

Fig. 56. *Paphiopedilum primulinum* in flower in cultivation, Cjibodas, W. Java. (Photo.: P. Cribb)

Shortly after its description, Fowlie (1973a) treated it as a form of his *P. chamberlainianum* subsp. *liemianum*. This move was in direct contradiction to his usual treatment of variation in the genus. In a welter of confusion, he also published the illegitimate *P. chamberlainianum* subsp. *liemianum* forma *primulinum* var. *flavum* to distinguish the typical plants of the original introduction from those that were introduced later (var. *flavescens*, lightly flushed with purple on the lip and purple-spotted on the petals). The International Code (ICBN) specifies that the taxonomic ranks are hierarchical with variety taking precedence over form, thereby invalidating Fowlie's combination.

Mark Wood (1976a) reviewed the relationships of this taxon and its allies and considered it a subspecies of the variable *P. victoria-regina*. At the same time, he published the combination *P. victoria-regina* subsp. *primulinum* forma *purpurascens* for the purple flushed and marked variant.

Karasawa & Saito (1982), based on chromosome number (2n = 32), leaf margin ciliation and flower size, treated *primulinum* as a subspecies of *P. liemianum*. Finally, Fowlie (1985) has completed the circle by evoking Karasawa & Saito's cytological evidence to resurrect this taxon as *P. primulinum*.

Morphologically, *P. primulinum* is as distinct from *P. liemianum* as it is from other species in the complex. Its leaf margins are not ciliate from base to apex as suggested by Karasawa & Saito (1982). It can also be distinguished by its narrow green leaves, pale yellow flowers with small sepals and short petals, less than 3.3 cm long, and very small, almost quadrate, blunt, green staminode. Even var. *purpurascens* differs markedly from *P. liemianum* in its leaf size and markings, flower size and coloration and staminode shape.

The typical variety is undoubtedly an albinistic variant of var. *purpurascens*. Whether the