

The **Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter**

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Summer 2011

GREAT NEWS ABOUT CHINESE PAPHIS!

Holger Perner, Ph.D., has been given permission by the State Forestry Agency (SFA) in Beijing to export some Chinese Paphiopedilums. He expects to be receiving CITES export documents for *Paphiopedilum hangianum* and several other Paphiopedilum species for these plants in his nursery. He has recently exported *Paph. tranlienianum*, *Paph. helenae* and several other species to Japan; those export permits were issued in December 2010. However, he is currently facing serious delays in the handling of his export applications, due to a problem in the bureaucratic chain. As soon as he receives the export permits, he plans to come to the United States and deliver pre-ordered plants.

This is a breakthrough that slipper lovers in the United States never expected to see so soon. In the near future we should be able to see and own these beauties that have been available in many other countries that ignored CITES regulations.

Dr. Perner is a plant ecologist working for the Huanglong National Park in Sichuan, China and technical director of

Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology (Hengduan Biotech), a company dedicated to the in-vitro propagation of native Chinese orchids, especially of Paphiopedilums and Cypripediums.

Holger Perner's E-mail: holger_perner@hotmail.com

SLIPPER LOVERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

I have really exciting news about the 20th World Orchid Conference, where registrants will have an unprecedented experience. As President of the Slipper Orchid Alliance, I am organizing a meeting during the WOC for those attendees especially interested in the lady-slipper group of orchids. Building on a suggestion from Olaf Gruss, orchid authority and member of the SOA, this will be an opportunity for slipper lovers from around the world to meet and discuss how we can help each other in furthering our mutual goals of education and conservation. We will learn what the various slipper organizations do and meet many prominent slipper growers.

The organizers of the WOC have promised us a room adjacent to the show on Tuesday, November 15 (the third day of the conference), after the lectures on that day are completed. Presidents/representatives of slipper groups, slipper specialists and commercial growers in many countries are being contacted and invited to participate. However, I am sure that there are groups or growers of whom we may not be aware. If you know of anyone who you think would like to participate, please contact me.

When I learned that the initial lineup of speakers included only one on slippers, I contacted the organizing committee and am happy to say that they responded by inviting additional slipper speakers. I expect this WOC in all respects to be outstanding and well worth attending.

Barbara Tisherman, President
Slipper Orchid Alliance
E-Mail: btisherman@aol.com

SOA Membership

If you receive a membership renewal form with your newsletter, your membership is up for renewal within the next three months.

Please fill out the form and mail it to our membership secretary, Jean Metcalf, 2323 Edinboro Rd. GH#6, Erie, PA 16509. Questions about your membership? Jean can be contacted at orchidiva@gmail.com.

We encourage our international members to use the easylink PayPal service through our website, which offers automatic international currency exchange at good rates.

***Phragmipedium xcolombianum* O.GRUSS - A NEW NATURAL HYBRID**

by Olaf Gruss - Translated by Joachim Erfkamp

HISTORY

In 1854, the first whitish pink species of the genus *Phragmipedium* was described as *Selenipedium schlimii* LINDEN & REICHENBACH F. in *Bonplandia* 2: page 277, 1854. Nearly 150 years later, in 1996, the description of the closely related species *Phrag. fischeri* by Dr. Guido Braem and Hartmut Mohr followed, and in 2006, the description of *Phrag. andreettae* was published by Phillip Cribb and Franco Pupulin. *Phrag. schlimii* was found in Colombia, but in the descriptions of the other two species it was mentioned that these came from Ecuador. In 2008, a new species similar to *Phrag. fischeri*, named *Phrag. manzurii*, was described by W. E. Higgins and Paula Viveros.

In recent years more plants of these species, including *Phrag. fischeri* and *Phrag. andreettae*, were identified in Colombia, in addition to plants which looked like intermediate forms between these four species or natural hybrids.

In the last few months, I received pictures of plants from various sources that showed plants that looked



Above and below:
Phragmipedium xcolombianum (*manzurii* x *schlimii*)
The colors vary between different clones
from white to greenish.



different from all known species and hybrids. In my opinion they could be natural hybrids. I had the opportunity to analyze some of these plants in the nursery of Ecuagenera in Ecuador. They were cultivated there as *Phrag. schlimii*, although there are some doubts about their status.

Some of these plants reached Europe (of course with official import permits) as *Phrag. schlimii*. One of these plants flowered in the nursery of Franz Glanz in Unterwössen. At first glance, the flower was different from *Phrag. schlimii* and also differed from the other three related species. It showed some similarity with *Phrag. manzurii* only in the color of the dorsal sepal. The leaves and also the staminode looked like an intermediate form between *Phrag. manzurii* and *Phrag. schlimii*. Thus

I decided to describe this plant as a natural hybrid between these two species as *Phragmipedium ×colombianum* and published the official article in *Die Orchidee* 62(1): 29; 2011.



