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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

*Plate 498
missing*

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

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CYPRIPEDIUM STONEI PLATYTAENIUM

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[PLATE 496.]

Native of Sarawak, Borneo.

Terrestrial. *Leaves* strap-shaped, twelve to eighteen inches long, coriaceous in texture, and bright green. *Scapes* nearly two feet long, dull purple, bearing three to five flowers. *Bracts* lanceolate, acuminate, sheathing. The *dorsal sepal* cordate, acuminate, white, usually with several broad blackish crimson streaks, which show through on both sides, lower sepals similar; *petals* linear, about six inches in length, which are drooping, with black hairs on the margin towards the base, a rich tawny yellow for more than half the length, the points brownish crimson; *lip* pouch-like, rose-colour, veined and reticulated with crimson, passing into white beneath, the infolded lobes of the mouth narrow, white. *Staminode* oblong, yellowish white, fringed with thick short hairs.

VAR. PLATYTAENIUM.—In this form the flowers are much larger, being some ten inches across the petals, and of a brighter colour. *Sepals* are broader, with bolder streaks; the *dorsal sepal* an inch-and-a-half broad, boldly streaked with brownish crimson, the lower sepal being larger than in the typical plant; *petals* an inch broad, white, tinged with yellow, profusely spotted and blotched with dark red-crimson, spots and blotches running into each other towards the tips.

CYPRIPEDIUM STONEI PLATYTAENIUM, *Reichenbach fil.*, in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1867, p. 1118. *Warners' Select Orchidaceous Plants*, iii. t. 14. *Floral Magazine*, n.s., t. 414. *Xenia Orchidacea*, ii., p. 153, t. 161. *Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, woodcut, iv., p. 50. *Williams' Orchid Grower's Manual*, 7th ed., p. 303.

Cypripedium Stonei platytaenium. This variety cannot be called the poor man's Orchid, for we know of one or two specimens which exist which cannot be purchased under four figures, and we scarcely envy the position of those having such valuable plants under their care, for sometimes they become diseased and soon drop off, and all efforts to temporise or to stay the effects of the disease are quite unavailing. This plant has never been imported more than once. It was an accidental sport we should imagine, for we do not consider there is any reason to suppose it is a hybrid. A plant of it realised 140 guineas at the sale of the late Mr. Day's collection in 1881. A little later on a plant was again sold for 120 guineas, the first one in the first collection, and the second one in the second collection.

"The variety was imported with a lot of *Cypripedium Stonei* from Sarawak, in 1863, by Messrs. Low and Co., of Clapton. Some of the plants of this importation were purchased by the late Mr. Day, and amongst them—unknown to himself at the time—this superb variety, which for several years afterwards consisted of a single specimen, the only one known to have been imported.

“It flowered for the first time in Mr. Day’s collection in 1867, whence subsequently it became very sparingly distributed by division of the original plant. On the dispersion of Mr. Day’s plants in the spring of 1880 they were acquired by Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., and Baron Sir J. H. W. Schroeder; the last-named gentleman has since added several others of a small size to his collection, so that the majority of this plant is retained in these two magnificent collections.”

The specimen here figured flowered in the fine collection of Baron Sir J. H. W. Schroeder, under the care of his able gardener, Mr. Ballantine. It is a grand flower, which has only on one occasion run back—the broad petals of this variety reverted to the original form—so that its durability remains fixed. This plant, like the typical one, is a native of Borneo, having been found in the neighbourhood of Sarawak just over thirty years ago, and this superb plant passed into the hands of Mr. Stone, who then had the charge of Mr. Day’s fine collection, where it flowered in 1867. It is exactly like the typical plant in growth, the only difference being in the broader and shorter petals, and in their higher colour. It requires the warmth of the East Indian house in which to grow and develop its shoots, where it should be well exposed to the sun and light, and the atmosphere must be kept well charged with moisture. The pot for its reception should be well drained, using for soil some good light loam, mixed with a little leaf-mould or peat, and some charcoal added; and we prefer the plant to be raised a little above the pot’s rim when potted, in order to allow all water to pass quickly away from it.

ORCHIDS AT BLETCHLEY PARK.—When visiting this place a few days ago we were much interested with the collection of Orchids recently formed here by H. J. Leon, Esq., M.P. Quite an extensive range of Orchid houses has been erected under the able superintendence of Mr. Hislop, the Gardener, who prepared his own plans, and carried out the work with his own mechanics. In these structures the plants seem quite at home, and at the time of our visit there was quite a goodly show of *Odontoglossums* in flower; many varieties of *O. crispum* were excellent. In the *Cattleya* house were many fine varieties of *C. Mendelii* and *C. Mossiae*, *Laelia purpurata*, and its variety, *L. p. Russelliana*. Here we also noticed many plants of *Cattleyas* with seed pods upon them; in fact it was evident, from the various plants we saw in seed all through the collection, that Mr. Hislop intends to be to the fore in this interesting branch of Orchidology, namely, the raising of Orchids from seed. In the East Indian house were some well-grown examples of *Vandas*, several plants of which were in flower, averaging from eighteen to twenty-four inches in height, *V. tricolor formosa* and *V. t. Warnerii* being especially noticeable. The Orchid houses are connected by two corridors, one at each end; one of these corridors is filled with Ferns planted out on a rockery artistically arranged by Mr. Hislop, and the other contains compartments for plants and potting sheds; there is also a division entirely devoted to *Nepenthes*.—H. W.