***Section Amboinenses*** Sweet

Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 37:874. 1968. Type: *Phalaenopsis amboinensis* J. J. Sm.

*Phalaenopsis* subsection *Glabrae* Sweet, Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 37:874. 1968, syn. nov. Type: *Phalaenopsis modesta* J. J. Sm.

*Phalaenopsis* subsection *Hirsutae* Sweet, Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 37:874. 1968, syn. nov. Type: *Phalaenopsis pallens* (Lindl.) Rchb.f.

*Phalaenopsis* subsection *Lueddemannianae* Sweet, Genus *Phalaenopsis* 15. 1980, syn. nov. Type: *Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana* Rchb.f.

Sweet accepted a section Amboinenses separate from a section Zebrinae on the basis of relative petal width.\* Section Amboinenses was defined by having rotuliform (wheel-shaped) flowers (petals broadly elliptic, twice or less long as wide) as compared to section Zebrinae, in which the flowers are stellate (petals narrowly obovate or oblanceolate, more than twice as long as wide). While there are practical conveniences to erecting sections based on easy-to-observe characters, I do not think that use of this particular character results in a valid subdivision of the genus. Instead, I choose to emphasize the hooded anther bed of P suma-trana and its allies and maintain a narrowly defined section Zebrinae, one which corresponds to Sweet's subsection Zebrinae. The remaining three subsections of Sweet's section Zebrinae are transferred to and placed in the synonymy of section Amboinenses, characterized by having an unadorned anther bed. Dividing the species into subsections as done by Sweet does not appear to produce natural groupings of species, and I reject them. Subsection Glabrae was based primarily on the two species having a glabrous lip (devoid of trichomes). That feature is not valid even for the type species, P modesta, as acknowledged by Sweet and later authors. Subsection Lueddemannianae was distinguished from subsection Hirsutae by its having the posterior callus "variously tuberculate." The presence of and degree to which irregularly shaped glandular tissue develops ("tuberculate") I have not found to be a significant taxonomic character, even at the species level. The other characters mentioned, such as the degree of trichomys on the midlobe of the lip in subsection Hirsutae, form a mosaic pattern. They are variable and occur in Sweet's other groups; for example, P pulchra, placed in subsection Lueddemannianae by Sweet, has trichomes on the midlobe of the lip similar to P pallens, placed in subsection Hirsutae by Sweet. In the absence of non-morphological data, I think it best to treat all these species as part of a single, broadly defined section Amboinenses.

References

1Jay Pfahl's IOSPE at[www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)

2**Christenson, Eric A. 2001.** *Phalaenopsis- A Monograph.* Timber Press.

3**Cribb, CJ. 2014.** Epidendroidae. In: Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen F, eds. *Genera Orchidacearum,* *Vol. 6*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 344-349.

4 **la Croix, Isobyl. 2008.** *The New Encyclopedia of Orchids.* Timber Press

5**Frowine, Steven. 2008.** *Moth Orchids, The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis.* Timber Press