Phragmipedium schlimii



Phragmipedium manzurii
Photo: David Angel Manzur



Phragmipedium fischeri



Phragmipedium andreettae

ETYMOLOGY

colombianum = from Colombia, where the natural hybrid originated

DESCRIPTION

Plant: compact growing terrestrial plant with short stolons between the growths; growths with 3-7 upright to overhanging leaves

Leaves: 15-28 cm long and 2.4-3.2 cm wide, lanceolate to narrowly ligulate, acute, keeled, upperside sapgreen, underneath paler green

Inflorescence: 18-25 cm, 0.3 cm in diameter, upright, sometimes branched, dark red-brown, whitish pubescent, with 2-5 flowers that open successively

Lower Bracts: 4.3-5 cm long and 2.4-2.8 cm wide, acuminate, enfolding the stem with their base, conduplicate, green

Flower Bracts: 2.5-3.2 cm long and 1.9-2.2 cm wide, acuminate, conduplicate, enfolding the stem with their base, green

Ovary: 4-4.4 cm long, fusiform, terete, recurved, yellowish green, pubescent

Flowers: 3.6-4.2 cm high and 3.2-3.8 cm wide (from tip to tip of the petals)

Dorsal Sepal: 1-1.2 cm long, 0.5-0.7 cm wide, narrowly ovate, acuminate, erect, concave, curved forward, inside pale green to yellowish green, seldom reddish flushed and marked, clearly green veined, outside bright brownish to green, pubescent

Synsepal: 1.6-1.8 cm long and 1.5-1.9 cm wide, significantly smaller than the lip, with an obtuse tip, concave, green to yellowish green, slightly veined green

Petals: 1.2-1.5 cm long, 0.7-0.9 cm wide, narrowly ovate, nearly pointing to a tip, nearly horizontal with straight margins, white, seldom flushed with pink and marked red on the tip and base, outside pubescent and inside on the base with white hairs

Lip: calceolate, 1.7-2.1 cm long and 0.9-1.2 cm wide, translucent windows on both sides, outside white, especially on the front side intense red flushed, pubescent, with infolded yellow side lobes, a strongly infolded rim of the lip opening leaving a small opening

Staminode: 0.6-0.7 cm long and 0.8-0.9 cm wide, oblong ovate to nearly circular, white, in the central part yellow, on the lower margin red, pubescent

Variability: The plants of this natural hybrid show some variations in the dimensions of the plants, leaves and flowers and also in the shape and coloration of the flowers.

Possibilities of confusion: This hybrid is very similar to both of the parents. It differs however in the shape and color of the staminode. Also a great similarity exists with the plants of the big hybrid swarm which can be found in Colombia and which is perhaps the result of the natural hybridization between any of the species *Phrag. andreetae*, *Phrag. fischeri*, *Phrag. manzurii* and *Phrag. schlimii*.

Climate in the habitat: similar to *Phrag. schlimii*
The temperature in the habitat rises during the summer to approximately 78°F (25°C) and can drop down in winter to 48°F (8°C). The relative humidity is around 70-80% during the whole year.

Translation by Joachim Erfkamp, Germany

LITERATURE

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Olaf Gruss is internationally recognized for his work with *Paphiopedilums*, *Phragmipediums* and *Phalaenopsis*. He has written books about the genus *Phalaenopsis* and the albino forms of the genus *Paphiopedilum*, as well as a booklet about the genus *Phragmipedium*. He has been a

member of the editorial board of the journal of the German Orchid Society, *Die Orchidee*.

Gruss resides in Germany and lectures throughout Europe, Japan, Taiwan and the U.S.

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Photos: Olaf Gruss (except *Phragmipedium manzurii*)



Phragmipedium xcolombianum (*manzurii* x *schlimii*)
Close-up of the Staminode

A NEW BUT DOUBTFUL SPECIES OF THE GENUS *Paphiopedilum*

FROM CHINA - *Paphiopedilum aranianum*

by Olaf Gruss

In 2010 Aree Petchleung described a new species of the genus *Paphiopedilum* in the journal of the German Orchid Society (Deutsche Orchideengesellschaft DOG) *Die Orchidee* 60(4): 436; 2009 as *Paphiopedilum aranianum*.

