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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING
COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF
NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL
ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY
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VOLUME I.

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MDCCLXXXII.
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.



EPIDENDRUM VITELLINUM MAJUS.

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EPIDENDRUM VITELLINUM MAJUS.

[PLATE 4.]

Native of Mexico.

Epiphytal. *Pseudobulbs* ovate, clustered, two-leaved. *Leaves* oblong-ligulate, acute, sheathing at the base. *Scape* erect, six to nine inches high, racemose, many-flowered, longer than the leaves. *Flowers* brilliant orange-scarlet, nearly two inches across, much larger than the typical form; *sepals* spreading; *petals* flat, elliptic, somewhat broader than the sepals, spreading, lanceolate, acute; *lip* clawed, linear, abruptly acute, with a bifoveate (two-holed) callosity below the middle, deep yellow passing to orange-scarlet at the tip. *Column* parallel with and nearly half the length of the lip, to which it is adnate towards the base, the anther-bed marginate in front.

EPIDENDRUM VITELLINUM MAJUS, *of gardens.*

The original form of *Epidendrum vitellinum*, of which a good though pale-coloured figure will be found in the *Botanical Register* for 1840 (t. 35), is one of the most brilliant of the *Epidendreae*, on account of its remarkable fiery colour, which makes it invaluable for contrasting with other subjects, both in the Orchid-house, in the jardinière, or in the bouquet. The same colour, or something near it, occurs in a few other Orchids, which are equally valuable from a decorative point of view, as for example in *Lælia cinnabarina*, *Lælia harpophylla*, and *Ada aurantiaca*, all of them being plants, which, under favourable conditions, yield a brilliant effect. The subject of our plate has the advantage of producing larger and more showy flowers than its type, and to this extent is the more desirable of the two for the house-stage, or exhibition table.

Until within the last few years this plant was very rare, but having been imported in large quantities it is now to be found in every collection, however limited its pretensions. The bright colour of its orange-scarlet flowers, produced in considerable numbers on upright spikes, renders it a most striking and distinct species. We have known the flowers to last as long as twelve weeks in perfection; in fact, we have on several occasions exhibited a plant of it at as many as six different successive exhibitions. Mixed with other Orchids it has a most telling effect; and a well-flowered specimen once seen by a novice is likely to produce a lasting impression. In the Broomfield collection it is used very largely in association with *Odontoglossums*, and the effect of the orange-scarlet flowers amongst the numerous spikes of *Odontoglossum Alexandræ*, and other species, is charming.

We have found this *Epidendrum* to do well in the Odontoglossum-house in a compost of peat and sphagnum moss. It does equally well in a pot or in a basket, and should receive a fair supply of water while growing. The plant seems to revel in a good amount of sunlight, but it must be kept from the burning rays of the sun by a slight shading, too much sunshine being apt to make the foliage become blotched and sickly-looking.

The variety *majus* blooms at a different time of the year from the original species, which has the flowers much smaller, and which blooms in August and September from the young growths; whereas the variety *majus* flowers from the tips of the bulbs of the previous year's growth. There are several forms of the plant, some with flowers much larger and brighter than others; indeed, the one here figured is not so large as some that were flowered years ago, which may be due to the fact that they were old-established plants. We remember the late Mrs. Lawrence, of Ealing Park, exhibiting a remarkably strong specimen at one of the Chiswick shows, thirty-five years since, a perfect blaze of flower. S. Brunton, Esq., also exhibited a grand plant of a good variety a few years back; and C. W. Lea, Esq., Parkfield, Worcester, had a wonderful example in bloom, last year. These several plants were all part of the early importations.

