

Collectanea Botanica ;

OR,

FIGURES

AND

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

OF RARE AND CURIOUS

EXOTIC PLANTS.

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London :

PRINTED BY RICHARD AND ARTHUR TAYLOR, SHOE-LANE.

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1821.

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE.

NAT. ORD. Cyripedeæ, Nob.

LINN. SYST. Gynandria Diandria.

CYPRIPEDIUM, L. Labellum ventricosum inflatum (nunc saccatum). Columna posticè terminata lobo petaloideo (stamine sterili) antheras distinguente. Petala duo antica sæpius connata. *Br. in Hort. Kew.*

Cyripedium acaule, foliis cartilagineis ligulatis scapo piloso dimidio brevioribus, perianthii laciniâ superiore fornicatâ emarginatâ: lateralibus obovatis subundulatis obtusis extûs pubescentibus; inferiore labello venoso basi inflexo paulò longiore.

Cyripedium insigne. *Wallich MSS.*

DESCR. Radices fibrosæ, pilosæ, fasciculatæ. Folia radicalia, disticha, ligulata, cartilaginea; subnervia, scapo dimidio breviora. Scapus uniflorus, rectus, teres, pilosus, atropurpureus. Spatha anceps, falcata, semifissa, paulò plicata, apice emarginata, viridis, glabra, basi purpureo maculata. Ovarium purpureum, pilosum, sulcatum, sessile, rectum, costâ dorsali maximâ, incurvum, spathæ rudimento anticè supposito. Perianthium tetraphyllum, patens: laciniarum exteriorum superiorè latè obovatâ, fornicatâ, nervosâ, viridi, intûs glabrâ, purpureo maculatâ; apice albâ cymbiformi, emarginatâ; inferiore concavâ, ovatâ, labello longiore eique suppositâ, pallidè viridi, intûs ad nervos baseos parcè purpureo maculatâ; interioribus extûs pubescentibus, intûs glabris, horizontalibus, obovato-lanceolatis; undulatis, nervosis, purpurascens, basi pilis purpureis hirsutis. Labellum dependens, calceiforme, viridescens, rotundatum, apicem versus purpurascens, extûs glabrum, intûs pilis purpureis obsitum, medio cordatum, marginibus luteis inflexis. Columna directione labelli, lutea, purpureo-pilosa: anthera sterilis maxima, scutata, cuneata, dorso unicallosa, anticè per axin cristata, superficie foveolatâ, super gynizum et antheras fertiles incumbens; antheræ fertiles ad basin internam steriles sitæ, biloculares: loculis subparallelis, apice confluentibus; filamenta obesa, pilosa. Pollen udum, tenax, velut mel semi-coagulatum, è granulis parvis, sphericis, distinctis, et materie viscidâ compositum. Gynizum inter antheras pedicellatus, porrectus, rhomboideus, glaber, nervo basin versus furcato.

We received this very beautiful species of *Cyripedium* in November last from Mr. Cattley, to whom it had been transmitted in flower from the Botanic Garden, Liverpool, by Mr. Shepherd, the worthy curator of that institution.

It is obviously a near relative of *Cyripedium venustum*, and is said to be a native of the same country as that plant. It was sent by Dr. Wallich to England with the name we have assigned it, and probably has never flowered before in Europe.

We remember formerly to have seen specimens, very similar to this, of a plant which had been brought from Java by Dr. Horsfield. Possibly it may prove a distinct species; thus adding a third at least to the curious section of *Cyripedium*, of which the present subject forms a part; a section which, as far as we have been able to discover, possesses no artificial character in the fructification by which it can be pronounced a distinct genus, but which nevertheless is so different from that which includes the species natives of more temperate latitudes, that we find ourselves almost compelled to question the universal application of the principle which excludes habit and foliage from the essential parts of generic distinctions. In the present instance we have three plants, probably all very different from each other as species, natives of the same quarter of the globe, with a considerable general similarity in appearance, necessarily, from the absence of certain technical differences assumed to be essential to the goodness of a genus, crowded among others with which the most careless observer would not only not be likely to confound them, but from which he would readily and immediately distinguish them. We confess this is one of those difficulties we do not at present feel competent to solve.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

1. A section of the Labellum. 2. The column seen in front. 3. The same viewed laterally. 4, 5. The anther seen in different directions.



*Cypripedium
insigne*