In 2008 Aran Phetleung found ten plants of this new species in the Wen Shan District in the province of Yunnan in China. At first these plants looked very similar to *Paph. dianthum*, but detailed analysis showed the differences. The species is similar to *Paphiopedilum dianthum* TANG & WANG in Bull.Fan.Mem.Inst. Biol.Ser.10: 24; 1940, but differs by the totally greenish petals and sepals, the lineate broader and shorter twisted petals without black warts, the rounded lip and the sharp triangular staminode with green maculation in the center. The species was named in honor of its collector. The describer wrote as follows (citation of the original paper by Aree Petchleung)

Leaves: Herbaceous plant with 3–6 leaves per growth. Leaves lanceolate, 35–40 cm long and 5.0–5.5 cm wide, green above, paler beneath, white toward base

Inflorescence: 40–45 cm high

Flower: about 8 cm long and 10 cm wide, very glossy

Dorsal sepal: about 5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide; light yellow with deep green lines, glossy

Synsepal: about 4 cm long and 2.5 cm wide; light yellow with green lines

Petals: narrowly lanceolate, 6 cm long and 1.3 cm wide, glossy light yellow with glossy deep green lines, light brown border; on the backside a few dark hairs along lower margin toward the base

Pouch: oblong, about 4 cm long and 2.5 cm wide, glossy yellowish green to light purplish brown



Paphiopedilum aranianum
Photo: Aree Petchleung



Paphiopedilum dianthum
Photo: Olaf Gruss

Staminode: transversely elliptic to obovate-obcordate; mottled with green maculates on white base

Blooming Period: September–November

The future will show us if these plants really represent a new distinct species of the genus, if these plants are the product of genetic deformations, or if they are only a variety of *Paph. dianthum*. The decision will be easier on the basis of more plants and more information about the habitat.

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Albino Forms of the Slipper Orchids

Author: Olaf Gruss

Page extent: 242 pages and 415 pictures

Specification: 200 x 150 mm, hardcover

ICBN: 978-83-925110-3-8 Price: \$50, incl. shipping

This book is not available in bookstores.

Available through the SOA Editor,

Judith Rapacz-Hasler; E-mail: jorapacz@wisc.edu

For collectors of lady-slipper orchids the most rare, and thus most valuable, plants are the albino forms of the various species. Sometimes only a single albino clone is known for a species; in other species several cultivars are known and have been described.

It is important to note the distinction between the *alba* (in the case of lady-slippers, *album*) forms and albinos. *Alba* forms are devoid of any colored pigmentation, and are pure white. A plant whose flowers are devoid of any red pigmentation is traditionally termed an albino; these flowers can be green, yellow or white, or a combination of all three.

The taxonomical identification of a form or variety and its respective name presupposes an official description with a diagnosis in Latin in a publication that is openly accessible, and the deposition of a specimen as the type in a recognized herbarium. The process is exactly the same as that for a describing a new species. Sadly, today names are still being used for the albino forms, even without a valid description.

Over the last few decades, numerous varieties lacking official descriptions have been listed in offers and advertised at flower shows, in order to boost demand and prices. The names used in these promotions are without value. Only an official description and precise classification can guarantee orchid lovers that their

purchase will live up to expectations.

Since the official taxonomic names for albino forms of slipper orchids are all too rarely used worldwide, this published iconographic with more than 400 pictures may be of help to the reader. The book also shows the variability of the albino forms, because in the literature only the best clones were shown, not the normal or the bad ones.



Paphiopedilum micranthum forma glanzeanum



Paphiopedilum tranlienianum forma alboviride

**MEMBER ACCESS TO NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE
ON THE SOA WEBSITE**

username = Newsletter

password = cyps

SWISS ORCHID FOUNDATION ICONOGRAPHY DATABASE

The Swiss Orchid Foundation announced that it has digitized 5000 images taken by Jim B. Comber of orchids from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand and presents them in the *World Orchid Iconography*. The database now contains a total of 75,000 images, which may be accessed at <http://orchid.unibas.ch/site.home.php>.

Recently an innovative determination key for *Cypripediums* was added to their website. You can go to it by choosing "Orchid Keys" in the menu and clicking on the link to the "online key to *Cypripedium*."

The Swiss Orchid Foundation also sponsors the BibliOrchidea, which is the most complete and far-reaching orchid literature bibliography worldwide, with approximately 150,000 entries. It is managed by Rudolph Jenny and may be viewed on the same website as above. The Slipper Orchid Alliance is very pleased that our Newsletter is included.

Report from the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA)

By Peter S. Tobias

Lots of things happened at the Orchid Conservation Alliance in 2010. Probably the biggest was that fifteen of us spent two weeks in Ecuador visiting some reserves and seeing lots of orchids in the wild. This was the third in what has become an approximately annual "Orchids in the Wild" trip sponsored by, and to benefit, the OCA. I am certain that when people see what is happening to orchid habitats and when they also see what can be done with orchid reserves, then people will be that much more convinced of the mission of the OCA.

