

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

OF

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS. Plate 498

CONDUCTED BY

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AERIDES QUINQUEVULNERUM. [PLATE 495]

Native of the Philippine Islands.

Epiphytal. More compact in growth than any other of this genus. Stem erect, and bearing distichous light green leaves, from nine to fifteen inches in length, and from one-and-a-half to two inches in width, of a thick leathery texture, complicated at the base, and with the apex unequally bi-lobed. Racemes pendent, longer than the leaves, and many-flowered. Peduncles white, flowers sweetly scented, usually about an inch across. Dorsal sepal and petals nearly equal, oblong-obtuse, the two lateral sepals being much broader; all are very similar in colour, being French-white, with a few rosy purple spots and a heavy deep crimsonpurple blotch at the end of each; lip three-lobed, cucullate, incurved into a hornlike spur of a greenish colour at the end, side lobes erect, white, flushed with rose, slightly spotted with rosy purple spots, and in the centre a deep crimsonpurple blotch. Column creamy white.

AËRIDES QUINQUEVULNERUM, Lindley, Sertum Orchidaceum, t. 30. Paxton's Magazine of Botany, vii., 241. Jennings' Orchids, t. 30. Lindenia, iv., t. 150. Williams' Orchid Grower's Manual, 7th ed., p. 89. AERIDES JUCUNDUM, Reichenbach fil, ex. Morren, Belgique Horticole, 1876, p. 289. AËRIDES FENZLIANUM, Reichenbach fil.

This fine species was discovered by the celebrated traveller, Hugh Cumming, whilst collecting in the Philippines for Messrs. Loddiges, of Hackney, in whose nurseries it flowered as far back as the year 1837, and who in their time have flowered and introduced a great many new species and varieties, being quite enthusiastic Orchidologists. It is a plant that is found upon the stems and branches of trees in the hot, moist valleys of the Island of Luzon, and it requires a similar atmosphere to be maintained under cultivation. Its name applies to the very bright colours that are developed upon the tips of the sepals and petals, and which add materially to its beauty. Aërides quinquevulnerum blooms about the months of July and August, and it continues in flower a long time if not sprinkled with water from the syringe. The variety here portrayed was taken from a fine specimen that flowered in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries in August of last year (1893), and which is a finely-spotted form. This species is a splendid free-blooming kind, and although not a new one, well deserves to be in every establishment where a collection of Orchids are grown. When in bloom it often lasts for several weeks in perfection, and makes a fine specimen foliage plant even when not in flower, resembling very much the family of Angraecums, Saccolabiums, and Vandas. The flowers are produced on long drooping racemes from the axils of the leaves, and are not only exceedingly beautiful, but are also deliciously fragrant, filling the whole house with a delicate perfume. The sepals and petals are of a French-white, spotted with small rosy purple spots, and at the end of each is a deep blotch of crimson-purple colour. The lip is of a curious form, resembling a horn-shaped spur, greenish at the end, with a crimson-purple blotch in the centre, and also faintly spotted with rosy purple. The leaves are very thick and leathery, distichously arranged, and are very elegant and curving. A distinct character of this species is the complicate or pinched-up manner in which the leaves grow at the base, making it quite distinct from any other. Aërides quinquevulnerum is of easy culture, and enjoys an abundant supply of heat and moisture, especially during the growing season. At this time a temperature of about 70° or 80° Fahr. will suit it admirably, but it must be shaded from the sun's rays. When resting, which is from about November to March, the temperature should be slightly less, with plenty of moisture about their roots, excepting in dull weather, when too much should not be given. They produce thick fleshy roots, and can be grown either in baskets or pots, the former being preferred by many growers. The best soil for them is sphagnum moss, and care must be taken to have the drainage well seen to, even more so than in many other Orchids, the pots or baskets requiring to be about three parts filled with potsherds. As many of the roots proceed from the upper part of the stems, and consequently remain in mid-air, an abundant supply of moisture in the atmosphere is very necessary.

CYPRIPEDIUM HYBRIDUM GOWERIANUM.—This is a bold and massive flower, and at the same time combining size and beauty in one, as may be imagined would be the result of a cross between two such grand species as its parents, namely, *Cypripedium Lawrenceanum* \times *C. Curtisii.*

The whole flower is large and equally well proportioned, having a grand dorsal sepal, in shape similar to *C. Lawrenceanum*, white, striped with long and short veins of purplish brown, and heavily flushed with crimson almost to the apex. The petals are more deflexed than in the preceding-mentioned parent, green and purplish brown, and studded with several blackish wart-like spots on each. The lip is large and helmet shaped, and similar in form and colour to a good variety of *C. Curtisii*. The leaves are oval-oblong, about nine inches in length, and tesselated yellowish green, and deep green on the upper surface, the plant producing its bloom on a stout erect stem. This magnificent hybrid was exhibited by Messrs. F. Sander and Co. at the great Temple Show, and who are also the raisers of this variety.—W. H. G.