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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

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VOLUME IV.

MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY B. S. WILLIAMS,

AT THE

VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

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MDCCLXXXV.



J. Nugent Fitch del. et lith.

VANDA INSIGNIS.

B.S. Williams. Felt.

VANDA INSIGNIS.

[PLATE 172.]

Native of the Mountains of Timor.

Epiphytal. *Stems* suberect, leafy, throwing out thick fleshy roots below. *Leaves* distichous, evergreen, linear, recurved, channelled, bifid and obliquely incised and toothed at the apex, of a deep green colour, rigid and leathery in texture. *Peduncles* axillary, erect, green, bearing a short five to seven-flowered raceme. *Flowers* two to two and a half inches across, the pedicels white or whitish; *sepals* obovate spatulate obtuse, bright ochraceous golden or Indian yellow, nearly covered with dark brownish crimson spots and blotches, confluent towards the tips, yellowish externally; *petals* similar in form, colour, and marking; *lip* somewhat fiddle-shaped, the basal part subovate, white, with two short auricles or lateral lobes, and two low ridges on its disk, above narrowed, and then suddenly expanding into a semilunar concave limb, one inch broad, of a beautiful deep rose colour, the margin rounded and entire; *spur* compressed, obtusely conical, recurved, its mouth furnished with two rounded white lobes. *Column* short, terete, pinkish white, bent over the mouth of the spur.

VANDA INSIGNIS, *Blume, Rumphia*, iv., 49, t. 192, fig. 2, and t. 197 b; *Lindley, Folia Orchidacea*, art. Vanda, No. 7; *Id., Paxton's Flower Garden*, ii., woodcut under t. 42.

We are pleased to be able to figure this beautiful and distinct *Vanda*, which has been very rare for many years. We are glad, however, to find that some good importations have been received within the last few years, and this will bring it within the reach of all who are fond of these plants. This species does not make such fine specimens as *V. suavis* and *V. tricolor*, but is very compact-growing, and takes many years to grow into a specimen. It has, however, its good qualities, as it flowers in a small state, and takes up comparatively little room. For the specimen here represented we are indebted to E. Wright, Esq., Gravelly Hill, Shepherds' Green, Birmingham, who has flowered it in great perfection. Mr. Hodges, the gardener, has been growing Orchids for many years at this place, and has reared some very fine specimens.

Vanda insignis is an evergreen plant, with dark green recurved foliage, spread out in two ranks, and growing about ten inches in length. The flower-spikes proceed from the axils of the leaves, and are also about ten inches in length, erect, with an average of six flowers in a raceme; the sepals and petals are tawny yellow,

spotted with light brown, the lip large, much incurved, with a concave front lobe of a light rosy purple colour. It blooms during the summer and autumn months, and lasts several weeks in beauty.

This *Vanda* requires the same temperature as the other eastern species, that is, the heat of the East India house. With us it does well in a basket, suspended from the roof, where it gets plenty of light, but is shaded from the hottest sun. We find sphagnum moss and good drainage to suit it well, but it requires very little material about its roots, and a few lumps of charcoal intermixed with the moss prove to be a great inducement for it to put forth new roots more freely, as they seem to enjoy it; the moss must be fresh and in a living state, indeed, the material must never be allowed to get into a bad or sour soddened condition, which is a great deterrent to all Orchids as well as other plants. Cleanliness is one of the greatest virtues in plant culture. This plant requires a moderate supply of water in the growing season, and even when at rest the moss must be kept rather moist. It will thrive also on a block of wood or a raft, but when growing on these it requires more moisture, which is best applied by syringing every fine day, or twice a day in summer, in order that the blocks may never get too dry.

CYPRIPEDIUM GODEFROYÆ.—This distinct novelty has recently flowered with Baron de Rothschild, at Ferrières, France, and with W. Lee, Esq., Downside, Leatherhead. Mr. Bergman, gardener to Baron de Rothschild, was kind enough to send us materials for figuring the plant, which we hope to do shortly for the benefit of our subscribers. In habit of growth this species resembles *Cypridium niveum*, in fact the two plants, when not in blossom, are undistinguishable the one from the other; the flowers, however, though similar in shape to those of *C. niveum*, are totally distinct, being heavily spotted both on the front and back of the sepals and petals with rich purplish brown; the lip is also slightly spotted. In Mr. Lee's flower the spots towards the centre of the petals were so numerous as to form a broken line from base to tip, but in Baron de Rothschild's flower this peculiarity was not apparent. This plant was introduced from Cochin China by M. Godefroy-Lebœuf, of Argenteuil, France.—H. W.