One reserve we visited was the Reserva Rio Anzu established by Lou Jost Fundación EcoMinga in Baños, Ecuador, with the help of a \$10,000 donation from OCA. Reserva Rio Anzu protects many orchids but the primary reason for its establishment was the presence of large colonies of *Phragmipedium pearcei* along the banks of the river. A fuller description of the reserve, with pictures, can be found at www.ecominga.org and more information about Lou Jost can be found at www.loujost.com. There is no way to briefly tell the story of two weeks in Ecuador in limited space; you just should have been there.

The OCA supports projects that lead to the conservation of orchids and orchid habitat. Currently, we are supporting projects to:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

International Slipper Symposium,
October 22, 2011; Orlando, Florida area;
information at www.slippersymposium.com

The Fall AOS meeting will be held in San Antonio,
Oct 26-30, 2011. Contact: Jeanne Buchanan
jeanne@folioco.com

20th World Orchid Conference (WOC)
Singapore, Nov. 13-20, 2011
"Where New and Old World Orchids Meet"
www.20woc.com.sg

Singapore is pleased to host the 20th World Orchid Conference (WOC) at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel. The WOC has the support of The World Orchid Conference Trust, Singapore Orchid Society, National Parks Board of Singapore, and the Singapore Exhibition and Convention Bureau. Themed "Where New and Old World Orchids Meet," the Conference will feature a strong scientific program, complemented by a series of symposia and forums that will meet the needs of both commercial growers and hobbyists. Organized alongside the Conference is the Orchid Show. The Exhibition promises to be a spectacular showcase of the finest species and hybrids from the region and beyond.

The SOA is planning a meeting on November 15 after the lectures, open to all attendees to bring together other slipper organizations and slipper lovers from around the world.

Map the distribution of Ecuador's most threatened orchid species to more effectively target the development of new reserves

Secure clear titles for parcels of land so that they can be incorporated into the Rio Zuñac reserve being developed by the Ecominga Foundation.

Develop improved educational infrastructure for reserves associated with the Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation

Develop a new orchid conservation biology field station in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest near Rio de Janeiro.

Peter S. Tobias, OCA President
www.orchidconservationalliance.org

The Slipper Orchid Alliance is a supporter of the OCA.

PAPHIOPEDILUM FORUM, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

By Gordon Slaymaker

The 31st Paphiopedilum Forum, sponsored by the National Capital Orchid Society, was held on Feb. 19 at a new location: the Behnke Nurseries Co. in Beltsville, Maryland. The U.S. National Arboretum, venue for the Paph Forum for nearly thirty years of its existence, is undergoing much needed renovations. Co-chairs William H. Goldner, PhD, and Lynn Evans-Goldner, MS, owners of Woodstream Orchids, organized another cornucopia of slipper-related activities for this venerable one-day symposium. Bill served as emcee and introduced a varied program of speakers, raffles, discussions, and slipper orchid sales.

Norito Hasegawa, appearing for his fourth engagement as a Paph Forum speaker, gave an overview of the state of Paphiopedilum breeding in the world today. As always, his free-form structured presentation was full of anecdotes and opinions of modern hybridizing and photos of old and new Paphs. While lighting in the lecture area proved inhospitable to some of his projected slide transparency photographs, his well-known personality carried the program.

Stig Dalstrom, characterized as the “Wild Orchid Man,” is in fact a taxonomist and artist who has traveled widely. He provided an overview of cultural practices for *Phrags. besseae*, *delassandroi*, *fischerii*, and *andreettae* as well as some information on *Phrag. kovachii*. Stig also detailed a technique for growing Cypripediums successfully in the hottest regions of Florida. The secret, which may be effective for other cool growing terrestrial orchids, was to reverse the growing season. The dormant period for Cypripediums is often winter in their native habitat, but forcing dormancy in a refrigerator during Florida’s summer and fall and allowing them to grow outdoors during more hospitable months of winter and spring proved successful (see his article on this subject in the SOA Newsletter, No. 11.2, Summer 2010).

Ron McHatton wears many hats at the American Orchid Society in Delray Beach, Florida. Fortunately, AOS headquarters was able to spare him for the weekend. He gave an “encore presentation” of the program on orchid pest control he gave previously at the 12th International Slipper Symposium in Florida. Ron discussed procedures for the use of many commercially available products as well as some more holistic home remedies to combat pests and diseases that slipper growers contend with.

