


Rare Book
Oct
.06168
1889
V.8

THE
ORCHID ALBUM

CONTAINING
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-Grower's Manual, &c.).

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

VOLUME VIII.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY B. S. WILLIAMS,
AT THE
VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

—
MDCCLXXXIX.



CYPRIPEDIUM WILLIAMSIANUM

CYPRIPEDIUM WILLIAMSIANUM.

[PLATE 365.]

Garden Hybrid.

A terrestrial plant, with distichous *leaves*, which are faintly tessellated. It is the result of crossing *Cypripedium villosum* with *C. Harrisianum*. The *scape* is erect, about eight inches high, clothed with short light-brown hairs, bearing a single flower, upwards of five inches across. *Dorsal sepal* very large, oblong-ovate, acute, white, the parallel nerves deep green, bearing a central, dark blackish-brown bar; *lower sepals* fused together, small, similarly coloured to the dorsal one; *petals* oblong-ligulate, acute, ciliate on both edges, bearing numerous small black dots near the base, which are arranged in lines, the upper half of the petal being of a reddish brown hue, the lower half white, suffused with a coppery tint, the nerves green throughout, but becoming nearly obsolete in the upper part; *lip* similar to that of *C. villosum*, large and full, upwards of two inches long, yellowish beneath, light brown above, with an ochre-coloured border. *Staminode* copper colour, hirsute, with a few green nerves.

CYPRIPEDIUM WILLIAMSIANUM, *Reichenbach fl.*; *Gardeners' Chronicle*, xvii., 1882, p. 218; *Williams, Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., p. 262.

This form of Lady's Slipper Orchid is one of the many hybrids which have been obtained from seed in this country. We received it with several other seedlings from Mr. R. Warner, of Broomfield, Chelmsford, some of which kinds have already been figured in previous volumes of the ALBUM. The plant in question was placed in commerce by ourselves a few years ago. It is the result of a cross between *Cypripedium villosum* and *C. Harrisianum*, and singularly partakes of the characters of both parents in a marked degree. Professor Reichenbach in describing it expressed his opinion upon this plant, in which he states it is one of the best crosses obtained by Mr. Warner. The prevailing popular taste for this genus is still increasing, and we think deservedly so, for those possessing a good collection of these plants can be assured of a display of flowers for every day in the year. These plants are easily fertilised, they grow freely from seed, and they take but a few years to arrive at a flowering state; and these facts combined have induced numbers to join in the exceedingly interesting pursuit of hybridising. The very beautiful hybrid forms which have from time to time crowned these labours, add a fresh stimulus to the operation, until it now becomes necessary that raisers of hybrids should exercise a little care over their progeny, and if a seedling appears with flowers which exhibit no improvement on the parents, it should be destroyed, and not named and launched upon the commercial world simply because of its being a seedling; if this is followed out there will be

no fear of a diminution in the numbers of *Cypripedium* lovers and growers, as these plants possess all the attractions to induce people of taste to commence their culture.

The majority of *Cypripediums* grow freely and flower profusely, whilst their blooms last in full beauty for a long time, some six weeks or two months, or more. The plants do not occupy much space, unless grown into extra large specimens, and they are easily increased by division, so that they may be looked upon as the veritable *multum in parvo* of the Orchid world.

Our plate was prepared from a plant growing in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, but we must acknowledge we have seen it in better condition, as the flowers become larger when the plant is strong and vigorous, but when it is often cut and divided, as our plants naturally would be for stock purposes, it has the effect of reducing the size of the pouch-like lip.

Cypripedium Williamsianum is a distinct hybrid with tessellated leaves; it is free in habit of growth, as well as in the production of flowers. The scape is some eight inches high, clothed with a profusion of short light brown hairs, and bears on the apex a single flower, which measures upwards of five inches across. Dorsal sepal oblong-acute, large, white, with prominent green nerves, and a blackish brown central band; petals oblong-acute, ciliate on both edges, and bearing numerous black dots, arranged in lines near the base, a small, dark, reddish-brown, median line along the upper side, and white with a coppery tint on the lower half; the veins are green, most conspicuous on the inferior portion; lip yellowish beneath, light brown above, with an ochre-coloured border. It blooms during the months of February and March, and continues for upwards of six weeks in perfection without any ill effects to the plant.

This plant will thrive in a lower temperature than its parents, as we find the heat of the *Cattleya* house best suited to its requirements. It grows well in a mixture of rough fibrous peat and turfy loam, in about equal proportions. *Cypripediums* all require thorough drainage, and they also require to be kept moist at the roots at all seasons of the year, in order to maintain them in vigorous health; during active growth a liberal supply is necessary, and as it is a free-rooting variety a slight syringing overhead in summer will be highly beneficial, at which time also shading will be necessary when the sun is powerful.
