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THE  
ORCHID MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN. ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

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*THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.*

**VOLUME VI.**

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY B. S. WILLIAMS,

AT THE

VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

MDCCCLXXXVII.



J. Nugent Fitch del. et lith.

ONCIDIUM STELLIGERUM ERNESTI.

B.S. Williams I.

# ONCIDIUM STELLIGERUM ERNESTI.

[PLATE 260.]

*Native of Mexico.*

Epiphytal. *Pseudobulbs* ovate, compressed, ribbed, two to three inches high, diphyllous, with accessory leaves from the base. *Leaves* ligulate-oblong acute, keeled behind, of a bright green. *Scape* green, produced from the base of the pseudobulb in the axil of an accessory leaf, bearing a many-flowered panicle, each flower supported by a green pedicel with a small brown ovate bract at its base. *Flowers* yellow spotted with brown, two and a half inches across, fragrant; *sepals* lanceolate acuminate, about an inch long, pale yellow heavily spotted except on the upper third with deep chestnut brown; *petals* of the same size, form and colour, the spots or blotches smaller and more numerous; *lip* sessile, three-lobed, the lateral lobes large, broadly rounded, venosely striate, of a brighter chrome yellow with a few crimson lines on the disk; the front lobe three-fourths of an inch broad, cordate, cuspidate, separated by a constriction just beyond the crest, light reddish brown with the margin slightly repand and gently undulated; disk bearing a crest of four raised lamellæ of a brownish crimson colour, free as well as prominent at the extremities, the two centre ones longer with a projecting ovate acute point. *Column* orange-yellow at the base, with prominent margins, the upper part bearing a pair of broad rounded pale yellow wings, the stigmatic hollow margined with a line of pale brown.

ONCIDIUM STELLIGERUM ERNESTI, *Williams MS.*

This beautiful *Oncidium stelligerum Ernesti* is a great advance on the species, which has been an inmate of our Orchid houses for some years, and appears to be closely allied to Lindley's *O. hastatum*; it is, however, distinct among this large class of Orchids. Many of the *Oncidiums* are very beautiful, especially some of the latest additions to the genus, a considerable number of which will thrive with the *Odontoglots* in a cool house, a fact which makes them more sought after, as it gives to everyone an opportunity to cultivate them.

The subject of our illustration is a most distinct and splendid variety of the *stelligerum* type, and will thrive in the cool Orchid house, or at the coolest end of the *Cattleya* house. We owe our figure, which, through our limited space, represents only a portion of the branched spike, to the kindness of R. J. Measures, Esq., Cambridge Lodge, Flodden Road, Camberwell, in whose fine collection it bloomed during the present year, and was exhibited before the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington, on July 27th, 1886, where it was awarded a First Class Certificate. It is named in honour of Mr. Measures' son, Ernest, who takes a great interest in this noble class of plants.

*Oncidium stelligerum Ernesti* is of evergreen habit, and as yet is very rare; it is a free-flowering plant, and produces its panicle of blossoms from the sides of its pseudobulbs when the growth is completed; the sepals and petals are yellowish with dark brown spots, the lip broad and of a delicate rose colour or light reddish brown. It blooms during the summer months, and lasts several weeks in flower.

This *Oncidium* is best grown in a pot with good drainage and rough fibrous peat and sphagnum moss, and requires a moderate supply of water in the growing season, and an abundance of light and air. We find the species grows well in the cool *Odontoglossum* house, at the warmest part, and we have no doubt that this variety will thrive with the same treatment as the species. It may be propagated by dividing the pseudobulbs, a young growth and two old bulbs being retained to each division, as it would not be safe to have less to support the young growth. After they are divided, place them in small pots until they are well established, and then give them larger pots as they require it; but it should be remembered that over-potting is dangerous with all kinds of Orchids.

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CYPRIPEDIUM SPICERIANUM.—We have received from C. Walker, Esq., Brettagh Holt, Milnthorpe, Westmoreland, some fine flowers of *Cypripedium Spicerianum*, of which one spike bore two blossoms of good colour and large size. Some foliage was also sent with the flowers, which shows good cultivation, being fourteen inches in length, one and a half in width, and of a fine dark glossy green colour. The flowers were sent to us for illustration, but we have already figured this species in our third volume, Plate 119. We, however, have now the pleasure to record the treatment by means of which Mr. Walker's gardener, Mr. McGregor, is enabled to secure such success in their cultivation. He writes:—"We have about forty plants in four-inch pots and pans up to eighteen inches, and these plants bore one hundred and thirty flowers open at one time, with many buds to follow, the flowers being similar to those enclosed; we have six scapes with two flowers on each. We grow them all in the East India house, and keep them very wet all the year round, and, under this treatment, the foliage gets longer each year. We have sent you two leaves as samples." As Mr. Walker observes: "It is one of the finest *Cypripediums* in cultivation, and one that everybody admires." There is no doubt that Mr. Walker's plants have thorough drainage beneath a good open material so that the water passes through it readily. We have found this *Cypripedium* to require a great deal of moisture. We syringe our plants every day in spring and summer, and find them better for it; it does the growth good, and is also useful in keeping down the thrips, which *Cypripediums* are subject to. We have described Mr. Walker's treatment, but that might not suit in every locality, as a great deal depends upon the situation and construction of the houses. Hence it is most important in Orchid culture that locality and situation should be made a study. Our advice, therefore, would be:—Try the above treatment at first in a small way for two years, and, if it answers, then continue it.—B. S. W.