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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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AUTHOR OF SELECT ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

AND

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

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1898.





CYPRIPEDIUM ADONIS.

# CYPRIPEDIUM ADONIS.

[PLATE 500.]

## *Garden Hybrid.*

Epiphytal or terrestrial. Acaulescent. *Leaves* distichous, narrowly oblong, channelled, of a pale yellowish green colour, faintly tessellated on the upper side, and with a few reddish spots at the base beneath. *Scape* stiff, erect, solitary, about six or seven inches high, and with an oblong sheathing bract near the top, which embraces the pedicel. *Flowers* large, of good form, and very handsome; *dorsal sepal* of medium size, standard-like, slightly recurved, becoming reflexed with age, the upper portion being of the purest white, bright green at the base, with a well-defined centre line of deep purple, and with deep green veins; *lateral sepals* smaller, oblong, greenish white, with bright green veins; *petals* linear-oblong, prettily undulated on the upper margins, where they are slightly hairy, laterally deflexed, of a bright yellowish green colour, flushed near the base on the upper half with reddish brown, and with a central pronounced vein of deep purple; *lip* pouch-shaped, of medium size, with round everted auricles on each side, bronzy green, suffused and veined with light rosy purple, pale green beneath. *Staminode* very showy, large, of mauve-purple, with a dark marking in the centre.

CYPRIPEDIUM ADONIS, *H. Williams, B. S. Williams and Son's Catalogue of New Plants*, 1893, p. 7. *Williams' Orchid Grower's Manual*, 7th edition, p. 131.

This beautiful hybrid "Lady's Slipper Orchid" was raised in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, Upper Holloway, about five years ago, and is the result of a cross between *Cypripedium Spicerianum magnificum* and *C. Harrisianum superbum*, and which may be noted as being the reverse cross to our beautiful variety of *C. Pitcherianum*. It is quite distinct, however, from that plant, as may be seen by comparing our present illustration with plate 453 in the tenth volume of this work, where *C. Pitcherianum* is figured. Our present plate was drawn by our artist, Mr. J. N. Fitch, from a plant which flowered recently in our establishment, and which is a faithful representation of this beautiful hybrid. It is one of the very best forms obtained from the popular and pretty *C. Spicerianum*, which has so often been used by the hybridist as a parent plant. This last-mentioned species has since its introduction been brought so much into requisition, that it has produced quite a distinct type of *Cypripediums*, which could never have been obtained had it not fortunately been discovered and imported in such large quantities.

*Cypripedium Adonis* is a beautiful ornamental foliage plant, and although not one of the strongest-growing, produces its bright evergreen tessellated leaves very profusely, which considerably help to brighten the house when the flowers are past.

The flowers are a sweet combination of both parents, and will last a long period in perfection, providing they are kept free from damp. The dorsal sepal when young stands up bold and erect, but as the flower advances with age they become slightly reflexed, as is the case with most crosses from *C. Spicerianum*, and this is even the case with that species itself. The upper half is of the purest white, and the remaining part of the base is of a bright green, with a strongly marked central line of deep purple, and deep green veins which run up into the white portion. The petals are of beautiful form, fairly long and broad, beautifully undulated on the upper margin, on which are a few rosy-coloured hairs; they are of a delicate bright yellowish green, suffused near the base on the upper half with reddish brown, and each have a well-defined midrib of deep purple. The lip or pouch is somewhat bell-shaped, and of good medium size, with the everted auricles on each side very prominent; it is of a bright bronzy yellow, deeply flushed and veined with light rosy purple. The staminode in this variety is very conspicuous, large, and of mauve-purple colour marked in the centre with dark green.

*Cypripedium Adonis* thrives best with pot culture, and should be placed in well-drained pots, with a compost of good fibrous peat and sphagnum moss; the plants should be well elevated above the rim, and fixed firmly, although not rammed in. It succeeds well in the Cattleya house temperature, and should be treated similar to all other evergreen *Cypripediums*, and never be allowed to become dry. This beautiful and interesting novelty is quite distinct from anything yet in commerce, but it must not be confounded with the *C. Adonis* which is reported in the pages of the *Orchid Review* for October, 1893, where it is stated that a plant under this name was exhibited by C. J. Ingram, Esq., of Godalming, as a cross between *C. hirsutissimum* and *C. Curtisii*, which must be quite a distinct hybrid from our present subject.

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CYPRIPEDIUM CALLOSUM SANDERAE.—This lovely variety of *Cypripedium callosum* is without doubt one of the most beautiful acquisitions introduced in recent years. It was shown by Messrs. F. Sander and Co., of St. Albans, at the Temple Exhibition in May, 1894, for the first time, where it was a great attraction, and was unanimously awarded a First Class Certificate. The plant exhibited bore leaves identical with the species, and carried one flower of grand form, as large as the very best form of the type. The dorsal sepal is bold and stands quite flat, pure white, and distinctly veined about half-way up with emerald green. The petals are drooping, as is the case with *C. callosum*, of a delicate shade of green about two-thirds of their length, the tips being slightly reflexed and pure white. The whole lip, which is of good shape, is of an emerald green colour throughout. This superb variety, which well merits the award bestowed upon it by the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, bears the same relation to *Cypripedium callosum* as *C. Lawrenceanum Hyeatum* does to that species, but is decidedly more beautiful and more graceful in shape; and all enthusiasts of this popular genus who have seen it will greatly desire to have it numbered amongst their own collections.—W. H. G.