Bryan J. Ramsay of California, Maryland, gave the traditional review of the 2010 AOS awards to Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums. Bryan, an AOS Student Judge, used the AOS’s digital awards library to demonstrate that Slipper growing and hybridizing result in significant numbers of AOS awards worldwide.

Noontime found attendees eating lunch (included in the registration fee) and browsing the sales area while Head AOS Judge Nancy Mountford presided over the placement of ribbons on the exhibit plants and American Orchid Society judging. Details and images of the eight awards given at this Forum, an AOS sponsored judging event, may be found in the AOS’s next update of the AQ Plus program.

The final activity, and to many the most important, was the discussion of over a hundred flowering slippers displayed on the exhibit table. Bill Goldner and Steve Shifflett of Floradise Orchids performed their “tag-team” dialogue and presented the ribbon and trophy winners. The exhibit area was much reduced from the U.S. National Arboretum location providing an intimate association with Bill and Steve standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the attendees. A detailed list of the extensive ribbon categories for Paphs and Phrags can be found at the National Capital Orchid Society website: www.ncos.us.

The SOA People’s Choice Award went to Phrag. Belle Hougue Point ‘Morright’ (Eric Young x *caudatum*) owned by Jeff Morris of Earlysville, Virginia. It also received a CCM/AOS of 80 points.

The SOA silent auction’s proceeds enable the SOA to help sponsor the speakers at the Paph Forum and at AOS meetings. The SOA expresses its deep gratitude to the following donors of auction items: Leon Blumreich (Pinecrest Orchids), Hadley Cash (Marriott Orchids), Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids), Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids), Norito Hasegawa (Paphanatics unLimited), Ken Meier (Orchid Enterprise), Nancy Mountford (Cove Orchids), Barbara Noe (Celebrate Orchids!), H.P. Norton (Orchidview Orchids), John Salventi (Parkside Orchids), Steve Shifflett (Floradise Orchids), and John Whiting.

Kudos are due again to Bill and Lynn Goldner and members of the National Capital Orchid Society for their efforts in producing another successful Paphiopedilum Forum. As with many other recent orchid related events, attendance was noticeably reduced from previous years. Comments on the garden center location have been mixed, but everyone at Behnke’s Nursery was eager to help and provide a suitable location. They deserve a big round of applause for allowing NCOS to hold events at their

location. Watch for the announcement of venue and date of next year's Forum on the www.ncos.us website.

Gordon Slaymaker
Falls Church, Virginia

Gordon was for many years the chairman of the Paph Forum. He is an accredited AOS judge and a past chairman of the National Capital Judging Center.

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Phragmipedium Belle Hougue Point 'Morright'
CCM/AOS (80 points), (Eric Young x *caudatum*)

Owner: Jeff Morris of Earlysville, Virginia; Photo: Jim Osen

CARING FOR PHRAGMIPEDIUM SPECIMEN PLANTS

By Jeff Morris

February 19, 2011 at the National Capital Orchid Society Paphiopedilum Forum, I was fortunate to be the recipient of the People's Choice Award sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance (SOA) for Phrag. Belle Hougue Point "Morright." At the same time it was also given a Certificate of Cultural Merit of 80 points by American Orchid Society judges. For those members of the SOA who have not been fortunate enough to attend one of the NCOS's Paph Forums, this event is attended by some outstanding slipper growers. There are always excellent slippers on display. Mine was nowhere near the only deserving slipper present that day. In this case I can say only that sometimes size of the orchid on display does matter.

This brings us back to the topic: How do we take care of a large specimen Phragmipedium? In many ways a Phrag takes care of itself. Phrag Belle Hougue Point "Morright" was originally purchased in flask in September, 1998. It has been grown without division since then. The basic cultural needs are the same whether you wish to grow big or keep more manageable pot sizes.

Light: Phragmipediums are very tolerant of a wide range of light. I have successfully grown Phrags from 1,000-5,000 foot candles. The large plants with *caudatum* and *longifolium* in the parentage do very well at the high end. In my case the easiest location for the large plants was on a shelf above my more moderate-sized plants. This put the plants in the Vanda light range. Phrags with a high percentage of *besseae* or *schlimii* in their parentage should be grown at the lower end of the light range.

Water: Generally Phrags are water lovers. In the summer they should be given large amounts of water. I do grow the Phrags with a 1-1.5" high saucer under the pot. Watering consists of flushing the pot thoroughly with water and fertilizer. After waiting 1-2 hours I repeat the process, leaving the saucer full of water. One day after the water dries up in the saucer it is time to re-water. In the winter I remove the saucer from under the Phrags with the *caudatum* parentage and water on a weekly schedule.

