

# **SYNOPSIS OF THE VERNACULAR NAMES AND THE ECONOMIC USE OF THE INDIGENOUS ORCHIDS OF JAVA**

by

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The Netherlands' Indies are part of those humid tropical regions where innumerable species of orchids either may hang down, sometimes in large numbers, from the trunks and branches of trees and shrubs or grow terrestrially in woods or elsewhere. Nevertheless, to every naturalist who takes the trouble of ascertaining the attitude of the native population towards the orchid-family, it at once becomes clear that up to this very moment most of these plants have only succeeded in obtaining a very modest place in the domestic life and even in the interest of the natives. The beauty of the flowers of so very many species seems never or hardly at all to have been observed by them. This is so much the more noteworthy because in other cases the native has usually invented a name, if not a use, for most plants in his surroundings, even for the rarest and most unimportant ones. As regards orchids this has never happened. These plants seem never to have played any part in religious ceremonies and in the numerous myths they are mentioned at best by a few words. On none of the old monuments they are immortalized; even on ornaments of a later date one usually seeks in vain for these plants or their flowers. How is this aloofness of the natives towards such an important part of the flora of their country to be accounted for? Orchids never were of much use either in domestic life or in the domain of medicinal science. Only with the arrival of the Europeans or, more correctly speaking, not before a very short time ago, some interest for orchids was raised with the natives. But this took, practically, only place in imitation of the foreigner, especially when the natives began to see that money was to be made in the orchid-trade. Here and there this unnatural predilection has already lead to consequences of alarming dimensions, because it has not rarely effected the complete or partial

extermination of valuable species in regions where formerly they grew copiously. Nevertheless a change in the native denomination of orchids can hardly be observed. All these plants are simply called *Anggrèk* or *Angkrèk* and, as a rule, it is not deemed necessary to add a specific name. Only very few orchids can really boast of such a name; most of them remain anonymous. The names *Angkrèk panèli* and *Angkrèk lotjis*, *Spatulotjis* or *Spatuklotis* are mere corruptions of *Vanilla* and *Spathoglottis*. *Angkrèk bulan* (*Phalaenopsis amabilis*) and *Anggrèk matjan* (*Vanda tricolor*), though both composed of genuinely native words, do not seem to be quite original, though this case is not identical with the two former ones; these names seem only translations of the Dutch names *Maan-orchidee* (*Moon-orchid*) and *Tijger-orchidee* (*Tiger-orchid*). Yet some specific denominations exist, as a rule with some unimportant addition to the word *Anggrèk* or *Angkrèk*, e.g. *běněr* (*bětul*) = true; *beureum* (*mèrah*) = red; *bodas* (*putih*) = white; *konèng* (*kuning*) = yellow; *gědè* (*běsar*) = big; *leutik* (*kětjil*) = small, and such-like which, as a matter of fact, have little to do with the notion of species. Very often they only seem to have been invented by plant-collectors wishing to content troublesome interrogators by some plausible answer. Finally there exist some poetic names, for the greater part of very recent date, of which it is likewise difficult to ascertain whether they are really true ones or came into existence by European influences. From the foregoing, in my opinion, it sufficiently appears that the natives hardly knew how to distinguish plants of this group which, in our eyes, is so very interesting. Once more, how is this fact to be accounted for? He who knows better is, of course, free to say so, but to me this enigmatical aloofness of the natives towards orchids seems to prove that these plants do not interest him in any way. The same case presents itself with most Europeans as regards funguses, mosses, algae a.s.o., groups of plants growing in our immediate environment, unsurveyable to many, which seem not to stir our imagination. I cannot find any other explanation of the fact.

Notwithstanding what I have said herebefore it may be of interest to shortly discuss which value part at least of the native population of Java sets to orchids, not exclusively regarding the very small economic worth of a few ones but especially with a view to the denomination of the diverse species. Most of the popular names mentioned beneath have proved to be of recent date. Hence they are not yet universally used; often they are of local value only; sometimes they were invented by cunning plant collectors for the benefit of their employers. Nevertheless

