

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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CYPRIPEDIUM ELLIOTTIANUM.

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[PLATE 397.]

Native of the Philippine Islands.

Terrestrial. *Leaves* distichous, ligulate obtuse, from a foot to fifteen inches long, bright green on the upper side, paler beneath. *Scape* erect, furnished with numerous large bracts, which are white tinged with green, and streaked with lines of deep chocolate, bearing towards the apex from two to five large and showy flowers. *Dorsal sepal* large, ovate-acuminate, ivory-white, suffused with yellow, profusely streaked with broad lines of deep brownish purple, lower sepal smaller, but similar in colour and markings; *petals* long, ciliolate on the edges, gradually tapering to a point, white, flushed with yellow at the base, and spotted with brownish purple, and this colour is continued in lines throughout the entire length; *lip* large, projecting forward, contracted at the base, ivory-white, suffused with brownish purple, and veined with a deeper shade of the same hue. *Staminode* large, beak-like, incurved, furnished with numerous short hairs near the apex.

CYPRIPEDIUM ELLIOTTIANUM, *Reichenbach fil., Gardeners' Chronicle*, n.s. 1888, iv., p. 532. *Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, iv., p. 23. *Lindenia*, iv., t. 186.

This fine species of *Cypripedium* is one introduced recently by Mr. Sander, of St. Albans, during the past few years we have had many fine *Cypripediums* sent from their native homes, amongst which may be named *C. bellatulum*, *C. Curtisii*, *C. Godefroyæ*, *C. Rothschildianum*, *C. Sanderianum*, and many others, the majority of these have been taken advantage of by growers at home for hybridising purposes. The plant we here figure is most distinct and beautiful, and we are indebted to the kindness of Captain Shaw, White Hall, Buxton, who sent it to us for the purpose of illustration in the ALBUM. Captain Shaw's collection is a very fine one, we have known it for many years, and always find something in it to instruct and interest whenever it is visited; the proprietor has studied Orchids for many years, knows their needs, and is continually on the alert for good things.

Cypripedium Elliottianum is a very fine species, which a glance at our plate will certainly verify; it has dark green shining leaves, which are a foot or more long, and an inch broad, and persistent. The scape is terminal, a foot or more high, and bears from two to five flowers, we are told, but at present two flowers, we believe, are the most that it has produced under cultivation. We are assured by its introducer, however, that the collector saw plants which had, in

many instances, produced five flowers, so that when the plant has become thoroughly established and shall have many flowers open at one time, we may expect a grand sight. The dorsal sepal is ivory-white suffused with yellow and streaked with purplish brown, the inferior sepal being smaller and similarly marked; petals long and pointed, standing at nearly right angles, and similar in colour to the dorsal sepal; lip somewhat similar in shape to a Turkish slipper, plush-brown, yellowish towards the top, paler beneath, staminode curved and beak-like, and furnished with numerous hairs. It flowered in the month of May last year (1889), and continued in beauty for several weeks.

We find this *Cypripedium* takes a somewhat long time to establish after its importation, in which it resembles *C. Stonei*, *C. Rothschildianum* and many others. It enjoys a good share of heat, and the East India house is the best place in which to grow it. A liberal amount of water should be given when established, but care is required before it is established that no water is allowed to lie in the heart of the plant, as this is a great cause of decay. The plant is best cultivated in pots, and the side tables are most suited to its requirements, as in this position the plants are tolerably near the glass, which is essential for it enjoys sun and light, and requires shading only during the hottest part of the day in summer. For soil use a mixture of fibrous peat and turfy loam, the greater portion of the fine soil, however, being shaken away; to this add some sharp sand and medium-sized nodules of charcoal, to induce the plant to form strong and vigorous roots, and to produce healthy foliage. The soil should be elevated slightly above the pot's rim, in order to allow the water to pass away more readily, and also to allow the roots greater freedom. This species does not appear to propagate so readily as many of the kinds, but this may arise from the plants not having yet become thoroughly established, so that on this subject we are not in a position to offer an opinion.