THE MANCHESTER SHOW OF ORCHIDS, JUNE, 1881.—The display of Orchids at the Manchester Exhibition was a very fine one, and no Orchid grower should have missed the sight. The specimens were truly marvellous, especially the sixteen plants shown by R. Dodgson, Esq., of Blackburn, amongst which were a *Vanda suavis* with about a dozen flower-spikes; *Lælia purpurata* and *Cattleya Warneri*, both wonderful specimens, as also was *Masdevallia Harryana*; *Cypripedium barbatum superbum* which had a hundred blooms upon it, and was not made up for the occasion, but had been grown on from a single plant; and *Dendrobium Wardianum* which was a magnificent plant. Great credit is due to Mr. Osman for his talent, in successfully cultivating so fine a collection. G. Hardy, Esq., of Timperley, exhibited some wonderful plants, especially of *Cattleyas*, *Lælias*, *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, *Oncidium Marshallianum*, *Odontoglossum vexillarium*, &c. R. F. Ainsworth, Esq., M.D., also exhibited some fine specimens, especially *Vanda suavis*, *Aërides Fieldingii*, and *A. Schröderii*; these three are most extraordinary plants, and have been grown in the collection for eighteen years, which is a sufficient proof of what can be done by perseverance, and, moreover, gives one an idea how well Orchids can be grown and exhibited for many successive years. We have known these three specimens to be shown at the Manchester exhibitions and elsewhere for the past ten or fifteen years, and they are now in the finest possible condition, as they have always been, under the successful management of Mr. Mitchell. There were besides, other exhibitors whose specimens were well worthy of note.—B. S. W.



ANGULOA RUCKERII SANGUINEA

ANGULOA RUCKERII SANGUINEA.

[PLATE 19.]

Native of Colombia.

Epiphytal. *Pseudobulbs* large, ovate-oblong, four to six inches high, furrowed when mature. *Leaves* several, growing from the apex of the younger pseudobulbs, broadly lanceolate, acute, two to two and a half feet long and four to six inches broad, strongly ribbed and plaited. *Flower-scapes* radical, one-flowered, shorter than the leaves, clothed below with imbricated sheathing bracts. *Flowers* large, fleshy, nearly erect; *sepals* roundish with an apiculus, strongly convex, conniving into a semi-globular shape, which with their nearly erect position gives them a somewhat tulip-like appearance, creamy yellow outside, and of a deep sanguineous red on the inner surface; *petals* similar in form and colour to the sepals; *lip* clawed, subconvolute, three-lobed, the lateral lobes broadish and obtuse, the middle portion hairy, funnel-shaped and two-lipped, the front lobe tridentate, and with the middle part crimson blotched and barred with white. *Column* entire, creamy white, spotted with crimson.

ANGULOA RUCKERII SANGUINEA, *Lindley in Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1852, 271; *Hooker, Botanical Magazine*, t. 5384; *Williams' Orchid Growers' Manual*, ed. iv., 90; ed. v., 92.

The subject of our present illustration is an exceedingly rare plant, and is met with in only a few collections. In its habit of growth and general appearance it resembles the type *Anguloa Ruckerii*, but it is very distinct in colour, and is altogether a more desirable plant, the flowers being of a much richer colour—a deep rich blood-red spotted with a darker tint of the same—whereas in the original *A. Ruckerii* they are of a fine orange colour spotted with dark brown.

The growth of this plant is very majestic, producing as it does bulbs four to six inches high, and leaves from eighteen to thirty inches long, by four to six inches broad. The flowers, which proceed from the base of the pseudobulb, are erect, tulip-shaped, and of great substance and size, lasting as long as four weeks in perfection. *A. Ruckerii sanguinea* is a very suitable plant for exhibition purposes on account of the distinct appearance produced by its massive flowers when intermixed with other Orchids.

The temperature best suited for this plant is that of the cool Orchid-house. We have found it succeed well in pots in a compost of good fibrous peat, with plenty of drainage. It requires a good season of rest, during which period the plant should be kept rather dry until it begins to show renewed signs of growth, when the supply of water may be increased. It is propagated by division of the pseudobulbs just before they start into growth. We are indebted for the opportunity of

figuring this plant to Dr. Boddaert, of Ghent, Belgium, in whose collection it flowered last July.

A fine figure of the original *Anguloa Ruckerii* will be found in *Warner's Select Orchidaceous Plants*, 2nd series, t. 10; and it is also figured in the *Botanical Register*, 1846, t. 41; and in *Moore's Illustrations of Orchidaceous Plants*, art. Auguloa, plate 3.