they are worthy of being registered, with discrimination of course and spelled in the right way. By doing so we may in future attain a better surveyable and more reliable denomination of orchids than could be made now. Everyone who is acquainted with the love felt by the natives for nature and with their extensive knowledge of the multitude of forms shown by the flora of their surroundings, knows quite well how important it is, and will ever be, to judiciously exchange thoughts with them. The native likes to hoax those who do not understand him and it leaves him quite cool whether by his conduct the European thinks to have found one reason more of storming furiously against the traditional irreliability of native information about plants and plant-names. He has had to swallow severer reproaches than the annihilating opinion of incompetent persons. The fault does not lie exclusively with the natives nor entirely with the Europeans but is caused by the lack of a universally acknowledged classification of the popular names in existence. My treatise aims at contributing my mite to a correct valuation of the notions of both parties. Therefore, let us not begin with stumbling over the numerous brand-new plant-names met with at present everywhere but let us express the hope that, once sifted, they will prove useful enough to enable one to find his way in the Indian flora. Wherefore should we hesitate to register names unknown up to now, because they are not yet generally used throughout the island? If ever, then now surely the time has come to take a broad view of this matter, now that the interest shown for orchids by the different races of the population is rapidly increasing, though modern fashion may play a great part in pushing it forward.

The general name for *Orchid* in Java is *Anggrèk* in Javanese and Malay, *Angkrèk* in Sundanese. Doubtless these words are of Javanese origin; they seem to be composed of "anggèr" and "èrèk" or of "anggèr" and "rèka". "Anggèr" is Javanese for "child, boy, girl". In the first case, that of "anggèr-èrèk" the suffix "èrèk" means "to stand, sit or hang around something", so that the compound name may be translated by "surrounding children". In the second name, "anggèr-rèka", the last half of the compound is the Javanese word "rèkâ" (Scr. rêkhâ; Sund. rèka) meaning "to resemble, to imitate, to have the shape of", so that the compound is to be rendered by "resembling children, illegitimate children". Though both compounds have about the same meaning, in my opinion the first one "surrounding or attached children" should be preferred. One only has to represent to oneself the supporting tree as

a mother (if need be, as a stepmother) carrying her "child(ren)" in a "slëndang" or shoulder scarf.

Notwithstanding the undoubtedly Javanese origin of the native family-name the Sundanese does not speak of *Anggrèk* but of *Angkrèk*. It does not at all seem unnecessary to stress this fact, as repeatedly the word "anggrèk" is wrongly given as part of a Sundanese name. The case might be compared to so many other ineradicable mistakes of the Europeans; they simply copy one another without knowing whether they act correctly. For instance, in several publications the letter h is added to most native words ending, as matter of fact, in a vowel, e.g. bolèh for bolè, gèdèh for gèdè or gèdé, kondèh for kondè or kondé, nèh for nè, *Parèh* for *Parè*, *Nipah* for *Nipa*, tabèh for tabè, a.s.o. When people will get wiser?

The principal compilation in which a succinet survey is given of the use of a small number of orchids in the native household is K. HEYNE, *De Nuttige Planten van Nederlandsch-Indië* (Economic Plants of the Netherlands Indies), 2nd Ed. (1927), 508—513. Though also here the harvest is a poor one, as a matter of fact, hardly more can be said on the subject. I might suffice with simply referring to this work if my publication did not intend to draw attention to another subject of discussion, viz. the native nomenclature of Javanese orchids. Among the numerous races of the Malay Archipelago none perhaps is more ingenious in ferreting out useful applications of plants for diverse purposes than the Sundanese is. He tastes and tries almost everything he finds in Nature. In the domain of the supply of vegetables and side-dishes for the rice-table (lalab, seupan, kuluban) he is decidedly shrewd. As regards the use of plants for medicinal purposes he finds his superior only in the Javanese dukun. Besides possessing an innate understanding of the immense richness of the plant-forms of his surroundings he takes a pleasure in designating by often sagaciously invented names the different species he thinks he has a right of distinguishing. In this respect likewise he is second to no other Malay race of the Archipelago, rather the contrary. As almost all Javanese orchids ( $\pm$  750 species), 70 perhaps excepted, occur in his native region, nobody need wonder that the greater part of the vernacular names of those orchids originated there.

Herebeneath follows an alphabetical list of a small number of species of which something, however unimportant, has been recorded.

