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THE
ORCHID REVIEW

An Illustrated Monthly Journal

DEVOTED TO ORCHIDOLOGY IN ALL ITS BRANCHES



VOLUME I

1893



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NOVELTIES.

CYPRIPEDIUM CHARLESWORTHII, Rolfe.—A new and sensational species of *Cypridium* has been introduced from the East Indies, by Messrs. Charlesworth, Shuttleworth and Co., of Heaton, Bradford, and has now flowered in their establishment for the first time. Hybridists have tried to get a *Cypridium* with a rose-coloured dorsal sepal, and hitherto without success, while all the time a species with this character has been waiting to be discovered; and now that desirable event has taken place our gardens will be the richer. It belongs to the *C. insigne* group, but is so distinct that it is difficult to compare it with anything. Its leaves are linear-oblong and green, though on the under-side are many irregular purple-brown blotches and streaks. The scape is short, one-flowered, and the flower about the size of *C. Spicerianum*. The dorsal sepal is broad and flat, ultimately slightly concave, and of a beautiful light soft rose-colour, uniform throughout. The petals are spreading and not undulated, and the lip something like that of *C. Druryi* or *exul* in shape. The staminode is ivory-white, with an acute yellow tooth, in which respect, as in that of the dorsal sepal, it is quite unique in the genus. Botanically, it must be placed near *C. Spicerianum*, *insigne* and *Druryi*, though remarkably distinct from any of them. It is as unexpected as it is beautiful; and the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society have just awarded it a First-class Certificate, which it richly deserved. It is dedicated to Mr. Charlesworth, the head of the firm who has been so fortunate as to discover and introduce it. The technical description must stand over for the present.

LYCASTE CINNABARINA, Rolfe.—This is a very beautiful *Lycaste*, which was discovered at the sources of the Marañon River, in Peru, as long ago as 1853, by Warscewicz, though, so far as can be traced, it has only now come into cultivation. Messrs. Linden, L'Horticulture Internationale, Brussels, have recently had a collector in this region, and the plant has now flowered among their importations. Lindley appears to have given it the name of *Maxillaria cinnabarina*, under which name it was included in the Catalogue of Warscewicz's sale, as "a new species, with pale yellowish green flowers and a rich apricot-coloured lip." This apparently relates, however, to the dried specimens, and not to living plants. The species is very nearly allied to *L. mesochlæna*, Rchb. f., of which an account was given at p. 72, and has similar short scapes, while the sepals and petals are almost identical, both in shape and colour. But the lip is totally different, being nearly entire instead of three-lobed, and of a deep apricot or light orange-brown tint, which forms an elegant contrast with the greenish white or nearly ivory-white sepals and petals. It must not be confounded with *L. gigantea*, Lindl., which has long scapes, and longer, more acute sepals and petals, in fact the

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** Coloured Plate to be bound in as Frontispiece to Volume.

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CYPRIPEDIUM CHARLESWORTHII, Rolfe.

(See page 355.)

CYPRIPEDIUM CHARLESWORTHII.

(See FRONTISPIECE.)

WE are now able to present our readers with a coloured plate of the new and beautiful *Cypripedium Charlesworthii*, which was noticed some time ago in our pages (p. 303). It came as a great surprise, for no one imagined that so fine and distinct a species remained undiscovered in our great Indian Empire. It is true that many districts are yet very imperfectly explored, and that the habitat of the remarkable *Cypripedium Fairieanum* still remains a mystery. But the appearance of a species with a rose-coloured dorsal sepal could scarcely have been anticipated; at least in the particular group to which it belongs. It was the sensation of the Royal Horticultural Society's meeting on September 26th last, when it was unanimously awarded a First-class Certificate by the Orchid Committee, and was universally admired. As already pointed out, its nearest ally is *C. Spicerianum*, though in many respects the two are very different. In habit and general character of the vegetative organs they are much alike, but the purple-brown streaks on the under side of the leaves of the present one extend further from the base, in some cases beyond the middle. The scapes, too, are a little shorter. The *pièce de résistance* is the dorsal sepal, which is suffused with light soft rosy purple, a little marbled with white towards the apex, and the nerves generally a little darker than the ground colour. In shape it is nearly orbicular, flat or at length a little concave, and two and a quarter inches in diameter. The petals are linear-oblong, flat, one and a quarter inches long, and greenish yellow somewhat nerved with light brown. The lip is as long as the petals, and rather similar in colour. The staminode is another very distinct feature. It is ivory-white or nearly porcelain-white, with a curved light yellow horn-like tooth near the apex. It is likely to become just as popular as *C. Spicerianum*, not only as a decorative plant, but also for hybridisation purposes. To the hybridist it should prove a great acquisition, for it presents a colour which has been much sought after, and its handsome dorsal sepal is sure to originate some striking developments, when crossed with other richly coloured forms. Altogether we may predict that so handsome a species will become a general favourite. It is an autumn-bloomer, and no doubt will succeed under the same treatment as *C. Spicerianum*. The few flowers which have already expanded indicate a certain variability in colour. Our plate represents the darkest form which has appeared. This fine species has been introduced by Messrs. Charlesworth, Shuttleworth and Co., of Heaton, Bradford, who are now sending it out. Next autumn, when the plants have had time to become established, a general flowering may be anticipated. It is probable that we have not yet witnessed its full development.

Cypripedium Charlesworthii, Rolfe in *Orchid Review*, I. p. 303; *Journ. of Hort.*, 1893, ii. p. 307, fig. 43; *Gard. Chron.*, 1893, ii. p. 437, fig. 70.