

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.



J. Nugent Fitch del. et lith.

CYPRIPEDIUM CARDINALE

B.S. Williams Publ.

CYPRIPEDIUM CARDINALE.

[PLATE 370.]

Garden Hybrid.

Epiphytal. Acaulescent. *Leaves* spreading, tufted, ensiform, deep green. *Scape* erect, clothed with reddish-brown woolly hairs, and bearing ovate-lanceolate, boat-shaped bracts; it is branched, and bears numerous flowers. *Flowers* from two to three inches or more across; *dorsal sepal* oblong-obtuse, ivory-white, faintly tinged near the edges with soft rose; *lateral sepal* white, tinged with yellowish green on the outside; *petals* white, more or less tinged with soft rose near the base, where there are numerous short rose-coloured hairs, the margins also suffused with soft rose; *lip* round and full, intensely rich rosy-carmine, the infolded margin white, streaked and spotted with deep bright rosy-carmine. *Staminode* white, spotted in front with rosy-purple.

CYPRIPEDIUM CARDINALE, *Reichenbach fil.*, *Gardeners' Chronicle*, N.S., xviii., 1882, p. 488; *The Garden*, xxvii., t. 495; *Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, part iv., p. 102; *Williams, Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., p. 240.

The beautiful plant we here portray is the result of a cross between *Cypripedium Sedeni* and *C. Schlimii albiflorum*, the first-named parent being itself a hybrid, raised by the Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, between *C. longifolium* and *C. Schlimii*, and a most useful and pleasing variety it has proved to be. The plant now in question is very beautiful, and a great improvement in colour upon *C. Sedeni*; this brilliancy in the colour of the flowers of this section of the genus is an additional point in its favour, and will induce a greater number of amateurs to embark in the cultivation of *Cypripediums*, a genus which the botanist tells us is in danger of extinction in its natural habitats, but if such is the case, its day of extinction appears to be indefinite under cultivation. This plant is a free grower and a profuse bloomer, and produces its spikes and flowers in the same manner as its first-named parent, *C. Sedeni*. Our artist's drawing was taken from a fine example which bloomed in our own collection in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, Upper Holloway.

Cypripedium cardinale is a beautiful evergreen plant with deep green foliage, which is strap-shaped, tapering to a point, and upwards of a foot in length. The scape is produced well above the foliage, the lower flowers opening first, and as the spikes continue to lengthen they produce fresh buds, so that the plant is a "thing of beauty" for a considerable time; moreover, as these flowers drop off the plant in a perfect state after they have been expanded for several weeks, they may be used for personal adornment or other decorative purposes, as they retain their brilliancy and beauty for a long time after falling if placed in water. The dorsal

sepal is white, faintly streaked with green, and flushed near the edge with soft rose; petals white, with a patch of rose-coloured hairs towards the base; the lip or pouch is round and full, and rich rosy carmine in colour. It blooms at different seasons, and continues in flower for several months; indeed, we believe this section of plants is seldom to be found without flowers throughout the whole year.

All the *Cypripediums* of this section are characterised by their free growth, and when well grown they make fine handsome large specimens, which produce flowers in abundance from the young growths, so that they may be almost accorded the title of perpetual bloomers. They are free-rooting plants, and consequently require adequate pot room. The soil we have found the most suitable for them is a mixture in about equal parts of good fibrous-peat, turfy-loam, and good leaf-mould. The drainage must be good; indeed, we usually half-fill the pots with drainage material. In potting, the plant should be slightly raised above the rim of the pot, and the whole made firm and compact. These plants require a large amount of water about their roots during the growing season, and even when they are not active they should never be allowed to become dry, as they have no thick and fleshy pseudobulbs to assist in supplying the deficiency. It will be found, however, that nearly all the year round these plants are more or less active, and during warm and sunny days a slight syringing with tepid water will be found highly beneficial, but this should not be performed in a heavy drenching manner, as it will cause a quantity of water to gather in the sheaths and in the young leaves, a state of things which is not conducive to health, neither should the flowers be wetted at any time. Water also should be freely used about the pots and upon the stages, as it tends to keep a genial moist atmosphere which the plants enjoy, and it also prevents the attacks of thrips, red-spider, and other insects. The East India house is the most suitable position for *C. cardinale*, in the winter fully exposed to sun and light, but during the summer months we have found these plants thrive best when shaded from the sun during the hotter portion of the day.

Propagation is effected by division, the young growths being taken off with roots; these should be put into small pots at first, and kept in a somewhat closer position until they are established.
