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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 ACACULE.

# CYPRIPEDIUM CENANTHUM.

[PLATE 379.]

## *Garden Hybrid.*

A dwarf, stemless, terrestrial herb, bearing distichous, or two-ranked leaves, which are ligulate, tridentate at the apex, leathery in texture, and dark green, faintly tessellated with lighter green. *Peduncle* erect, covered with a dense, short tomentum, and bearing upon the apex a solitary medium-sized flower of great beauty. *Dorsal sepal* broadly ovate, greenish white at the base, with green and violet-purple veins, the border and upper portion pure white, central portion profusely ornamented with spots and blotches of purple, which frequently becoming confluent take the form of lines of colour; lower sepal smaller, and less beautifully marked; *petals* slightly deflexed, port-wine colour, flushed with violet, towards the base the colour becomes paler, passing to a yellowish hue, where in addition there are numerous dark purplish blotches; *lip* oblong, of a bright yet deep vinous purple. It is the result of a cross between *C. Harrisianum* (itself a hybrid) and *C. insigne Maulei*.

CYPRIPEDIUM CENANTHUM, *Reichenbach fil., Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1876, p. 297; *Williams, Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., p. 252.

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It affords us much pleasure in thus being able to bring before our subscribers the portrait of one of the most handsome of the numerous hybrid *Cypripediums* which the Messrs. Veitch have been fortunate enough to raise. This charming variety, obtained between *C. Harrisianum* and *C. insigne Maulei*, partakes of the character of the first-named plant in the tessellation of its foliage, but the leaves are much smaller, whilst its blossoms partake of the character of both parents. This plant has every good quality that can be desired; indeed, were we confined to grow one form of *Cypripedium* only, it occurs to us that this is the variety we should select on account of its free habit of growth and its profuse-blooming qualities, the blossoms being extremely bright and cheerful. More especially is this so in the variety *superbum*, and we cannot too strongly urge upon every lover of Orchids the necessity of adding it to their collections. These two plants were both raised by Mr. Seden, who is now so well and widely known as the successor to the veteran Dominy, as the hybridiser of Orchids for the Messrs. Veitch & Sons, of Chelsea. In this work Mr. Seden bestows much care and attention in the selection of the species and varieties which he shall use for his interesting work, and hence he is rewarded with such splendid results, which go to prove that the parents should not be taken at random. The drawing was taken from a plant that flowered during the autumn of last year in our own collection in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries.

*Cypripedium cenanthum* is a charming variety with evergreen foliage, which is nearly six inches long, leathery in texture, and of a dark green hue, faintly tessellated with lighter green. The scape is terminal, and rises from between the leaves, and bears a single flower of medium size; the dorsal sepal is white, green at the base, with violet nerves, marked as in *C. insigne Maulei* with rows of purple blotches towards the base; lip port-wine colour. The blossoms are freely produced when the growth is nearly mature, so that its time of flowering is varied, according to the time of year the plant makes its growth, and these blooms continue in full beauty for six weeks or even more, and this, too, without any injury to the health of the plant.

We have upon previous occasions given instructions in the pages of the ALBUM as to the cultivation of this section of the Cypripediums—that is to say, that we find the best mixture for them is good fibrous peat, from which all the fine part has been shaken, some leaf-mould, and fresh living sphagnum moss, the whole to be chopped well together, and thoroughly incorporated. The pots should be filled three parts full of drainage material, and covered with some rough peat-fibre or living sphagnum moss; this will prevent the soil from running between the potsherds, and choking the free escape of the water, and the plant should sit upon an elevated mound of soil, raised some two inches or more above the rim of the pot. When newly potted, water should be given somewhat sparingly at first, increasing the supply as the new roots occupy the soil, and when the plants get fairly established a liberal supply is necessary, as this variety is both free in growth as well as in root development. We find the temperature of the East India house suits this variety remarkably well, but find that it loves a shady situation, but yet it requires as much light as possible during the whole year; it should, therefore, be placed on the side table near the glass. This treatment produces strong and vigorous growth; indeed, success in the cultivation of this genus depends upon the amount of light given them.

The hybrid Cypripediums appear to be of free vigorous constitution, and if kept from the attack of insects, increase in size rapidly, and they may be freely increased by division; this operation should, however, be undertaken when the growths are mature, and the shoots should all be taken off with roots.

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(Continued from plate 377).—We are extremely sorry to find by the published extract from his will that his Herbarium is not only lost to England, but that it becomes really a dead letter to the Orchid world by being shut up for twenty-five years. The Professor told us, when visiting us some time ago, that it was his intention to leave his Herbarium to this country, and we sincerely regret that any English Orchid growers should have so bitterly aggrieved him as to cause him to have altered his mind and to shut up his numberless specimens, drawings, and copious notes from every one interested in this beautiful and popular order of plants.—B. S. W.