**Section Aphyllae** (Sweet) E. A. Christ., stat. nov.

DISCUSSION: This subgenus is characterized by having small deciduous plants, strongly flattened roots, short, unbranched or branched, few-flowered inflorescences, small scarious floral bracts, subequal, subsimilar floral segments, lateral labellum lobes with flap-like flanges, biseriate callus, four pollinia on a spatulate stipe, obscure to prominent spur, pink or green flowers, and the corolla chlorophyllous and persistent in post-pollination. Flower color may be variable within a species consisting of a green or pink state. Subgenus Aphyllae is restricted to the Himalayan region from Nepal to Thailand with a center of diversity in southern China (Yunnan). DNA studies shows this subgenus to be basal to both subgenus Phalaenopsis and subgenus Polychilos.

SUBGENUS APHYLLAE

Species-level taxonomy in the group is highly problematic because of the very limited material available for study. Except for P. taenialis and P wilsonii, herbarium specimens are practically nonexistent. Ger-man horticulturists Olaf Gruss and Lutz Mike published a long series of short papers on this group between 1993 and 1997, treating the plants as species of Kingidium. Even though they made several new taxonomic combinations and published a number of historic drawings and type photographs, their failure to recognize salient features of the inflorescences, lip structures, and significance of color variation within some species largely confused the situation. In addition, Gruss and %Ake erred in assigning types to this and other elements of a broadly defined Kingidium. They cited Kingidium taeniale as the type species of Phalaenopsis section Aphyllae, the basionym for their Kingidium section Aphyllae and this subgenus. Sweet explicitly stated the type species as P stobartiana. Similarly, Gruss and R011ke cited the type species of the genus Kingidium as P deliciosa, although Hunt (1971a) explicitly cited K taeniale as the type. The latter led to their for-mal publication of a superfluous Kingidium section Kingidium. Although most species have been introduced recently to cultivation, few permanent specimens for study have been preserved. Most species have not persisted in cultivation in any sort of quantity. In the United States this has been due primarily to the quite distinct horticultural requirements of these seven species from the majority of other species and hybrids of Phalaenopsis. 2

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.