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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 WALLISII.

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[PLATE 380.]

*Native of Ecuador.*

A terrestrial, stemless plant, with distichous, ligulate, acute leaves, which are from a foot to eighteen inches long, leathery in texture, and pale green. *Scape* erect, pubescent, some eighteen inches high, and from three to five flowered. *Pedicels* some six inches long, of a pale green hue, and furnished at the base with a compressed sheathing bract. *Sepals* ovate-lanceolate, elongate, pale greenish white, with yellowish green veins and stripes, and bearing a few pale green spots in the centre near the base; *petals* extending into long wavy tails from eighteen to twenty inches long, broadest at the base, ivory-white, veined with light green, the apical portion more or less suffused with a pale ferruginous brown; *lip* large, pouch-like, tipped with rosy crimson, passing into a yellowish green border round the aperture, the infolded portion ivory-white, sparingly dotted with reddish purple. *Staminode* triangular, brownish purple, with a yellow centre.

CYPRIPEDIUM WALLISII, *Hort.*; C. CAUDATUM WALLISII, *Veitch*; *Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, Part iv., p. 61; C. WALLISII, *Williams*, *Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., p. 261; *Lindenia*, iii., t. 131.

SELENIPEDIUM WALLISII, *Reichenbach fil.*, *Xenia Orchidacea*, t. 181.

This beautiful plant is popularly named the white-flowered *Cypripedium caudatum*, to which it bears close affinity. It appears to have been first found by Wallis, whilst collecting Orchids for Mr. Linden, of Brussels, about seventeen years ago, and it was first flowered in this country by Mr. C. Winn, of Selby Hill, Birmingham. This species has been found also by one or two other collectors, who describe the plant as growing in limestone districts, and in positions exposed to the full influence of the sun; and notwithstanding its having been several times imported, it still remains a rare plant in cultivation in European gardens. All the plants belonging to the *caudatum* section are difficult to establish from the imported state, and the present plant is no exception to the rule, whilst none of this section which have come under our notice can excel *C. caudatum* and *C. Wallisii* for grace and beauty, after they have become thoroughly established in our collections.

Our artist's drawing was taken from a well-grown plant in the grand collection brought together at Downside, Leatherhead, by W. Lee, Esq., but this fine lot of plants has since been sold, and the plants forming it have been dispersed, and have found a new home in collections in various parts of the world.

*Cypripedium Wallisii* is a distinct and beautiful evergreen plant; the foliage being leathery in texture, and of a pale soft green colour. The scape rises from the

centre between the leaves, bearing from three to five flowers, which, although similar to *C. caudatum*, are yet somewhat smaller than those of that species. The sepals are elongate and ovate, of a pale greenish white, distinctly striped over their surface with a bright green. Petals eighteen to twenty inches long, somewhat broad for about two inches at the base, from whence they pass into long wavy tails, which are white, strongly veined with green, the spiral portion in addition being flushed with pale brown; pouch large, white, spotted and veined with rosy crimson, the aperture margined with yellow. Its flowers are usually produced during the spring months, and if its blossoms are kept free from damp they continue in full beauty for a great length of time.

This plant requires similar treatment to that of *Cypripedium caudatum*, that is to say, pot culture appears to suit it admirably, but it is necessary to well drain the pots, as it requires a liberal supply of water during the season of vigorous growth; when this is completed it must still be kept in a moist condition, for as the plant has no pseudobulbs to assist in maintaining it through a period of drought, it must not be allowed to become dry, or the leaves will be liable to shrivel, and the plants fall into bad health, which is a perilous condition for this section of the genus. We find that good fibrous peat, when mixed with leaf-mould and sharp sand, to be the best potting material for this plant, to which may be added with advantage, some nodules of charcoal. It should be elevated upon a cone-like mound, which not only carries away the water more quickly from its base, but it gives a greater surface, and allows the roots to work more freely. Upon the slightest sign of the potting material becoming bad, it must be at once removed from contact with the roots, and replaced with new and sweet mould; care, however, is requisite in the performance of this operation, or serious injury may arise from damage to the roots. The cool end of the East India house is a very suitable place to grow this plant; we have, however, grown *C. caudatum* equally well at the warm end of the Cattleya house, and in all probability this plant may be so grown successfully. It requires to be shaded from the sun's influence during the hotter portion of the season, but when the sun's heat begins to decline, let the plants have all the light possible, in order to secure and finish up strong flowering shoots.

The most suitable time for potting or re-potting we find to be just as it begins to put forth new shoots, which takes place sometimes shortly after flowering. It should also be kept perfectly free from insects of every description: green-fly sometimes becomes a great plague by getting amongst its blossoms, and causing great havoc, but these must be carefully destroyed.