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

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AT THE  
VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

MDCCCXCIII.



CYPRIPEDIUM PITCHERIANUM  
(WILLIAMS' VARIETY)

# CYPRIPEDIUM PITCHERIANUM.

(WILLIAMS' VARIETY.)

[PLATE 453.]

## *Garden Hybrid.*

Epiphytal, ebulbous. *Leaves* distichous, broadly ligulate, rich green on the upper side, marbled with a deeper green, paler beneath, where it is also ornamented with numerous lines of reddish brown, which proceed from the base upwards. *Scape* erect, somewhat stout, of a purplish hue, slightly hairy, bearing a large ovate bract and a large and gorgeous flower; the *dorsal sepal* is large and pure white, faintly tinged with pale green at the base, the centre being marked with a broad stripe of deep Indian-red, and the lower half beautifully blotched and shaded with deep vinous purple, leaving the large upper part of the purest white; *lower sepal* smaller, pale green, veined with deep green; *petals* prettily undulated on the upper margin, where they are also fringed with black hairs, the whole surface being of a light purplish brown, spotted near the base with deep purple, and having a dark central band; *lip* large and rounded, reddish brown, with a deep yellow border, greenish yellow beneath. *Staminode* large, rosy purple, with green centre.

CYPRIPEDIUM PITCHERIANUM (Williams' var.), *B. S. Williams & Son's Catalogue of New Plants*, 1892, p. 8.

CYPRIPEDIUM PITCHERIANUM, *Reichenbach fil.*

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The present plate represents a beautifully high-coloured form of this new hybrid, which flowered in our own establishment in the autumn of last year (1891), and it was awarded a First Class Certificate by the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, when shown before them on October 27th of the same year. This hybrid in the first place was raised between *Cypripedium Harrisianum superbum* and *C. Spicerianum*, and it was dedicated by Reichenbach to Mr. J. R. Pitcher, the celebrated Cypripedium amateur in New York, but who is now at the head of the nursery firm of Messrs. Pitcher and Manda, in New Jersey.

The variety whose portrait we now lay before our readers was raised in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, and it may be considered one of the best productions up to the present time, the parents being both good forms of *C. Harrisianum superbum* and *C. Spicerianum magnificentum*, and here we wish to specially point out the chances of superiority which favour the artificially raised hybrid to those which come about through natural causes. In the latter case the parentage is a matter of chance; but in the former, the varieties are carefully selected by the hybridiser, and consequently highly prized flowers are the result. We would therefore

commend this matter to the attention of all those entering upon this now very fashionable pursuit, viz., the selection of the best varieties for the parents of their seedlings.

The variety of *Cypripedium Pitcherianum*, here figured, is a bold and robust grower, having large strap-shaped leaves some twelve inches or more long, and some two inches broad, slightly tessellated on the upper surface with deep green upon a paler green ground colour. The flowers also are large and handsome, the dorsal sepal being very broad and slightly recurved at the sides. The base is green, and in the centre is a broad streak of deep chocolate, and from the base spring bands of the richest vinous purple, leaving a broad margin of pure white; lower sepal much smaller, pale greenish white; petals broadly strap-shaped, undulated, fringed with black hairs on the upper margin, reddish brown, with a darker central streak; lip large and obtuse, the upper part reddish brown with darker veins, pale greenish below, the mouth being bordered with yellow. We predict for this plant a great future, as, in addition to its being free flowering, it is very pleasing in colour, and produces short spikes.

We have found this plant not to differ in its requirements from other members of the family. We keep them all tolerably warm all the year round, near the glass, and with a moist and humid atmosphere, giving them plenty of light, but never allowing the rays of the sun to shine upon them during the hottest part of the day. The soil should be good peat fibre and chopped sphagnum moss, and the drainage must be perfect to maintain the plants in good vigorous health.

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AWARDS MADE BY THE ORCHID COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,  
IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR 1892.

JANUARY 12th. To C. J. Lucas, Esq., *First Class Certificate* for *Lælia furfuracea* (*Lucas's variety*), flowers much larger than the type, and bright rosy crimson in colour.

To G. Douglas, Esq., Dalkeith, N.B., *First Class Certificate* for *Lælia anceps Ballantinei*, a very fine form, with a rich purple lip.

To Norman Cookson, Esq., Wylam-on-Tyne, *First Class Certificate* for *Cypripedium Calypso* (*Oakwood var.*), a very fine hybrid between *C. Boxallii atratum* and *C. Spicerianum*; dorsal sepal large and broad, greenish white at the base, having a dark maroon central streak, from which spring feathery lines of rosy purple; petals and lip like a good form of *C. Leeaenum*.

To Messrs. James Veitch and Sons, Chelsea, *First Class Certificate* for *Lælio-Cattleya Cassiope*, a cross between *Lælia pumila* and *L. exoniensis*; a large rosy crimson flower. The same award was made to the firm for *Epidendrum Endresii-Wallisii*, a cross between *E. Wallisii* and *E. Endresii*, and quite intermediate between the two species.

(Continued under Plate 454.)