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THE
ORCHID ALBUM

CONTAINING
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.
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN. 

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CYPRIPEDIUM AMESIANUM

B.S. Williams, Publ.

CYPRIPEDIUM AMESIANUM.

[PLATE 340.]

Garden Hybrid.

Terrestrial. *Leaves* ligulate, arranged in a distichous manner, some nine inches in length, and an inch and a half in breadth, upper surface bright green, beneath slightly spotted near the base with deep purple. *Flowers* large, solitary; *dorsal sepal* ovate, white, veined and netted with green, and stained with soft brown on the lower part; *petals* similar to those of *C. villosum*, superior half chestnut-brown, inferior portion much paler; *lip* large, resembling in shape that of *C. villosum*, brown, suffused with flesh colour and green in front, the whole flower bearing that peculiar freshly varnished appearance so characteristic of *C. villosum* and its varieties.

CYPRIPEDIUM AMESIANUM, *Williams' New Plant Catalogue*, 1887, p. 22.

CYPRIPEDIUM AMESIANUM, *supra*.

This new hybrid *Cypridium* we have dedicated to The Hon. F. L. Ames, of North Easton, Massachusetts, who has one of the finest collections of Orchidaceous plants in the United States of America. This plant is the result of a cross between *C. villosum* and *C. venustum*, the beauties of the two parents being well blended, both in the foliage and flower, forming a fine acquisition to this deservedly popular genus of Orchids. It is a free-growing variety, and also produces its large flowers very freely; moreover, as this plant thrives admirably in an intermediate house, or in the warmest part of an *Odontoglossum* house, it is doubly valuable. In a low temperature we find the foliage is more robust, and the flowers are also finer and of a better colour than when grown in strong heat, so that those possessing a cool Orchid house can grow it to advantage. *C. Measuresianum* is also best grown cool, and there are several other varieties which require the same treatment, so that by selecting those kinds for hybridising that succeed in a low temperature, a race of these "Slipper Orchids" may be obtained, which will prove hardier than many we already possess, and which will produce a rich array of colour in a cool house. Our drawing was taken from a fine plant which flowered in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, and from whence the stock placed in commerce last year was obtained.

Cypridium Amesianum is a distinct and beautiful evergreen plant which grows about ten inches high; the leaves are from seven to nine inches in length, by one inch and a half in breadth, bright green, slightly spotted on the underside with deep purple. The ovate dorsal sepal is white, veined and netted with green,

and stained towards the base with soft brown; petals similar to *C. villosum*, the upper half being of a bright chestnut-brown, the lower portion much paler; lip large, resembling *C. villosum* in shape, tinged with green, and flesh colour in front, giving the flower a remarkable appearance. It blooms during the winter, and continues in perfection for two months or more.

As before remarked, this plant thrives best when grown in the Odontoglossum-house, in a temperature ranging from 45° to 50° of heat, during autumn and winter; indeed, the same temperature during the whole season as that given the Odontoglossums of the *Alexandrae (crispum)* type, with a good supply of moisture to the roots during the growing season (which is nearly all the year round), suits this plant exactly. A slight syringing overhead during the spring and summer will also be found advantageous. In order to produce strong and healthy foliage, the plant should be exposed to the full light, but it requires to be shaded from the bright sun during summer. The material we find to suit this plant is good fibrous peat and leaf-mould, adding a small quantity of turfy loam; the whole should be well incorporated, and the pots well drained before the soil is put into them. Good drainage is particularly important for Cypripediums, or the roots are very apt to decay, and without good roots it is not possible for a plant to remain in a healthy condition.

This plant is easily propagated by carefully taking off the young side shoots, but these should be rooted before they are removed from the parent plant; this operation is best performed after growth is completed, or when the plants are at rest. The young shoots should be put into small pots, and placed in a warm house until they are thoroughly rooted and well established, after which the cool house is best adapted to their requirements. These plants must be kept free from all insects, or they will become permanently disfigured.