Fertilizer: I feed all my orchids lightly. The Phrags are watered and fertilized at the same time with a balanced fertilizer at 200-350 ppm of fertilizer. I currently use a

mixture combining 50% DynaGrow 7-7-7 and Jack's 15-16-17 Peat-Lite. Using the mix of two fertilizers is probably not necessary. It just gives me a little more security that all the micro nutrients are present. Since my water contains almost no dissolved minerals I also substitute my regular feeding with a Cal-Mag fertilizer once a month.

Temperature: My collection will see minimum temperatures of 60°F (16°C) in the winter and maximum temperatures in the summer of 95°F (35°C). It is important that the plants do stay well watered at the higher temperatures.

Potting: This is the one area where I treat my Phrags differently than all the other orchids in my collection. I have purposely chosen a medium that contains almost entirely inert components. The reason for this is because of my wet growing conditions. I want a medium that doesn't break down under these conditions. My current mix consists of: 1 part oyster shells, 1 part large vermiculite, 2 parts Pro-Mix BX, 5 parts medium charcoal, 5 parts 70/30 rockwool, and 15 parts large diatomite. Exact proportions aren't critical. I have almost no calcium in my water, hence the oyster shell. The vermiculite can be left out. I tend to use it on top of the pots to allow a zone for new root tips to establish easily. Because I have chosen a primarily inert mix, I do not remove old mix when repotting. I pull off some of the top where salts accumulate. I remove old dead roots and any medium attached to them. The rest stays with the plant when put back in the pot. The Phrags often will have to be set deeper into the pot to allow the new growth to sink roots into the medium. Taller pots are beneficial. Potting can be done yearly.

In closing let us look at some of the problems that may have to be dealt with when growing Phrags. The first problem I have already addressed is the tendency to grow out of the pot. The solution earlier discussed is to set them deeper when repotting. Other problems we can quickly address: pests, leaf tip die-back, basal leaf rot, and flower stem collapse.

Pests: Good news, these are almost never a problem on Phrags. I have seen mealy bugs only on flower spikes, never on the plants. I am suspicious that thrips may feed on the very new growth if an infestation gets extreme. The best solution is to use mechanical means for removal. A good spray of water many times works wonders. Avoiding pesticides is advantageous for Phrags.

Leaf tip die-back: Often in hot weather the tips of the

leaves will turn brown and dry up. The heat combined with drying out will do this. Other factors that will exacerbate the leaf tip die-back are over-fertilizing, calcium deficiency, and many insecticides. I have found Phrags to be the most sensitive to damage from insecticides of all my orchids.

Basal Leaf rot: It usually occurs in the winter during cool periods with high humidity. Phrags are very good at recovering. Remove the infected leaves and treat the area with powdered cinnamon. This usually takes care of the problem.

Flower stem collapse: This can be caused by insecticides, calcium deficiency, and leaving water in the crown with a tender new flower spike.

Lastly let me mention the most critical pest that needs to be addressed for a specimen plant. In this case it is not an insect or disease. One thing that you want to keep on top of is weeding your pots. If you have problems with any vegetative weeds in your growing area, remove them from the pots when first noticed. Letting these invaders get out of hand may require tearing a specimen completely apart to remove the infestation. Removing weeds when very small is the best solution.

Everybody has their own growing conditions. What works for me may not be the solution for you, but perhaps some of the ideas proposed here may improve your success with Phrags. Have success growing.

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Above and below:
Phragmipedium plants in Jeff Morris's greenhouse
Photo: Jeff Morris



PAPHIOPEDILUM LATHAMIANUM 'J.W.' CCE, AM/AOS

By John Whiting

Visitors at the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Show on March 19-20, 2011 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were treated to the sight of a magnificent Paphiopedilum Lathamianum 'J.W.' (villosum x spicerianum). The AOS judges were extremely impressed and awarded it a CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) of 95 points (an extremely rare high point score) and an AM (Award of Merit) of 82 points for its flower quality. The official description raved about "24 glossy flowers spectacularly arranged above extremely clean foliage on a 67 x 79 cm. plant in a 27 cm. pot." The judges added the comment that the plant combined the best features of both parents. In their verbal discussion they noted that this grex had never before received an AOS award. Its proud grower is

John Whiting, who lives in Somerset, Pennsylvania and is a member of the OSWP. CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN!

