

63. PAPHIOPEDILUM JAVANICUM

The first mention of this species was by Lindley (1821) in his discussion in *Collectanea Botanica*, following the description of *P. insigne* where he refers to plants similar to the latter having been collected in Java by Dr Horsfield. Lindley eventually described it as *Cypripedium javanicum* in 1850 based on a collection and watercolour illustration by Reinwardt, who gave the species its name.

Paphiopedilum javanicum is allied to *P. dayanum* with which var. *virens* probably occasionally hybridises in the wild in northern Borneo. It differs however in having smaller differently coloured flowers, a reniform staminode with projecting lateral teeth at the apex, a shorter less acuminate dorsal sepal and shorter spotted petals with only shortly ciliate margins.

Paphiopedilum javanicum var. *javanicum* is widespread in Java where it has been subjected to heavy pressure from plant collectors. In Bali, it may already have been exterminated in the wild by collectors (J.B. Comber, pers. comm.) whilst in Sumatra, it has only been seen infrequently and is apparently a naturally rare species.

In Java, it grows as a terrestrial in montane forest at elevations between 950 and 2000 m but commonly at 1400–1700 m. It prefers partial to deep shade, growing in leaf litter often amongst boulders or on banks on the forest floor. The soils in much of Java are volcanic and Fowlie (1980b) reports it growing in a mixture of black volcanic soil and humus at c. 1700 m in east Java. I have seen colonies in both east and west Java growing in montane forest on the slopes of volcanoes. The colonies were usually small and of about 100 plants or less growing on steep slopes in the forest in leaf litter and amongst boulders.

Pfitzer (1903) recognised as var. *minor* a Sumatran plant flowered in the Berlin Botanic Gardens. Small flowers are often produced by plants in cultivation. A plant of var. *virens* flowering at Kew in spring 1985 likewise had a very small flower on one growth but a normal flower on another of the same collection.



Fig. 115. *Paphiopedilum javanicum* var. *javanicum*, close-up of flower. (Photo.: P. Cribb)



Fig. 116. *Paphiopedilum javanicum* var. *javanicum* f. *album*. (Photo.: R.B.G., Kew)