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LINDENIA

ICONOGRAPHY OF ORCHIDS

CONDUCTED BY

J. LINDEN, LUCIEN LINDEN, EM. RODIGAS
and R. A. ROLFE.

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ICONOGRAPHY OF ORCHIDS

CONDUCTED BY

J. LINDEN, LUCIEN LINDEN and EM. RODIGAS.

THE COLOURED PORTRAITS BY

P. DE PANNEMAEKER, A. GOOSSENS and G. SEVEREYNS.

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CYPRIPEDIUM EXUL O'BRIEN var. IMSCHOOTIANUM ROLFE

PL. CCCXXVII.

CYPRIPEDIUM EXUL O'BRIEN var. IMSCHOOTIANUM ROLFE.

THE EXILE CYPRIPEDIUM, VAN IMSCHOOT'S VARIETY.

CYPRIPEDIUM. Vide *Lindenia*, Engl. ed., vol. I, p. 31.

Cypripedium exul. Herba caespitosa. Folia rigida, suberecta, pauca, elongato-lineararia, brevissime bidentata, subtus carinata, 0.23-0.30 m. longa, 2-2.6 cm. lata, viridia. Scapus 15-20 cm. longus, pubescens, purpureus v. viridis. Bractea cucullata, lanceolato-oblonga, glabra, viridis. Ovarium triquetrum, rostratum, pubescens. Sepalum posticum ovato-oblongum, circa 4.5 cm. longum, dorso pubescente, basi et centro laete viridi maculis atropurpureis, margine et apice late albo. Sepala lateralia connata, herbaceo-viridia, ovato-oblonga, cymbiformia, dorso pubescente. Petala lineari-oblonga, apice paullo latiora, subobtusa, flavo-virentia, linea mediana brunnescente ad basin, maculis paucis atropurpureis, margine ciliato. Labellum circa 3 cm. longum, flavescens, venosum, marginibus involutis, extus politum, intus pubescens. Columna 6 mm. longa, subteres, pubescens. Staminodium late elliptico-ovatum, politum, ad basin pubescens, umbone medio ocreo paullo elevato, subtus carinatum, omnino pubescens. Capsula purpurea, pubescens, rostrata, rostro curvulo 4 cm. longo.

Cypripedium exul O'BRIEN, in *Gard. Chron.*, 1892, pt. I, pp. 522-523, fig. 77.

C. insigne var. *exul* RIDLEY, in *Gard. Chron.*, 1891, pt. II, p. 94.

Var. *Imschootianum*. Scapus viridis. Bractea brevior. Margo sepali postici angustior, sepalum anticum angustius. Petala angustiora, apice albida.

Var. *Imschootianum* ROLFE, *supra*.

C. insigne var. *Imschootianum* L. LIND.; *Journ. d. Orch.*, III, p. 37.

The subject of the present plate is a plant of very great interest. It was at first thought to be a variety of *C. insigne*, but the only one with which it can be compared is the Siamese *C. insigne* var. *exul*, described by Mr RIDLEY last year. To this it undoubtedly does bear a close resemblance, as will be pointed out presently, but the question suggests itself to me whether that plant is really a variety of *C. insigne* at all. Last autumn I saw a large importation of this particular plant, together with a coloured drawing. In the former I could not see any evidence of *C. insigne*, though the drawing certainly bore a considerable resemblance to that species, yet there were certain discrepancies which I could not understand. And now, having seen a plant which has flowered in the collection of R. I. MEASURES, Esq., of Cambridge Lodge, Flodden Road, Camberwell, it only confirms my suspicion that we have a distinct species, and not a variety of *C. insigne*, to deal with.

C. insigne and its numerous varieties have spreading leaves, while the Siamese plant has more or less erect leaves, which, with other differences, renders the two quite dissimilar; and no one seeing the Siamese plant out of flower would think for a moment of *C. insigne*, but rather of a narrow-leaved form of *C. philippinense*. Comparing the plant with the Nepalese *C. insigne*, Mr RIDLEY observes: — "It is very distinct as a variety, both in form and colouring. The leaves are shorter and

more crowded; the scape shorter, the flower rather smaller than those of the typical form. The general colouring is similar to that of the Nepal plant, but the white margin of the standard is broader, and runs right down to the base; the purple spots are crowded into the middle of the bright apple green centre. The petals and lip resemble much those of the Indian forms, but the lip is more yellow. The shield is different in shape: instead of being cordate, with a notch in the apex, it is almost ovate, with, at the most, a depression at the top. "

The differences which strike me most in the Siamese plant, in addition to the different habit, already pointed out, are: the shorter scape, with smaller flower, of rather more rigid texture; the less undulate dorsal sepal, with the regular white margin all round, and the darker spots confined to the centre of the basal half, where are also a number of darker green lines; the connate lateral sepals considerably larger than the lip; the shorter petals, distinctly spotted at the base; the smaller, stouter lip, which, like the petals, is more yellow in colour, and very glossy; the smaller staminode, and, lastly, the different season of the year when the flowers are produced. Although the dorsal sepal and the central boss of the staminode bear some resemblance to *C. insigne* (the latter character also applicable to *C. villosum* and its variety *Boxallii*), yet the lip is equally near to that of *C. Druryi*, while in general habit it is much nearer to the last named. All things considered, I think it entitled to rank as a distinct species, for which the name of *C. exul* may be retained.

The variety *Imschootianum*, here figured, has all the essential characters of the above, but there are a few differences which may be sufficient to justify the varietal name, though it is too early to say what variations may appear when the imported plants become established in cultivation. The scape is green, more slender, and about six inches high; the bract not half as long as the ovary; the white margin of the dorsal sepal narrower; the lateral sepals narrower; the petals narrower, with much narrower brown band, and white tips. It should be pointed out, however, that some of these characters may not prove constant when the plant becomes fully established. They have been kindly noted for me by Mr J. WEATHERS, Assistant Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, from a plant exhibited by MESSRS LINDEN, at a meeting of that Society on April 12 th. last.

It is dedicated to M. ALFRED VAN IMSCHOOT, of Ghent. A plant was exhibited by MESSRS LINDEN at the March meeting of the ORCHIDÉENNE, when it was awarded a First-class Diploma of Honour, unanimously and by acclamation.

From its Siamese habitat I should infer that the plant will require more heat than *C. insigne* and its varieties, and should be grown with *C. villosum* and its allies.

R. A. ROLFE.

Since the above was in type the species has been described by Mr J. O'BRIEN under the same name as I had proposed for it. I have been able to add this reference, but the text remains unchanged.

R. A. R.