

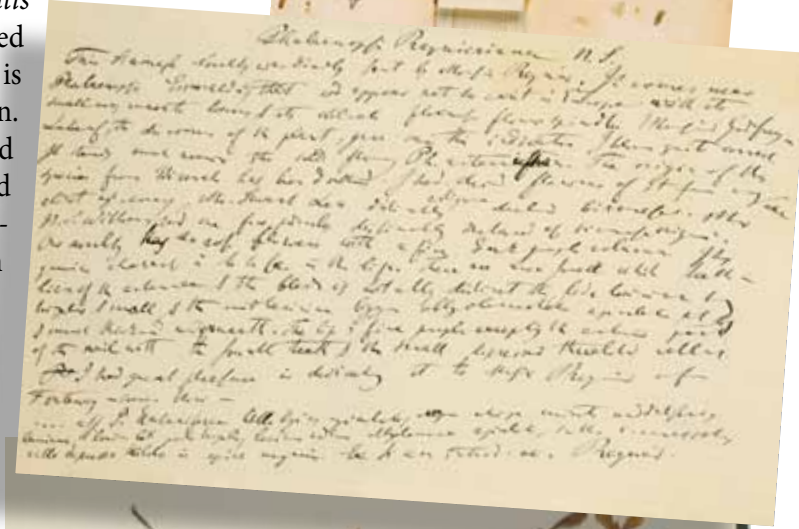
Phalaenopsis regnieriana

Wesley Higgins & Peggy Alrich

When tracing the taxonomic history of a species, important clues come from various sources: the original description, the type specimen sheet, other specimens of the same species, and other taxonomic treatments. The story of *Phalaenopsis regnieriana* begins when M. Régnier of Fontenay-sous-Bois, Seine, France sent Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach an orchid specimen from Siam (Thailand). Reichenbach described the plant as *Phalaenopsis regnieriana* Rchb.f. in *Gard. Chron.*, 1887(2): 746 1887. There are two sheets in Herb. Mus. Palat. Vindob. (Vienna) the Reichenbach: Herb. Orchid. Nr. 5027 which contains a colored drawing of the species and Reichenbach's handwritten description with a *Phalaenopsis regnieriana* label. The sheet is marked "Typus, typificavit R.E. Holttum (K) 1963-01." Holttum also annotated the sheet with a determination of *Doritis regnieriana* (Rchb.f.) Holttum. Herman R. Sweet also annotated the sheet as *Doritis regnieriana*. The other sheet Nr. 16064 is labeled Typus by Reichenbach contains the plant specimen. Reichenbach indicated that it was a cultivated plant. To add confusion there is an envelope attached to the sheet labeled *Vanda lamellata* Lindl. (Found in envelop with flowers of *Phalaenopsis regnieriana* Rchb.f.) by Holttum in Jan. 1963. Again Holttum and Sweet annotated the sheet as *Doritis regnieriana*.

In Rolfe's monograph of the genus (1886), he established two new sections: *Proboscidioides* Rolfe containing only the one species, *Phalaenopsis lowii*, and section *Esmeralda* Rchb.f. ex Rolfe accommodating the concepts of Reichenbach, *Phalaenopsis esmeralda* and *Phalaenopsis antennifera*. When Rolfe

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reviewed the species in 1905, he considered *Phalaenopsis regnieriana* to be a form of *Phal. esmeralda*. But Rolfe reported in 1917, that Reichenbach's *Phalaenopsis esmeralda* was the lost *Doritis pulcherrima* of Lindley and that *Phalaenopsis antennifera* was just a slight variation of the same species. At the same time, Rolfe established a new genus *Kingiella* for the other species of "Doritis" which had been previously removed from the genus *Phalaenopsis*. In current accepted classifications, *Doritis*, *Kingidium* and *Kingiella* have all now been reduced to synonymy with *Phalaenopsis*. The terete-leaved "Kingiella" species have been placed in the genus *Paraphalaenopsis*.

SYNONYMS

Doritis regnieriana (Rchb.f.) Holttum., *Kew Bull.*, **19**: 212 (1965).
Doritis pulcherrima Lindl. var. *regnieriana* (Rchb.f.) Aver.,
Lindleyana, **22**(2): 14 (2009).
Phalaenopsis esmeralda var. *regnieriana* (Rchb.f.) J.J. Sm., *Bull.*
Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, **1**: 120 (1919).
Phalaenopsis regnieriana Rchb.f. f. *aurea* Biais, Falcin. & Lafarge
(nom. inval.) *Orchidophile* (Asnières), **190**: 189 (2011).

The flowers of *Phalaenopsis regnieriana* are similar to *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*, the difference is the very small mid-lobe lobules and the clearly bifide callus for *Phalaenopsis regnieriana*. This species is not known to be used for hybridization. However, the plant called *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *Supaporn* has a bifide callus and may be *Phalaenopsis regnieriana*. This terrestrial plant, often forming clumps, has many, rigid roots laid out in regular patterns around the stem. The leaves are oblong, elliptic, acute, concave, 15 cm x 3 cm The erect inflorescence is 50-60 cm tall. Flower: dorsal sepal elliptic, elliptic-obovate at cuneate base, obtuse or rounded. Lateral sepals decurrent, sub-triangular, ovate, obtuse, slightly shorter than the dorsal sepal, but broader. Petals are similar to the dorsal sepal. The labellum is trilobed; lateral lobes slightly directed towards the front, lanceolate. Midlobe tri-lobulate, small lateral lobules, sub-orbicular, obtuse, rounded. Middle lobule oblong-ovate, obtuse, rounded. The lip callus is bifide (split). Plant blooms from summer to fall with up to ten 1.25 to 5 cm wide flowers (Lagrelle 2012).

The species is named in the honor of the French orchidist M. Régnier of Fontenay-sous-Bois, Seine. ❀

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