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

DISCUSSION: The four species in this complex form a highly cohesive group of species characterized by their deciduous leaves, four pollinia, mobile lip midlobe, and prominent swellings ("column wings") at the base of the column. In addition, all four appear to have the lateral lobes of the lip erect, subparallel, and diverging at the middle to form a U-shaped compound structure. The distinctive nature of this group was recognized by Hawkes, who proposed the segregate genus Grafia for these species. Following the broad circumscription of Phalaenopsis followed here, this group is treated as one of five subgenera. The leaves are normally deciduous in their native habitat, which is subjected to a pronounced monsoonal climate of alternating wet and dry seasons. In cultivation the leaves are normally evergreen. Growers with less than optimal growing conditions may grow these species on the cool and dry side during the winter months. The relative isolation of this group within the genus is supported by anecdotal information from orchid breeders. Although species of this subgenus, particularly P lobbii, have been crossed with those of other subgenera, such hybrids are very difficult to make and usually show high levels of sterility. An aberration appears to be the hybrid of P. lobbii with P pulcherrima, which shows surprising fertility (Griesbach pers. comm.) as supported by the microspore studies of Aoyama et al. (1994, as P parishii). Sweet included P mysorensis Saldanha in this group, a species poorly known to him, with reservations. Additional material of that species indicates it is not related to the P parishii complex as indicated by Saldanha but is rather a third member of section Deliciosae (see Chapter 9). With the removal of P mysorensis, subgenus Parishianae ranges from the Himalayas to Indochina. 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.