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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

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“From many lands  
They form one social shade, as if convened  
By magic summons.”

COWPER.

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## CYPRIPEDIUM SPECIOSUM.

*Japan.*

ORCHIDACEAE. Tribe CYPRIPEDIEAE.

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

*Cypripedium speciosum*, Rolfe in Kew Bulletin, 1911, p. 207; species a *C. macrantho*, Swartz, floribus pallidis roseo-striatis et staminodio acutiore differt.

*Herba* 20–40 cm. alta. *Caules* erecti, crassiusculi, pubescentes, foliosi. *Folia* sessilia, ovato-oblonga vel elliptico-oblonga, acuta vel breviter acuminata, ciliolata, breviter pubescentia, 7–10 cm. longa, 2–5 cm. lata, plicata. *Bracteae* foliosae, magnae, ovatae, acutae. *Flores* speciosi, albiduli vel pallide carnei, roseo-venosi. *Sepalum* posticum ovatum, acutum vel breviter acuminatum, 3–4.5 cm. longum; sepalum inferum ovatum, apice breviter bifidum, 2.5–3.5 cm. longum. *Petala* falcato-oblonga, acuta, 4–4.5 cm. longa, 1.5–1.8 cm. lata. *Labellum* subglobosum vel ovoideoglobosum, 3–4 cm. longum; ore semicirculari marginato; lobi laterales obtusanguli. *Staminodium* ovato-hastatum, acutum, 1 cm. longum.—*C. macranthum*, So mokou Zusetsu, vol. xviii. t. 83; nec Swartz. *C. macranthum*, var. *β. ventricosum*, Franch. et Sav. Enum. Pl. Jap. vol. i. (1879), p. 40, excl. syn.; Matsumura, Nomencl. Jap. Pl. p. 63; nec Reichb. f. *C. Thunbergii*, Matsumura, Index Pl. Jap. vol. ii. (1905), p. 242, pro parte; Rolfe in Orch. Rev. vol. xvi. p. 186; nec Blume.—Honzo Zufu, vol. xxxix. t. 18 (recto).—R. A. ROLFE.

The figure of the striking *Cypripedium* given in our plate has been prepared from a plant sent to Kew for identification by the establishment of Bees, Limited, with whom it flowered in June, 1910. The species is one with a somewhat interesting history. It has been in cultivation in this country for a number of years and, at all events at the time of its introduction as well as for some time thereafter, was accepted as being *C. macranthum*, no doubt owing to the fact that the figure of the plant in the Japanese work So mokou Zusetsu bears this name. It is, however, quite distinct from the original *C. macranthum*, Swartz, figured at t. 2938 of this magazine, which has flowers of a uniform deep rose-purple shade. Franchet and Savatier, fully realising this, have thought it to be the same as *C. macranthum*, var. *ventricosum*. But it is equally distinct from the plant so named by the younger Reichenbach, and Professor Matsumura on discovering this fact has concluded that it

must be the Japanese plant described by Blume as *C. Thunbergii*, with the result that of late years this *Cypripedium* has, in all carefully determined collections, been grown under that name. But an examination of the original type of *C. Thunbergii*, Bl., for an opportunity of studying which we are indebted to the kindness of Dr. Goethart of the Leyden herbarium, shows that, of the three suggestions from time to time adopted, that of Matsumura happens to be the least satisfactory. Our plant is undoubtedly a near ally of *C. macranthum*, though it differs too greatly to admit of its being included therein; with *C. Thunbergii* its affinity is much more remote. So far as we know at present *C. macranthum* does not occur in Japan, and *C. speciosum*, which seems to be widespread in that country, may be looked upon as its representative. Besides the coloured figure given in the So mokou there is another in the older Honzo Zufu. In this latter figure, however, rose-coloured blotches are depicted on the lip; these have not been met with so far in any living specimen and would appear at least to be unusual. The cultivation of *C. speciosum* presents no great difficulty, the conditions suitable for *C. macranthum* being also suitable for our plant.

DESCRIPTION.—*Herb*; stems erect, rather stout, pubescent, leafy, 8–16 in. high. *Leaves* sessile, ovate- or elliptic-oblong, acute or shortly acuminate, ciliolate, shortly pubescent, 3–4 in. long,  $\frac{3}{4}$ –2 in. wide, plicate. *Bracts* leafy, large, ovate, acute. *Flowers* showy, whitish or pale flesh-coloured, veined with rose. *Sepals*: upper ovate, acute or shortly acuminate,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, lower ovate, with a shortly 2-fid tip,  $1$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. *Petals* falcate-oblong, acute  $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. long,  $\frac{2}{3}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide. *Lip* subglobose, or ovoid-globose,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, with a semicircular mouth; lateral lobes rather bluntly angled. *Staminode* ovate-hastate, acute, 5 lin. long.

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Fig. 1, section of lip; 2, column :—both enlarged.