1. *Acanthephippium javanicum* BL. *Angkrèk gègèbèngan* (Sund.)  
The Sundanese name of this terrestrial orchid, which is dispersed over

a great part of the Netherlands Indies was mentioned as early as 1859 by MIQUEL in his *Flora Indiae Batavae*. This "gègèbèngan", also simply "gèbèng" means "wattle of a bird, wattle-like, dewlap" and refers to the pendulous mentum of the flowers.

**2. *Acriopsis javanica* REINW. ex BL. *Kiplèngpěng* (Sund.).** This nice epiphyte with narrow leaves, long-peduncled inflorescence and numerous small sordidly violet flowers has a large area of distribution, from S.E. Asia over the Malay Peninsula, the Netherlands Indies to New Guinea and the Philippines. It belongs to a group of plants whose seeds are often, seemingly on purpose, dispersed by ants (i.a. *Crematogaster baduvii*) for the construction of their colonies (see also DOCTERS VAN LEEUWEN, *Mierenepiphyten* [Ant-epiphytes] in *De Tropische Natuur* XVIII, 1929, 60, 131, 133). For this purpose the crowded pseudobulbs and the densely ramified erect respiratory roots are eminently fit. As a medicinal plant this orchid is valuable to man and not only so in Java. At the foot of Mount Halimoen, near Palaboean Ratoe, the juice, expressed from the pseudobulbs is not rarely dropped into the ears as a remedy against troublesome tinnitus and ear-aches; hence the native name, which I was given also elsewhere in Priangan. The name appears to be composed of "ki", having the general meaning of "herb" or "plant" and the two verbs "plěng" (sound-imitation of singing in the ears) and "pěng" ("to rise and to fall; to go up and down"). In this respect the Sundanese apparently do not stand alone, for though RIDLEY (see also HEYNE) for Malacca only mentions that an infusion of the plant is used there against fever, the would-be name *Sakat obat kěpialu* (Mal. Malacca) only means that this orchid (*sakat*) is also adhibited as a remedy (*obat*) against violent head-aches (*kěpialu*). Elsewhere in Priangan the pounded pseudobulbs are applied to the forehead or to the epigastric region in order to cool the body during attacks of fever and of increased blood-pressure.

**3. *Aërides odoratum* LOUR.** But little can be said about this fine fragrant orchid which is especially frequent in the coastal regions. Even the Sundanese names *Angkrèk diuk* (sessile orchid) and *Angkrèk lilin* (candle-like or perhaps wax-producing orchid) convey hardly any meaning to us. The latter name is also used for another fine orchid, *Rhynchostylis retusa* (L.) BL. for which it is doubtless more suitable. The plant does not seem to possess any practical value.

**4. *Apostasia Wallichii* R. BR. *Djukut mayang kasintu, Handjuwang kasintu lalakina* (Sund.).** This terrestrial orchid has a large area of distribution, from the southern part of continental Asia to New Guinea and the Philippines. The natives do not classify it among the orchids

but, as a rule, compare it to a *Pleomele* (*Liliaceae*), the Sundanese in particular to *Pleomele flexuosa* (BL.) N. E. BR., *Handjuwang kasintu* (Sund.). An analogous case presents itself in Malacca with another species of the genus, viz. *Apostasia nuda* R. BR., for which RIDLEY (see also HEYNE) gives i.a. the Malay name *Sëndjuwang hutan*, i.e. resembling a wild or forest form of the *Handjuwang*, *Taetsia fruticosa* (L.) MERR. The name *Djukut mayang kasintu* is a compound of the three Sundanese words "djukut", grass, herb, plant; "mayang", tail-feather, often also the tail itself; finally "kasintu", name of one of the Javanese jungle-cocks, *Gallus bankiva*. The native name refers here to the linear-lanceolate leaves with long-acuminate, recurved tips.

5. **Appendicula anceps** BL. *Angkrèk buntut-londok*, *Angkrèk landung* (Sund.). The first name means "agamid-tail orchid" after the *londok* (Sund.) or *bunglon* (Mal.), *Calotes cristatellus*, KUHL, whilst the last part of the second popular name, "landung" is Sundanese for "long and flaccid, curved down, drooping, depending". Both names refer to the flaccidity of the flattened green stems of this orchid which reach a length of 30—50 cm.