Following are comments about his plant and how he grows it. **(Comment by Barbara Tisherman)**

I lived in Powhatan, Virginia in the 1990s and belonged to the Virginia Orchid Society. Barbara Noe, Buddy Harvie and I put a VOS exhibit in an orchid show in Roanoke, Virginia in 1999. Parkside Orchid Nursery was a vender at that show. I saw a Paphiopedilum on their sales table at the end of the show. The plant was in a 6-inch pot and filled the pot with many growths. The name on the label was Paph. Nitens, and I was told it was an antique cross. I did not know what Paph. Nitens looked like, but with that many growths I felt it would have 5 or 6 flowers when it bloomed and I do like the oldtimers. The plant looked very healthy and for \$20 it went home with me. I moved to Somerset, Pennsylvania, and a few years later I took this plant to the 2007 Paphiopedilum Forum in Washington,



Paphiopedilum Lathamianum 'J.W.' CCE/AOS (95 points) and AM/AOS (82 points)
(*villosum x spicerianum*)

Owner: John Whiting; Photo: Jim Yamber

D.C., with 11 flowers and 2 buds. After judging I was told the Paph. Nitens label was wrong - the correct name was Lathamianum. I was shown the pictures of both Nitens and Lathamianum. There was no question that Lathamianum was the correct name. It received awards for Best Novelty/Primary Paph Hybrid and Best Plant Culture and the SOA People's Choice Award. John Salventi of Parkside Orchid Nursery has since told me that they bought a sizeable collection of Paphs from a Dendrobium grower in Hawaii, and many antique hybrids were in this collection, including Paph. Nitens, now correctly named Lathamianum. I have repotted Lathamianum into a larger pot every year. It is potted in equal parts of crumbled oak leaves and horse manure (by volume) and 2 or 3 parts ½ inch coconut cubes, and a handful each of powdered limestone, bone meal and gravel. I also add Systemic Granules Insect Control to control gnats. I grow all my plants under lights in a basement room adapted for orchid culture and put them outside in the summer.

I use rain water on my orchids. I add tap water to the rain water now and then for the Cymbidiums and the Paphs. The combined water mix is 85% rain water. When watering only with rain water I add a small amount of commercial fertilizer. I water with the fertilizer two times a month, but I have no set pattern as to when the

fertilizer is added. I look at the plants and they tell me. For example, the orchids usually grow faster shortly after they are put outside, and then I fertilize more; when they are back indoors under the lights I reduce the fertilizer. I still look at the plants, because there are some that will grow more under the lights. I do not know why; I think it is their background. Right now I have Schultz 19-31-17 and Orchidmix 17-9-18. I use one a couple of times, then the other. The mix they are planted in is high in nutrients, so Paphs are not fed fertilizer as often as the orchids potted in only bark/coconut husk mix. My basement orchid room is lined on the walls and ceiling with plastic and then reflective foil. The floor is covered with a pool liner to catch the water. There are two High Pressure Sodium 1000w lights and six full spectrum compact fluorescent lamps; the lights are on for 9-10 hours. A timer controls the lights and fan. The temperature is 75°F (24°C) with the lights on and down to 50°F (10°C) at night.

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CCE/AOS (95 points) and AM/AOS (82 points)
(*villosum* x *spicerianum*)
Owner: John Whiting; Photo: Jim Yamber

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A NEW BUT DOUBTFUL SPECIES OF THE GENUS *Paphiopedilum* FROM CHINA - *Paphiopedilum qingyongii*

by Olaf Gruss

In 2010 Zhong-jian Liu and Li-jun Chen described a new species of the genus *Paphiopedilum* in the journal of the German Orchid Society (Deutsche Orchideengesellschaft, DOG) *Die Orchidee* 61(4): 281, 2010 as *Paphiopedilum qingyongii*. The species was found by Z.J. Liu on March 7, 2010 growing on shrubby slope in humus-rich places at an elevation of 1250 m.

Recently, a few individuals of *Paphiopedilum* were collected from Motuo, southeastern Xizang of China. This entity from Motuo is similar to *Paph. venustum* (Wall. ex Sims) Pfitzer, differing from the latter by having 8-9 leaves not or scarcely tessellated adaxially, densely purple-red spotted petals and broadly oblong staminode.

The collector decided to describe these plants together with Li-jun Chen as a new distinct species and named it in honor of Professor Qingyong Liu, a well-known Chinese expert on Cymbidiums, as *Paphiopedilum qingyongii*.

DESCRIPTION: Terrestrial plants.

