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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

Plate 498
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THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.

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CYPRIPEDIUM SELLIGERUM MAJUS

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[PLATE 483.]

Garden Hybrid.

Epiphytal. Acaulescent, quite destitute of pseudobulbs, leaves two-ranked, slightly channelled above, carinate beneath, coriaceous in texture, strap-shaped, acute, soft green in the ground colour, tessellated with a deep shade of green. *Flowers* in pairs, and in this variety very robust, and of a bright and cheerful colour, dorsal *sepal* somewhat orbicular, white, faintly tinged with pale green at the base, having numerous purple stripes running up it, these stripes having lateral branches which give them a somewhat feathery appearance, the lower sepal much smaller, but similarly coloured; *petals* strap-shaped, depressed, edged with a row of blackish hairs; the colour is rosy purple with darker veins, having a row of blackish purple wart-like spots along the upper margin; *lip* pouch-like, brownish purple, being veined of a deeper hue, paler beneath. *Staminode* pale green, bearing a few scattered hairs.

CYPRIPEDIUM SELLIGERUM MAJUS, *Veitch's Catalogue of New Plants*, 1878. *Lindenia*, i., t. 22. *Reichenbachia*, ii., t. 54. *L'Orchidophile*, 1890, p. 272.

This is a handsome garden hybrid raised by Mr. Seden, the worthy successor to the late Mr. Dominy, at Messrs. Veitch and Sons, of the King's Road, Chelsea. It is a cross between *Cypripedium barbatum* and *C. philippinense* (*C. laevigatum*), and fully bears out what has been written about it, which is that it is one of the most stately *Cypripediums* in cultivation. This plant is much superior to the original *C. selligerum*, figured by us in the sixth volume of this work, at Pl. 255, partaking more of the characters of the first-named parent; indeed, it might have been the inverted cross, both in regard to the broad dorsal sepal of the flowers as well as in the tessellated foliage, which in the figure just quoted are plain green, without any tessellation at all. The present plate was sketched by Miss G. Hamilton from a plant which flowered in our own collection at the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, Upper Holloway, during the remarkable season of 1893, but to which cannot be attributed any reason for its producing such fine and showy flowers, for we have had the same plant bloom equally as well in seasons that have been far less favourable and propitious.

Cypripedium selligerum majus is an evergreen plant, belonging to the coriaceous-leaved section of the Lady's Slipper Orchids, and it is very stately and handsome. It is a free-growing plant and a profuse bloomer when treated to good heat and a moist atmosphere. It is not surprising that this plant enjoys the heat of the

East Indian house, for both its parents are found in warm regions of the East, *C. philippinense* in particular being found near the sea level in very warm latitudes. It should be treated as a pot plant, and be well drained, so that any superfluous moisture may be easily carried away, for although this has the robust constitution of the majority of these hybrids, it will not thrive long if anything stagnant is allowed to accumulate about it. The soil should be about equal parts of brown upland peat-fibre and chopped sphagnum moss, adding a little turfy light yellow loam, which should have most of the fine mould beaten out of it, and be made very free and light, for we are under the impression that most of the strong-growing kinds thoroughly enjoy loam in a turfy condition, but we strongly object to the fine heavy portion coming in contact with the roots. Pot firmly and water freely in the growing season, and keep the atmosphere well charged with moisture. In the dull winter season, of course, less will be necessary, both to roots as well as in the atmosphere, but sufficient moisture must be retained in order to keep the leaves fresh and plump, for having no pseudo-bulbs care must be taken to keep the plants in good condition.