6. **Arachnis Flos-aeris** (L.) RCHB. F. *Anggrèk kêtunggèng* (Jav.), *Anggrèk kêtungging* (Mal.), *Angkrèk kaladjèngking* (Sund.). This is the universally known and often cultivated *Schorpioen-orchidee* (*Scorpion-orchid*), which grows wild in the plains and the lower mountainous regions. At present it has become difficult to decide whether the native name is a translation of the Dutch one or the reverse. The native name, however, was already mentioned by MIQUEL (1859).

7. **Arundina speciosa** BL. *Anggrèk bamboo* (Mal.), *Handjuwang sapu* (Sund.). One of the commonest terrestrial orchids of Java, growing wild in the plains and the lower mountainous regions especially on little weathered soils. It is also very frequently cultivated in gardens for its fine flowers. Because of its resemblance to reed or bamboo it got the Malay name of *Anggrèk bamboo* (*Bamboo-orchid*) and on account of its faint resemblance to a narrow-leaved *Pleomele* (*Liliaceae*) that. of *Handjuwang sapu* (*Broom-like Pleomele*).

8. **Bulbophyllum Binnendijkii** J. J. S. *Angkrèk gèbang* (Sund.). A large-leaved orchid creeping over the ground and against tree-trunks, with splendid spotted flowers, which, after sunset, spread an odour of carrion. In many respects it reminds of *Bulbophyllum Pahudii* (DE VR.) RCHB. F. from which it is indistinguishable in a sterile state and which bears the same popular name. This name refers to the leaves which, for an orchid, are of an uncommonly large size, and not, as one might suppose, to a

resemblance of the leaves to those of the fan-palm *Gëbang*, *Corypha Utan* LAM., for such a resemblance does not exist. Such-like comparisons which, in our ideas, are absurd, are often met with in native nomenclature.

9. *Bulbophyllum cernuum* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk kuku* (Sund.) An epiphytic orchid known only from West-Java, with elegant bright orange-coloured flowers. Its inexpressive popular name, meaning *finger-nail orchid* alludes to the long sepals, reminding of the finger-nails of the Chinese. There exists a form of this species with smaller pale or pale red striate flowers, distinguished as var. *vittatum* (TEYSM. et BINNEND.) J. J. S.

10. *Bulbophyllum mutabile* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk kikandël* (Sund.). A small creeping or often depending epiphyte with minute inconspicuous yellow flowers. The plants sometimes densely cover the trunk and branches of the trees on which they are growing and then remind somewhat of *Kikandël* or *Thick-leaf*, *Trichosporum* spec., especially *Tr. albidum* (BL.) NEES.

11. *Calanthe veratrifolia* (WILLD.) R. BR. *Angkrèk daun tjongkok*, *Angkrèk popotjongan*, *Angkrèk tjikur* (Sund.). A rather common species, often cultivated for its fine white flowers. Though elsewhere the roots and flowers seem to be of some use for medicinal purposes such a use is apparently not or hardly ever made in Java. The leaves bear a faint resemblance to those of *Tjongkok* or *Daun tjongkok* (Sund.), *Curculigo capitulata* (LOUR.) O. KTZE. Hence the first popular name which the plant shares with *Spathoglottis plicata* BL. For an analogous reason the plant is also called *Angkrèk tjikur*, because the shape of the leaves might be compared to that of a magnified *Tjikur*, *Kaempferia Galanga* L. The name *Angkrèk popotjong* or *popotjongan* refers to the inflorescences which, at the top, bear numerous crowded white flowers and are compared, therefore, to a bunch (*potjong*) of paddy.

12. *Cheirostylis javanica* J. J. S. *Lintring mājã* (Jav.). Terrestrial orchid of Central Java where on Mount Sendoro the Javanese name for it was given to J. A. LÖRZING. The name is composed of "lintring", a ring studded with a single row of jewels and "mājã" or "mojo", "transparently clear, lovelily shining, fascinatingly beautiful". This poetic denomination doubtless refers to the broad plicate lip with short irregularly angular marginal lobes. When the lobes are studded with dew-drops they glitter in the morning-sun like small jewels.

13. *Cryptostylis javanica* J. J. S. *Angkrèk ileus* (Sund.). In the surroundings of Tjadas Malang in Priangan, where this terrestrial orchid

is common, the natives called it thus, because, in a sterile state, it reminds of an Aracea. *Ileus* (Sund.) is the native name of *Typhonium trilobatum* (L.) SCHOTT.

