

Rare Book
at
.06168
1805
V. 4

THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

ROBERT WARNER, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.,
AUTHOR OF SELECT ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

AND

BENJAMIN SAMUEL WILLIAMS, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.,
AUTHOR OF THE ORCHID GROWERS' MANUAL, ETC.

THE BOTANICAL DESCRIPTIONS BY THOMAS MOORE, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.,
CURATOR OF THE CHELSEA BOTANIC GARDEN.

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

VOLUME IV.

MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY B. S. WILLIAMS,

AT THE

VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

MDCCLXXXV.



J. Nugent Fitch del et lith.

CYPRIPEDIUM GODEFROYÆ.

ES. Williams Fide

CYPRIPEDIUM GODEFROYÆ.

[PLATE 177.]

Native of Cochin China.

Epiphytal or sub-terrestrial. Acaulescent, tufted. *Leaves* distichous, spreading horizontally, ligulate, bluntly acute or emarginate, channelled along the centre, about four inches long, dark green, with irregular blotches of pale green over the upper surface, purplish red beneath, the equitant base greenish, spotted with purple on the outer side. *Peduncle* densely hairy, green, spotted with dark purple dots; *bract* ovate, half the length of the ovary, with a much smaller one opposite to it, both bracts and ovary densely clothed with short white partially deflexed hairs, the bracts and ovary green, the former marked with blotchy purple spots, the latter with smaller purple dots. *Flowers* bluntly triangular in outline, very distinct in character, three inches across the petals; *dorsal sepal* nearly circular, somewhat concave, creamy white with broken longitudinal veins in the central portion, the two sides plain, but appearing blotched from the whole back surface being marked with irregular lines and patches of dark purple, hairy on the outer side, especially near the edges and rib; the lateral united *sepals* smaller, ovate, similarly marked outside; *petals* deflexed, roundish oblong, spreading, flat, ciliate, white, with dark purple spots dispersed in broken and not very regular lines, but fairly covering the surface; *lip* or pouch barely an inch long, ovate, rounded at the end, white, marked over with finer dots or points of dark purple, with similar markings on the inner side and the basal auricles, the infolded part produced downwards into an ovate point spotted like the other parts. *Staminode* medium-sized, heart-shaped, with a dorsal furrow and a central depression stained with yellow, the rest being white spotted with dark purple.

CYPRIPEDIUM GODEFROYÆ, *Godefroy-Lebœuf, Orchidophile*, t. 830, with fig.; *Id.*, 1884, 362, with icon. fotogr.; *Florist and Pomologist*, 1884, 37, with fig.; *Veitch, Catalogue*, 1884, 18, with fig.; *Garden*, xxv. 396, with fig.; *Williams, Orchid Growers' Manual*, 6 ed., 245.

This charming introduction will be appreciated by all admirers of this singular and now numerous group of Orchids, many of whom will no doubt be glad to add it to their collections. It is one of the most beautiful of the spotted forms, and will be most useful for crossing with other kinds, for if some good spotted hybrids can be produced they will be a great acquisition. We already have some spotted forms in *Cypripedium concolor*, and the charming *C. niveum*, but in our present subject the flowers are much more freely and beautifully marked, while the plant itself is of dwarf habit, like the two species just referred to. We are indebted to M. Godefroy-Lebœuf, of Argenteuil, France, for the introduction of this charming species, which he has named in compliment to his wife.

The example from which our drawing was taken is growing in the fine collection of Baron de Rothschild, Ferrières, France, to whose kindness in permitting us to make use of it we owe our sincere thanks. We have subsequently seen a plant in the collection of W. Lee, Esq., of Downside, Leatherhead, the flowers of which differed somewhat in their markings from those of Baron de Rothschild's plant. Thus the spots towards the centre of the petals in Mr. Lee's flowers were so numerous as to form a broken line of a rich purplish brown colour, from the base to the tip. This species, like most others, may be expected to differ in varieties in the case of individual plants, but both those we have seen were very lovely. They are also very rare, as there have been but few plants imported alive from Cochin China, a country from which we have of late received some beautiful additions to our Orchid groups.

Cypripedium Godefroyæ is a dwarf evergreen species, with spreading dark green distichous foliage spotted with a lighter green, and growing some five or six inches in length. The flower-stalk proceeds from the centre of the young shoots, and is about five inches in height when the growth is completed. The sepals and petals are very broad, white, heavily spotted both on the front and back with rich purplish brown; the lip is white, more lightly spotted with brown. It blooms during October and November, and lasts several weeks in beauty.

This *Cypripedium* requires the same kind of treatment as *C. niveum*. Mr. Bergman, gardener to Baron de Rothschild, has been very successful with it, as well as with other Orchids which he has under his charge. There are some most wonderful specimens at Ferrières, which we have reported on in the *Album* at various times after visiting this place. The most successful way to grow this *Cypripedium* is to place it in a well-drained pot, the material for potting consisting of rough fibrous peat and small lumps of charcoal mixed together; the plant should be elevated about two inches above the pot rim, so that the roots can run down among the material, which they delight to do, for they require a good supply of moisture in their growing season, and even when at rest the soil should be kept moist. If the plant is well elevated and drained the water will be enabled to pass off quickly, but if, on the other hand, it is allowed to stagnate in the soil, the latter will become soured, which will cause the roots to rot—a condition, we need hardly say, which is highly detrimental to the health of the plant. Indeed, these small-growing kinds require great care, so that the growths may fully develop themselves. We find them thrive best near the light. Wires should be put round the pot, that they may be suspended within a foot of the glass, in the same way as we treat *C. niveum* and *C. concolor*, which are of the same habit of growth. We grow them in the East India house, shaded from the sun.

They are propagated by dividing the plants when they begin to grow, which is after their flowering season. They should not be divided unless in vigorous health. An old growth must be left at the back of the new one which is cut off to form the new plant. After division put them in small pots in a shady place until they begin to grow, using the same material as before recommended. Insects must of necessity be kept under.