

Rare Book
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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

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.



VOLUME IX.

Mo. Bot. Garden,

1894

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY B. S. WILLIAMS & SON,

AT THE

VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

MDCCXCI.



CYPRIPEDIUM MACROPTERUM.

CYPRIPEDIUM MACROPTERUM.

[PLATE 391.]

Garden Hybrid.

Terrestrial. *Leaves* elliptic-oblong, some nine inches in length, and almost two inches in breadth, handsomely tessellated with dark green upon a pale green ground. *Scape* erect, two or more flowered. *Dorsal sepal* ovate, fringed on the edge with short black hairs, light green, suffused with brown at the base, netted with deep green veins, and narrowly bordered with white; inferior sepal similarly coloured, but smaller; *petals* deflexed, slightly undulated, some three or four inches long, the apical portion much the broadest, and clear purplish violet, the basal part greenish yellow, freely spotted with blackish wart-like spots, which are more or less hairy; *lip* large and obtuse, pale violet-purple above, greenish yellow beneath. *Staminode* green in centre, surrounded with dull purple and bordered with white.

It is the result of a cross between *C. Lowii* and *C. superbiens*.

CYPRIPEDIUM MACROPTERUM, *Reichenbach f.*, *Gardeners' Chronicle*, N.S., xviii., p. 552. Id. xx., p. 294. *Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, iv., p. 90.

Cypripedium macropterum is without doubt one of the best hybrids that has been obtained by the skill of the hybridiser, and it is a plant that should be found in every collection of Orchidaceous plants, as there is no fear that this variety will ever be discarded whilst these plants are grown. We have now such a vast quantity of fine species, hybrids and varieties of Cypripedes, that it will become necessary to weed out the inferior kinds, yet this is a point which depends upon the taste of cultivators, many of whom are admirers of the curious as well as of the beautiful, so that there will nearly always be a demand for distinct curious forms, independent of beauty. These Cypripediums are very easily crossed and raised from seed, they are easily cultivated, are for the most part free bloomers, and their flowers last a very long time in full beauty, and anyone having a fair amount of species and varieties may have a bloom for every day in the year.

This beautiful plant was obtained by Mr. Seden, in the establishment of Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, of Chelsea, its parents being *C. Lowii* and *C. superbiens*, and the Messrs. Veitch say of it, "It is one of the comparatively few hybrid Cypripediums in which the characteristics of the seed parent predominate in the flower."

The drawing for this plate was taken by our artist from a plant which flowered in our own collection, in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, Upper Holloway, during the present summer.

Cypripedium macropterum is a compact and charming hybrid, with persistent, variegated foliage. The scape is terminal and erect, bearing two or more flowers, which

when expanded measure some six inches across; dorsal sepal pale green, veined with green of a deeper hue which passes into brownish at the base; petals three inches long, spirally twisted, yellowish towards the base, spotted with dark purple, becoming wholly pale purple towards the tips; lip dull brown. It blooms during the months of June and July, and continues several weeks in full beauty.

The details of *Cypripedium* culture have been so often given in the different volumes of the ALBUM, that it is not requisite to recapitulate in this instance; suffice it to say that drainage is of the utmost importance, and upon no account allow anything of a dead or decaying nature to remain about the plants, as this is very detrimental to their well being. Care must also be taken not to leave any of the roots exposed which have previously been covered, as sudden exposure to the air we have found to be injurious; those roots, however, which grow naturally on the outside do not suffer in any way from the exposure.

CATTLEYA ELDORADO VIRGINALIS, Plate 388.—We should have mentioned that this plate was taken from a fine plant in the collection of Reginald Young, Esq., Fringilla, Linnet Lane, Liverpool.