14. *Cymbidium ensifolium* (L.) Sw. *Angkrèk njènjèrèan* (Sund.). The Sundanese word "njèrè" designates the hard midribs of the segments of pinnate leaves of palms, such as *Cocos*, *Arenga*, *Metroxylon*. With these ribs the natives construct the well-known brooms, *sapu lidi* (Mal.) or *sapu njèrè* (Sund.), commonly used in India for chasing away mosquitoes. The name of our terrestrial orchid bears on the narrowly linear leaves.

15. *Cymbidium lancifolium* HOOK. *Ki-adjag* (Sund.). The area of distribution of this terrestrial orchid is almost as large as that of the preceding species; its leaves are not linear but lanceolate. The native name *Ki-adjag* seems to me to be as yet only locally used; nevertheless now already it is of value for distinguishing the plant from the preceding one with which it often grows together. The name *Ki-adjag* is composed of "ki", plant and "adjag", the name of the *Javanese wild dog*, *Cuon javanicus*, D. (*Canis rutilans*, MÜLL.). It is not clear why the plant was given this name.

16. *Dendrobium crumenatum* Sw. *Bunga angin* (Mal.). Though this is one of the commonest epiphytic orchids of Java there does not exist a single reliable name for it. Clearly the natives consider it sufficient to designate the plant as *Anggrèk* and *Anggrèk putih* (Mal.) or *Angkrèk* and *Angkrèk bodas* (Sund.). The name *Bunga angin*, being a compound of the two Malay words *bunga*, flower, and *angin*, wind, means wind-flower. These epiphytes make the impression of having been carried, as it were, by air-currents to the trunks and branches of the trees. HEYNE mentions some other unimportant Malay names (he does not tell where these are used), viz. *Anggrèk bawang* and *Anggrèk mërapi*. The plant shares the first of these names with *Acriopsis javanica* REINW. ex BL. and several other orchids possessing conspicuous pseudobulbs so that the name cannot be used to designate a definite species. For *Dendrobium* it has yet less value than for *Acriopsis*. And what to think of *Anggrèk mërapi* unless this name refers to Mount Mërapi in Sumatra, in which case it would be worthless for other parts of the Archipelago. According to HEYNE the juice, squeezed from the pseudobulbs, is dropped into the ears against ear-aches, not only in the Malay Peninsula (See RIDLEY), but also at Batavia.

17. *Dendrobium gemellum* LINDL. *Angkrèk dèpít*, *Angkrèk djèpít* (Sund.). Two rather unreliable vernacular names for this epiphytic



orchid. The first name might be almost taken for a free translation of the scientific specific name "gemellum", i.e. "double, in pairs, twin". The Sundanese word "dëpit" means "to press against, to clench, to be firmly united". The second name contains the Sundanese word "djëpit", i.e. "pincers". The geminate flower-buds may curve together like the two lips of a pair of pincers.

18. *Dendrobium Hasseltii* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk howè* (Sund.). This orchid with fine dark violet red flowers is spread all over Java but only in the higher mountainous regions. By orchid-dealers it is often offered for sale in the plains but even in culture the plant does not thrive beneath an altitude of 1000 m. It is not clear to which character the name *Angkrèk howè* (*Rattan-orchid*), used on the slopes of Mount Gèdè, can refer. *Hoè* or *Howè* is the Sundanese collective name for climbing rattan-palms of the genera *Calamus*, *Daemonorops*, *Plectocomia* and such-like.

19. *Dendrobium mutabile* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk beurit* (Sund.). The Sundanese suffix "beurit" has here not the usual meaning of "mouse" or "rat" but will only say that the species is a small-flowered one.

20. *Dendrobium secundum* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk lilin* (Sund.). This popular name is given to several orchids, e.g. to *Aërides odoratum* LOUR. and *Rhynchosstylis retusa* (L.) BL. In the two latter cases the specific name "lilin", i.e. "candle" if not "wax" doubtless refers to the many-flowered and somewhat sticky inflorescences. With *Dendrobium secundum*, however, I think it refers to the thick terete erect stems reminding of candles. The fine red flowers of the short dense inflorescences point all the same way for which reason the Dutch call the plant *Tandenborstel* (*tooth-brush*).