Leaves: 8–9, oblong-elliptic or suboblong, 9-14 cm long, 3.1-4.5 cm wide, adaxially not or scarcely tessellated, grey-green, abaxially pale green and sometimes obscurely marked with purple-red, but always densely purple-spotted at base, bilobulate at apex

Scape: erect, 15 cm long, pale purple-brown, shortly hirsute

Bract: ovate-lanceolate, 2.2 cm long, ciliate, abaxially sparsely pubescent

Pedicel and ovary: 4 cm long, pubescent

Flower: single, ca. 7 cm across; dorsal sepal and synsepal white striped with green; petals pale white-green and often pale purple-brown in apical part, densely spotted with purple-red; lip slightly tinged with pale purple-brown and veined with dark purple; staminode pale brown-green, green-veined

Dorsal sepal: ovate, 2.6 cm long, 2.4 cm wide, acute at apex, ciliate, abaxially pubescent particularly along midvein

Synsepal: ovate 2.4 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, acute at apex, ciliate, pubescent abaxially

Petals: narrowly suboblong, 4.2 cm long, 1.3 cm wide, acute at apex, long-ciliate, slightly incurved-margined



Paphiopedilum qingyongii

Photo: Zhong-jian Liu

Paph. venustum differs from *Paph. qingyongii* by its grey-green leaves, and not or scarcely tessellated petals, densely spotted with purple-red, without large maroon warts, staminode broadly oblong.



Paphiopedilum venustum

Photo: Olaf Gruss

Lip: helmet-shaped, warty on its incurved side-lobes; pouch ellipsoid-ovoid, 2.5 cm long, 1.8 cm wide, auriculate on both sides of its mouth

Staminode: broadly oblong, 7 mm long and wide, subtruncate at apex, puberulous

Flowering period: February and March.¹

It is impossible to decide on the basis of this description if the species is really so distinct from all the others that it is necessary to create a new taxon. We must wait for more informations about it.

¹Citation of the original paper of the authors that I received for translation.

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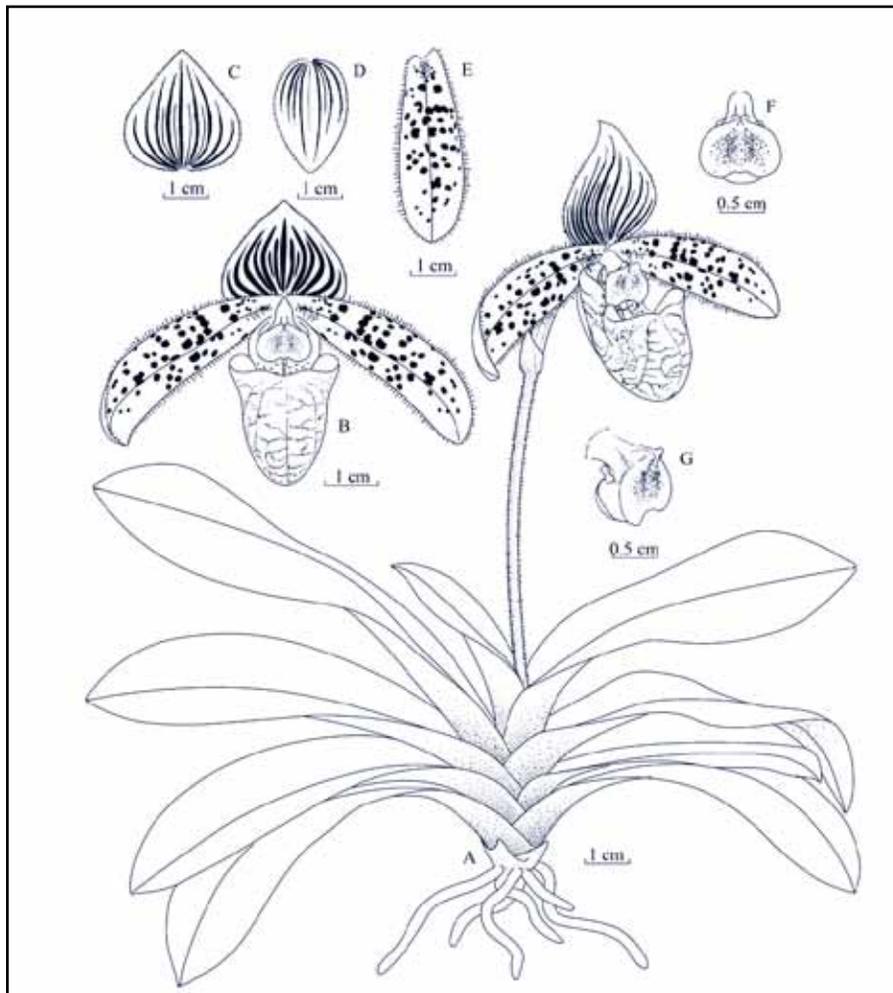
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Illustration

Paphiopedilum qingyongii

by

Zhong-jian Liu and Li-jun Chen

- A. Flowering plant;
- B. Flower, front view;
- C. Dorsal sepal, front view;
- D. Synsepal, front view;
- E. Petal, front view;
- F. Staminode, front view;
- G. Staminode, side view.

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