**Section Deliciosa** E. A. Christ 1986

DISCUSSION: The three species of section Deliciosae are morphologically intermediate between other members of subgenus Phalaenopsis, on the one hand, and the remainder of the genus on the other. The flowers bear lateral lobes of the lip with tooth-like flaps, similar to those found in subgenus Polychilos, while having uniseriate calli as in other species of subgenus Phalaenopsis. The close affinity of this section with section Esmeralda is suggested by molecular data, their breeding behavior, their both producing four pollinia, and the bifid structure of their callus (at least in P. regnieriana, reduced in the other two species of section Esmeralda). Phalaenopsis deliciosa has been placed in the genus Kingidium by many authors, a genus relegated here to Phalaenopsis section Aphyllae. Species of section Deliciosae and section Aphyllae share the conditions of having small subsaccate lip bases and four pollinia, characters I do not consider necessarily significant at the generic level in the Phalaenopsis alliance (i.e., both characters have been found to be variable in other-wise well-defined genera in the subtribe Aeridinae, such as Gastrochilus),I do not think that P. deliciosa is closely related to section Aphyl-lae, a position supported by recent molecular data. Unlike species of section Aphyllae, P. deliciosa is not deciduous in nature, does not exhibit chlorophylly of the perianth after pollination, and is not restricted to the eastern Himalayas and southeast Asia. Gruss and Mike overlooked the typification of Kingidium by Hunt (1971a) with P taenialis. This led them to needlessly publish a section

Kingidium based on P deliciosa and reduced section Deliciosae to synonymy. The recently described and little-known P chibae is included here with some reservations. It is the only species in the genus with a single transverse rather than a longitudinal callus (some members of subg. Parishianae have a transverse callus as part of a biseriate callus).2

References

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