NOTES ON PHILIPPINE ORCHIDS II

BY

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Dendrobium erythroxanthum Reichenbach filius in Gard. Chron. ser. 2, 2 (1874) 162.

Dendrobium topaziacum Ames, Orchidaceae 5 (1915) 140.

In 1915 when Dendrobium topaziacum was proposed as a new species from the Philippines, I suggested that it might prove to be conspecific with D. Bullenianum Reichb.f. At that time, the Reichenbachian Herbarium was inaccessible and it was impossible to interpret D. Bullenianum from the original description. Indeed, there was reason to suspect that D. Bullenianum was not a native of the Philippines because Reichenbach in referring to it as having come from Manila left room for doubt. In his monograph of Dendrobium, Fritz Kränzlin did not remove this doubt, simply with a query citing Luzon as the source of the type.

From a study of D. Bullenianum by means of the analytical drawings preserved in Reichenbach’s herbarium, it is clear that D. topaziacum is referable to it. It is also clear that D. erythroxanthum is conspecific with D. Bullenianum.

Dr. Kränzlin in his monograph of the genus Dendrobium in Engler’s Pflanzenreich extended the geographical range of D. Bullenianum to the Samoan Islands on the evidence of specimens collected on Upolu by Reinecke (nos. 294 and 392). This is a rather remarkable extension of range. It is not at all improbable that the Samoan species will in the light of further research, be found distinct from the Philippine species.
Dendrobium Bullenianum is by no means a common orchid. With the exception of a cultivated specimen, lacking definite data, and the specimens in Reichenbach's herbarium I have only seen the following collections of Philippine origin.