21. *Eria javanica* (Sw.) BL. *Angkrèk peupeutjangan* (Sund.) An epiphytic orchid with erect many-flowered inflorescences and fragrant flowers. The suffix "peupeutjangan", resembling a "peutjang" or "dwarf-deer" refers, in a figurative sense of course, to the flowers, which raise, with the spectator, the idea of something quick and lively like the animal after which the plant was named.

22. *Eria multiflora* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk daun awi* (Sund.) The linear-lanceolate leaves of this epiphytic remind the Sundanese of bamboo-leaves (*daun awi*).

23. *Galeola affinis* J. J. S. *Tjikal halung* (Jav.). The Javanese name of this saprophytic climbing orchid was given to the late S. H. KOORDERS in the surroundings of Gadoengan Pare in the Residency Kediri.

It is composed of the word "tjikal" i.e. "recently germinated coconut" or "young, as yet stemless cocopalms" and "lung" or "elung" i.e. "thin twig or shoot of climbing or creeping plants". The entire name, therefore, may mean "climbing or elongate and flaccid young coco-palm". According to this the globose flowers of this species are compared to small coconuts.

24. **Galeola Kuhlii** (RCHB.F.) RCHB.F. *Angkrèk tjanar* (Sund.). This singular saprophyte possesses thick, terete, reddish brown, scandent stems, several meters long, strongly reminding of young shoots of *Tjanar*, *Smilax leucophylla* BL. (*Liliaceae*), after which the plant was justly named. *Galeola altissima* (BL.) RCHB.F., though possessing less robust stems, is sometimes designated by the same native name.

25. **Goodyera colorata** BL. *Angkrèk aksara* (Sund.). Terrestrial orchid of Java and Sumatra, often cultivated as an ornamental plant for the beautiful markings of its leaves, which are light or dark reddish brown above. The white or rose-coloured reticulate veins are compared to the characters (aksara) used in writing. The same native name is given to *Anoectochilus Reinwardtii* BL., *Anoectochilus setaceus* BL. and *Macodes Petola* (BL.) LINDL.

26. **Grammatophyllum speciosum** BL. *Anggrèk tēbu* (Mal.), *Angkrèk tiwu*, *Kadaka susuru* (Sund.). Plant with a large area of distribution. It is the largest of epiphytic orchids; its robust long stems obviously reminded the natives at once of Sugar-cane, *Tēbu* (Mal.), *Tiwu* (Sund.). Hence the commonest ones of the popular names. MIQUEL [Flora Indiae Bataviae III (1859) 708], mentions moreover the now disused name *Kadaka susuru* (epiphytic *Euphorbia*) which refers to the imaginary resemblance of the stems to those of *Susuru* (*Euphorbia Tirucalli* L.). The word *Kadaka* in the compound may be taken for a collective name of diverse epiphytic ferns with large and often broad leaves, such as *Asplenium Nidus* L.

27. **Habenaria multipartita** BL. *Uwi uwi* (Jav.). This is one of the few orchids, parts of which are said to be edible. H. A. B. BÜNNEMEIJER [De Tropische Natuur VII (1918) 103], mentions that the radical tubers of this terrestrial orchid are consumed by the native population of the Dieng-plateau. To these edible tubers (uwi) the plant owes its inexpressive, even somewhat confusing name.

28. **Lepidogyne longifolia** (BL.) BL. *Kisuring*, *Angkrèk suring* (Sund.). Besides from Java this terrestrial orchid is known from the Malay Peninsula, New Guinea and the Philippines. In West-Java it has been but rarely found, perhaps less because it is really scarce than

because the green leaves and inconspicuous brownish red flowers do not catch the eye. The rather large linear-lanceolate coriaceous leaves of this robust plant slightly remind of those of many Liliaceae; nevertheless the natives prefer to see in it a kind of *Suring* or *Daun suring*, i.e. *Sorrel*, *Rumex* spec.

