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CURTIS'S
BOTANICAL MAGAZINE,

ILLUSTRATING AND DESCRIBING

Plants of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew,
AND OF OTHER BOTANICAL ESTABLISHMENTS;

EDITED BY

D. PRAIN, C.I.E., LL.D., F.R.S.,
DIRECTOR, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.

VOL. IV.

OF THE FOURTH SERIES.

(Or Vol. CXXXIV. of the Whole Work.)



So in this pleasant vale we stand again,
The fields of Enna, now once more ablaze
With flowers that brighten as thy footstep falls.

TENNYSON.

LONDON:

LOVELL REEVE & CO., LTD.,

Publishers to the Home, Colonial, and Indian Governments,

6, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1908.

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Mo. Bot. Garden
1909



M.S. del. J.N. Sitchliff

L. Reeve & Co London.

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CYPRIPIEDIUM DEBILE.

China and Japan.

ORCHIDACEAE. Tribe CYPRIPIEDIEAE.

CYPRIPIEDIUM, Linn.; Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Plant. vol. iii. p. 634; Pfitzer in Engl. Pflanzenreich, Orch. Pleon. p. 28.

Cypripedium debile, Reichb. f. Xen. Orch. vol. ii. (1874), p. 223; Gard. Chron. 1905, vol. xxxviii. p. 442, fig. 166; Rev. Gen. Bot. 1901, t. 13, fig. 1-10; Franch. et Savat. Enum. Pl. Japon. vol. ii. p. 738; Matsumura Index Pl. Japon. vol. ii. p. 241; species nana, diphylla, foliis late ovatis, caulibus scapisque gracilibus glabris, floribus parvis.

Herba terrestris, 10-15 cm. altus. Caulis gracilis, glaber, diphyllus. Folia opposita, late ovata, acuta, membranacea, 3-6 cm. lata, 3-5-nervia, venis secundariis reticulatis. Scapi 2-4 cm. longi, arcuati. Bractee lineares, acutae, 1.5-2.5 cm. longae. Pedicelli 1 cm. longi. Flores parvi; sepala et petala pallide viridia, basi brunneo-maculata, labellum album ore purpureo-striatum. Sepalum posticum ovatum, acuminatum. 1.3-1.5 cm. longum. Sepala lateralia connata, ovato-oblonga, subobtusa, 1.2-1.4 cm. longa. Petala oblonga, acuminata, 1.3-1.5 cm. longa. Labellum ovoideo-globosum, 1-1.2 cm. longum, ostio angusto. Staminodium spathulatum, cucullatum. — *Calypso borealis*, Somoku Zusetsu, 1856, xviii. t. 85, non Salisb. *C. cardiophyllum*, Franch. et Savat. Enum. Pl. Japon. 1879, vol. ii. pp. 39 et 521.

An anomalous little species, which was originally figured in the Japanese work, Somoku Zusetsu, in 1856, under the name of *Calypso borealis*, a mistake which was pointed out by Reichenbach, in 1874, when he briefly described the plant under the name of *Cypripedium debile*; his description being based solely upon this old figure. Five years later Franchet and Savatier described a species under the name of *C. cardiophyllum*, basing it chiefly on a specimen collected on Fudsiyama, in the province of Nippon, by Savatier. They cited, however, the old figure above mentioned, and a still earlier one, in the Japanese work, Honzo Zufu, published in 1828, where it appeared without any botanical name. A reference to the work, however, shows a thoroughly characteristic coloured figure, with both flowers and young fruit. It is now known from several Japanese localities, and has also been found by Père Farges

in Western China, in the Tchen-kéou-tin district of the province of Szechuen. A single plant has also been collected by Mr. E. H. Wilson, at an altitude of 7,000 feet in the same province, though the precise locality has not been stated.

DESCRIPTION.—*Herb*, terrestrial, 4–6 in. high. *Stem* slender, glabrous, two-leaved. *Leaves* broadly ovate, acute, membranous, $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad, with three to five primary nerves, secondary veins reticulated. *Scapes* $\frac{3}{4}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, arching. *Bracts* linear, acute, $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 in. long. *Pedicels* over $\frac{1}{3}$ in. long. *Flowers* small, with pale green sepals and petals, each bearing a dark brown blotch at the base, forming a zone round the column, sometimes striped with brown, and with a white lip streaked with purple round the mouth. *Dorsal sepal* ovate, acuminate, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long; *lateral sepals* connate into an ovate-oblong, subobtuse limb, slightly longer than the dorsal. *Petals* oblong, acuminate, as long as the dorsal sepal. *Lip* ovoid-globose, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, much narrowed at the mouth. *Staminode* spathulate, cucullate.—R. A. ROLFE.

CULTIVATION.—Roots of this interesting little orchid were purchased from the Yokohama Nursery Company. They were planted in pans of leaf-mould and chopped sphagnum and kept in an unheated frame where they flowered in April. Although lacking the attractions of size and colour so usual in the genus, *Cypripedium debile* has charms of its own, and is quite worthy of a place among select “Alpines.” It is probably sufficiently hardy to be grown permanently in the open air, although, owing to their pose, the flowers would be practically hidden unless the plants were set on the high ledge of a rockery, or grown, as at Kew, in a pan and placed whilst in flower on the stage of a greenhouse.—W. WATSON.

Fig. 1, side of lip, in section; 2 and 3, side and front views of column:—*all enlarged.*