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

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ONCIDIUM PHYMATOCHILUM

# ONCIDIUM PHYMATOCHILUM.

[PLATE 470.]

*Native of Brazil.*

Epiphytal. *Pseudobulbs* broadly fusiform, somewhat compressed, about five inches long, of a ferruginous hue, clothed at the base with several large sheathing scales, and bearing upon the apex a single large leaf, which is obovate, lanceolate, about a foot in length, and some three inches in breadth, striated on the upper side, strongly veined beneath. *Scape* erect, rising from the base of the pseudobulb, paniculate and many-flowered. *Sepals* and *petals* nearly equal, slightly twisted, linear acuminate, greenish yellow, spotted and dotted with deep orange-red, dull brown on the reverse side; *lip* shorter than the sepals, trowel-shaped, the side lobes small, forming rounded ear-like protuberances, the front lobe white, with a reflexed acuminate point, crest triangular, bearing many teeth, tubercles yellow, dotted with orange.

ONCIDIUM PHYMATOCHILUM, *Lindley, Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1848, p. 139. *Paxton's Flower Garden*, p. 78, t. 18. *Lindley, Folia Orchidacea*, 191, p. 54. *Pescatorea*, t. 35. *Botanical Magazine*, t. 5214. *Flore des Serres*, xxiii., t. 2465. *Williams' Orchid Grower's Manual*, 6th edition, p. 498.

The plant here figured belongs to a family which exists in large numbers throughout the length and breadth of Tropical America, as well as in the West Indian Islands, many of the kinds growing in the mountain regions, often at great elevations, along with their near relatives the *Odontoglossums*. The species which we now have under consideration was for a long time supposed to be a native of some part of Mexico, and the certainty of its habitat was not cleared up until M. Linden, of Brussels, figured it in his *Pescatorea* from a plant that had been collected in the neighbourhood of Nova Friburgo, in Brazil, by M. Pinel, and thus set at rest the dispute. It is a very elegant and distinct kind, and the present figure was drawn by Miss G. Hamilton from a plant which flowered in the spring of the present year in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, and it well represents the species.

*Oncidium phymatochilum* is an evergreen plant of a very distinct character. It is not a new species, for it was known in our gardens about fifty years ago, but the early collectors failed to notify the spot where it had been collected. It has somewhat compressed pseudobulbs, which bear upon their apex a single leathery leaf, which is a foot or more in length, and three inches in breadth. The scape is erect, arching, several feet in length, paniculate, and the flowers are numerous, the sepals and petals being nearly equal, linear, reflexed, pale greenish yellow, spotted on the face with deep orange-red. The lip is white, spotted with red, and having at the

base a yellow crest. The plant has been termed a hard one to cultivate successfully for any length of time, and we think perhaps this has been from the want of having it well drained, for we do not think it likes much soil about its roots, neither does it thrive if any water is allowed to lie about it. For this reason we must say that we have seen this plant doing best upon a block of wood, although we have grown it for years under pot culture, using for it somewhat small pots, well drained, and for soil, good upland peat fibre mixed with chopped sphagnum moss. It thrives in the cool end of the Cattleya house, with a nice moist atmosphere when growing, but we cannot say that we have found it to like watering overhead from the syringe. The sunshine is quite genial to it when not too strong, but at these times a thin shade should always be in readiness to put over it. When growing, water may be freely given, provided the drainage is kept in good open order, so that it can quickly percolate away. In the resting season, although much less moisture is necessary to its well-being, the surroundings must never be allowed to become dry enough to shrivel the bulbs, for it is a very bad plant to recover and to bring again into good health if allowed to shrivel up through over drying. If grown upon wood, it requires extra care to bring it safely through the resting season.

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A GIGANTIC CATTLEYA (*Cattleya gigas Sanderiana*).—This is a grand form which we received from Mr. Holmes, gardener to G. Hardy, Esq., Pickering Lodge, Timperley, Cheshire. It measured ten inches across the petals, which were prettily frilled, the lip being some four inches long and three inches broad, and of an intense rich velvety crimson, with two large yellow eye-like spots beside the throat. The sepals and petals were of a rich rosy purple. It is the largest Cattleya that has ever come under our notice.—W. H. G.

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CYPRIPEDIUM CALLOSUM SANDERÆ.—This is a superb novelty now flowering with R. H. Measures, Esq., The Woodlands, Streatham, in his rich collection of these Slipper Orchids. It is a very graceful flower, its depressed petals giving it a very elegant and distinct appearance; these, as well as the large dorsal sepal, are pure white, having the veins of a bright green. It is very singular that so many of our good Orchids develop these albino forms, which are highly appreciated by the owner of this grand collection of Cypripediums.—W. H. G.

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