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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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AND

WILLIAM HUGH GOWER, F.R.H.S.

*THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.*



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MDCCXCII.



CYPRIPEDIUM ACACULE SUPERBUM

# CYPRIPEDIUM CENANTHUM SUPERBUM.

[PLATE 420.]

## *Garden Hybrid.*

Terrestrial. Stemless. *Leaves* distichous, ligulate, and deep green, faintly tessellated. *Scape* erect, clothed with a tomentum of dark purplish hairs, and bearing a single large and highly-coloured flower on the apex. *Dorsal sepal* deep vinous red at the base, and in the centre, through which run numerous spotted lines of rosy purple, the margins and upper portion passing into bright purplish mauve, the outer margin white; *lower sepal* greenish white, spotted on the veins with blackish purple; *petals* deep yellowish brown, darkest on the upper half; *lip* large, broadly obtuse, rich deep port-wine colour on the exterior, yellowish within, freely dotted with reddish purple. Its parents are *Cypripedium Harrisianum* and *C. insigne Maulei*.

CYPRIPEDIUM CENANTHUM SUPERBUM, *Veitch's Catalogue*, 1885, p. 11; *Reichenbachia*, First Series, i., t. 38; *Lindenia*, i., t., 33; *Revue de l'Horticulture Belge*, 1885, p. 233; *Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, iv., p. 94, with woodcut.

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The present beautiful plant is a Veitchian hybrid, of great beauty and richness of colouring. When speaking of *Cypripedium ceanthum* in the last volume, p. 379, we remarked that were we confined to grow one form of these Slipper Orchids, it would be this variety, on account of its freedom in flowering, and its bright and cheerful appearance; this variety only intensifies that feeling, for we cannot but feel that this plant is one of the very handsomest of the genus. There would appear to be several varieties of *C. ceanthum*, such as *Orestes*, *Electra*, *Acis*, and others, some of which are only supposed to be of this parentage, but the prevailing colours and markings prove them to be all from the same stock. At the present moment we say, without fear of contradiction, that no brighter and richer colours have yet been obtained than from the two parents of the present plant, *C. Harrisianum* and *C. insigne Maulei*. For the privilege of producing a figure of this superb variety, we are indebted to the kindness of R. H. Measures, Esq., of The Woodlands, Streatham, who has one of the most superb and complete collections of Cypripedes in this country. The plants are exceedingly well grown by his gardener, Mr. Abrahams, who appears to be nearly or quite as great an enthusiast for these Slipper Orchids as does Mr. Measures himself.

*Cypripedium ceanthum superbum* is an extremely handsome variety, presenting all the beauties of the original *C. ceanthum*, with the colours deepened, brightened, and intensified. The flowers, too, are larger, and the upper sepal is far more richly coloured, the intense deep vinous purple pervading the whole surface,

and running out in feathery streaks to the broad white marginal border. We have not seen this variety produce a two-flowered scape, although we have in the case of *C. cenanthum*, but many of the kinds which have hitherto been looked upon as single-flowered have produced two flowers, and if this character should be developed in this case, it would add greatly to the pleasure of the grower. The flowers appear at an unusually welcome time; and only the last month (October) when walking through the establishment of Mr. Measures, we saw several of these plants in flower then, and enlivening the scene with their presence. These plants are all grown at The Woodlands in the East India house, and we believe this is the best place for most of the species and hybrids from the eastern regions. In a cooler stove there are a fine lot of specimens of *C. insigne* and its varieties, which are now well in bloom, the same plants having been in flower for about seven months last season; in fact, one can never call at The Woodlands without seeing a fine lot of flowers of this genus alone.

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