

THE
ORCHID-GROWER'S MANUAL

CONTAINING BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

OF

UPWARDS OF FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY
ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

TOGETHER WITH

NOTICES OF THEIR TIMES OF FLOWERING AND MOST APPROVED MODES OF TREATMENT ;
ALSO, PLAIN AND PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE GENERAL
CULTURE OF ORCHIDS ; AND REMARKS ON THE HEAT,
MOISTURE, SOIL, AND SEASONS OF GROWTH
AND REST BEST SUITED TO THE
SEVERAL SPECIES.

BY

BENJAMIN SAMUEL WILLIAMS, F.R.H.S.,

PARADISE NURSERY, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N. ;

AUTHOR OF "HINTS ON THE CULTIVATION OF FERNS," &c., &c.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON :
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.
1862.

growing plant, with long drooping spikes from one to two feet long. Sepals and petals brown; the lip red, striped with white. It blooms in July or August, and lasts long in beauty.

CYPRIPEDIUMS.

These are all beautiful in foliage as well as in flower, and are worth a place in every collection. They are of easy culture, and require but little space; the form of the flowers is curious, being that of a slipper—they are generally called the Lady's Slipper, and are all dwarf, compact, and evergreen, the leaves of some being beautifully spotted. They produce their flowers from the centre of the leaves, on an upright stalk, and rise from six inches to a foot high. All are best grown in the East India house, except *insigne*, which thrives best in a cooler place, and will do well in a warm greenhouse. I grow all in pots with peat, loam, and sand; they all require a liberal quantity of water at their roots during their period of growth. They need but little rest, and should not be allowed to get too dry at the roots. The plants are not like many of our Orchids; they have no thick fleshy bulbs to supply them with nourishment. They are propagated by dividing the plant.

Cypripedium barbatum.—A pretty species, with beautifully spotted foliage; the colour of the flowers brownish-purple and white: it produces its solitary flowers at different times of the year, lasting six weeks in bloom. There are two varieties of this plant, one being much brighter in colour than the other.

C. barbatum grandiflorum.—A charming variety, the flowers of which are larger than those of any of the other kinds, and it has finely variegated foliage. Flowers in July and August, and continues six weeks in bloom.

C. barbatum superbum.—A fine variety, which grows in the same way as *barbatum*; but the foliage is more variegated,

and the flowers much handsomer, the lip being very dark and the upper petal having more white. There is another variety called *nigrum*, with a larger lip, which flowers at the same time, and will last about six weeks in perfection. This makes a fine plant for exhibition.

C. biflora.—A handsome species from India, in the way of *barbatum*, but with more variegated foliage. Grows four inches high. The blossoms are produced on a spike ten inches long; sometimes two flowers appear on one stem; the top petal is very handsome, the upper part being a beautiful white, the other part of the flower a purplish brown. Blooms in February and March, and will keep six weeks in good condition. A rare plant.

C. caudatum.—A remarkable and curious Orchid from Peru, with light green foliage, producing its pale yellow and green flowers, several together, on a single spike; there are two tails, which hang downwards from each flower, about twenty inches long. It blooms in March, April, and May, and lasts three or four weeks in perfection.

C. caudatum roseum.—A variety which grows in the same way as the preceding, and flowers at the same time. Blossoms rose, intermixed with yellow and green. Well worth growing.

C. Dayii.—A charming plant, the foliage of which is beautifully variegated; very distinct from any other of the variegated class. Flowers in May and June, and lasts a long time in perfection. Blooms large. Sepals white, with green veins; petals purplish, tinged with green.

C. Farrieianum.—A beautiful and distinct species from India, with leaves three inches long, of a light green colour. Blooms very freely during the autumn months, and will continue in perfection six weeks. Petals white, striped with green and purple; lip large brownish green and purple.

C. hirsutissimum.—A beautiful Indian species, with pale