29. **Macodes Petola** (BL.) LINDL. *Daun aksara*, *Djaksara*, *Djukut sastra*, *Ki-aksara*, *Kidjaksara* (Sund.), *Daun patola* (Jav.). In some way or other all of these names bear on the beautiful reticulate venation of the leaves. The Javanese sees in the venation a filmy reticular texture (patola or pětola); the Sundanese compares the venation of the leaves to Javanese writing-characters ("aksara" = "character used in writing" and "sastra" = "alphabetic writing"). With this beautiful plant, by way of exception, a legend is connected, told by WALTERIDA in *De Reflector*, Weekbl. v. Ned. Indië I<sup>48</sup> (18. XI. 1916) and also by P. M. W. DAKKUS, *Orchideeën in Ned. Indië*, 2nd Ed. (1931) 11. See also BAKHUIZEN in *De Tropische Natuur* XX (1931) 236. Further, DAKKUS [*Orchideeën in Ned. Indië*, 3rd Ed. (1935) 319] says on the authority of J. J. SMITH that in former times on Friday mornings the natives sometimes dropped the juice expressed from the leaves into their eyes in order to get more profieient in the art of writing. *Se non è vero...!*

30. **Microstylis Blumei** BOERL. et J. J. S. *Angkrèk djaladri* (Sund.). This small terrestrial or sometimes hemi-epiphytic orchid, known from Java and Sumatra only, possesses greenish yellow or subglaucous flowers. It is difficult to decide whether this may have been the reason for which the somewhat too poetically inclined godfather named the plant *Angkrèk djaladri*. "Djaladri" (Scr. djaladhi) is a poetical name for "sea" or "ocean". Perhaps the Sundanese name was not rightly heard; it might be *Angkrèk tjaladi*, i.e. *woodpecker-orchid*, *Tjaladi* or *Manuk tjaladi* being the name for a kind of woodpecker. If this guess is right I do not consider it quite absurd that the native name might refer to the hemi-epiphytic mode of living of the plant, which sometimes creeps up against tree-trunks.

31. **Microstylis Junghuhnii** J. J. S. *Angkrèk tjikur* (Sund.). The native name of this terrestrial orchid is used also for *Calanthe veratrifolia* (WILLD.) R. BR., for which, however, it is less suitable than for the species mentioned here. At least *M. Junghuhnii* shows in the shape and the reddish hue of the leaves a faint resemblance to poor specimens of *Tjikur*, *Kaempferia Galanga* L.

32. **Oberonia Pumilio** REHB.F. *Angkrèk gèlèng* (Sund.). This nice, small, epiphytic orchid sometimes grows copiously on the trunks and branches of trees and shrubs. The fleshy compressed acute ensiform

brownish red leaves remind of shreds or of chips or of the fingers of a hand. In one of these meanings, at least, the Sundanese word "gëlëng" or "këlëng" should be taken.

33. *Phajus callosus* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk lëmah* (Sund.). This native name, if really it is one, only says that the plant is a terrestrial orchid. The Sundanese word "lëmah" means soil.

34. *Phajus Tankervilleae* (L'HÉRIT.) BL. *Angkrèk apuj* (Sund.). The native name of this big terrestrial orchid means *Fire-orchid*, for the Sundanese word "apuj" is a synonym of the likewise Sundanese word "seuneu", i.e. fire. Doubtless the name refers to the dark red or rufous brown colour of the inner side of the sepals and petals and to the dark red colour of the spout-like projecting lip, by which characters, aided by some imagination, the robust long-stalked inflorescences with their usually numerous, very large flowers remind of flaming torches.

35. *Phalaenopsis amabilis* (L.) BL. *Angkrèk bulan* (Sund.). *Anggrèk bulan* (Mal.). Epiphyte, in former times growing copiously in many parts of Java but at present almost exterminated by the numberless orchid-gatherers and orchid-dealers. It owes, of course, its specific name, "bulan", i.e. "moon", to the large white flowers which, even in bright evenings, distinctly stand out against the dark back-ground. Sometimes the plant goes by the little recommendable name of *Angkrèk bintang* (Sund.), i.e. *Star-orchid*. MIQUEL [Flora Ind. Bat. III (1859) 690] mentions the native name *Tapak djalak*, which at present, is fallen into disuse for this plant, but is generally given to *Helminthostachys zeylanica* (L.) Hook. (*Ophioglossaceae*). Yet it was not badly chosen for this orchid; doubtless it was more original than *Angkrèk bulan*. Though *Djalak*, *Sturnopastor Djalla*, HORSF. is also a bird-name and though "tapak djalak" might be as well translated with "starling-tracks", the word, as a rule, means the cross put by illiterate people under documents instead of the signature. In former times, however, the name "tapak djalak" was likewise given to the cross ("tjakra" Sund.) made with chalk above the doorpost or on a style of a house or a stable, sometimes also on one's neck across the larynx in order to ward off evil spirits and maladies from people and cattle. About the middle of the last century the fine white flowers of *Phalaenopsis amabilis* were apparently compared to such charm-crosses.

36. *Podochilus serpyllifolius* (BL.) LINDL. *Angkrèk lukut* (Sund.). This fine much branched epiphytic orchid may cover in large numbers the trunks and branches of trees. By its small leaves it reminds somewhat of some mosses (*Lukut*). Hence the native name.

37. *Rhynchosyilis retusa* (L.) BL. *Angkrèk lilin* (Sund.), *Anggrèk lilin* (Mal.). The plant shares these two popular names with *Aërides odoratum* LOUR. But doubtless the names are more suitable for *Rhynchosyilis*, because the pendulous terete dense light coloured or whitish inflorescences, seen from a distance, remind somewhat of candles (lilin).

38. *Saccolabium odoratissimum* J. J. S. *Angkrèk gèwor* (Sund.). This small fragrant orchid possesses dependent linear acute leaves bearing some resemblance to young plants of *Gèwor* (Sund.), *Aneilema malabaricum* (L.) MERR. Hence the native name.

39. *Spathoglottis plicata* BL. *Angkrèk daun tjongkok*, *Angkrèk tjongkok* (Sund.), *Antël-antëlan*, *Djangkuwang* (Jav.). This common plant with fine flowers of various colours (for which reason it is often cultivated for ornamental purposes) possesses in Sundanese partly the same names as *Calanthe veratrifolia* (WILLD.) R. BR. The leaves of *Spathoglottis*, however, show a much closer resemblance to those of *Curculigo capitulata* (LOUR.) O. KTZE than the leaves of *Calanthe* do. I have not been able to ferret out what the meaning may be of the two Javanese popular names mentioned by HEYNE. The first name, *Antël-antëlan*, has a strong Sundanese "flavour". At least, in this language there exists a word "antël" for "to touch each other, to dash against each other". Taken in this sense, the name "antël-antëlan" might be rendered by "to be continually dashed against each other", which might be said of the flowers when these are shaken by the wind. And whoever can decide whether the name *Djangkuwang* is not a synonym of the Sundanese *Tjankuwang*, *Pandanus furcatus* ROXB.? As regards the use made of the plant, its plicate leaves are used, like those of *Curculigo* species for wrapping up diverse market-products and eatables such as fresh or dried fish, sirih-chalk, tarasi, red pepper, rice, tubers, a.s.o. A yellow salve, occasionally used instead of bédak, to rub children with, is sometimes made of the powdery seeds by moistening them with water.

40. *Spiranthes sinensis* (PERS.) AMES. *Angkrèk hindësan*, *Djukut hindësan* (Sund.). A modest terrestrial orchid, conspicuous by its spirally twisted spikes. To this character the plant owes its native name. "Hindësan" is a kind of hand-mill or wool-comb used to free kapok or cotton from the adhering seeds.

41. *Tainia elongata* J. J. S. *Angkrèk malati* (Sund.). Called thus after the supposed resemblance of the flowers to those of *Malati*, *Jasminum Sambac* ART., to which, however, the plant bears no resemblance, neither by the shape of its flowers nor by their colour, not even by

their (somewhat unpleasant) smell. The name *Angkrèk malati* is also mentioned for *Malleola Witteana* (RCHB.F.) J. J. S. et SCHLTR, but in this case because the flowers are really very fragrant.

42. *Thrixspermum acutilobum* J. J. S. *Angkrèk tjukè* (Sund.). "Tjukè" is the name for the tax levied from the paddy-crop. I cannot explain the connection of this name with the plant or its flowers. .

43. *Vanda tricolor* LINDL. *Angkrèk pandan* (Sund.), *Anggrèk matjan* (Mal.). By its habit and by its linear coriaceous recurved leaves this plant slightly reminds of a *Pandan*, *Pandanus* spec. The name *Anggrèk matjan* or *Tiger-orchid* alludes, of course, to the spotted flowers.