CATTLEYA DOWIANA.—We have received a very beautiful flower of this grand Cattleya, by post, from R. Dodgson, Esq., of Blackburn, in whose fine collection the plant has been grown. Mr. Osman, the gardener, says, "we had three imported plants last year, and two of them are now in bloom." We were pleased to hear this, as *Cattleya Dowiana* is considered a difficult plant to flower, though we have seen many plants blooming this season. There is no doubt that its cultivation is becoming better understood. The variety above referred to has a large lip of a most intense dark purple, striped and reticulated with golden yellow, in a very prominent manner. The sepals and petals are large, of good substance, of a bright nankeen colour, and produce a very pleasing and altogether distinct appearance. This is, undoubtedly, one of the most distinct and beautiful of all Cattleyas. There is a grand figure of this species in the 2nd series of *Warner's Select Orchidaceous Plants*, t. 27.—B. S. W.

CYPRIPEDIUM SPICERIANUM.—We were pleased to receive last month a splendid bloom of this fine variety from J. S. Bockett, Esq., of Stamford Hill. There is no doubt that it is one of the most distinct species of the whole genus. The dorsal sepal is erect, curiously curved, pure white, of a wax-like texture, having a purple streak extending from the base to the apex; the linear-oblong petals are much crisped on the edge, and, like the other parts of the flower, are of a bronzy-green colour, the lip being darker, of a reddish-brown and glossy. It has been named in honour of H. Spicer, Esq., and was introduced from India some few years ago. We also received at the same time a fine form of *Odontoglossum Chestertoni*, and a most distinctly spotted variety of *O. Alexandræ*, the sepals and petals of which are white, spotted with reddish-crimson, and the lip white, with a large reddish-brown blotch on the lower portion.—B. S. W.



ODONTOGLOSSUM BREVIFOLIUM.

ODONTOGLOSSUM BREVIFOLIUM.

[PLATE 27.]

Native of the Cordillera of Peru.

Epiphytal. *Pseudobulbs* ovate-oblong, compressed, monophyllous. *Leaves* short, oblong, two inches broad, and sometimes not much exceeding that in length, spreading. *Scape* simple, radical, bearing at the apex a many-flowered erect raceme, the membranaceous bracts of which are oblong acute, and as long as the pedicels. *Flowers* nearly or quite two inches in diameter, of a rich chestnut brown on the inner, and olive-green on the outer surface; *sepals* roundish-ovate, somewhat undulated, narrowed at the base, of a bright chestnut-brown, narrowly bordered with yellow; *petals* similar in size and colour, oblong-ovate; *lip* clawed, auriculate, wedge-shaped, emarginate, shorter than the sepals, bright yellow, bearing at the base five warty tubercles, with a three-toothed appendage in front of them. *Column* small, the edges of the anther-bed serrated, and decurrent in the form of membranous wings.

ODONTOGLOSSUM BREVIFOLIUM, *Lindley* in *Bentham's Plantæ Hartwegianæ*, 152; *Id.* *Folia Orchidacea*, art. *Odontoglossum* no. 61; *André* in *Illustration Horticole*, 3 ser. t. 170; *Reichenbach, fil.*, in *Walpers' Annales Botanices Systematicæ*, vi. 846.

This very distinct species was first found by Hartweg, on the Peruvian Andes, near Loxa, and was described by Lindley, in Mr. Bentham's account of the plants collected by that traveller. It appears to have been introduced by M. Linden, and to have been first flowered in his establishment, the figure published in *L'Illustration Horticole* having been derived from this source. The small compressed pseudobulbs are formed at the end of a sucker or offshoot, which is invested by large membranous bracts or scales, the upper of which covering the base of the flower-scape is somewhat broader and leaf-like.

This Odontoglot ranks among the most distinct species of its genus, as may indeed be seen by a glance at our illustration. It produces dense spikes of its beautiful flowers, which are more in the way of those of *Odontoglossum coronarium* than of any other cultivated species; it, however, blooms more freely. The spike of flowers we have here represented was sent to us by Mons. F. Massange, of Liège, in whose collection the gardener—Mr. Kramer—induces it to flower freely every year. M. Massange is a great *connoisseur* of Orchids, and in his collection are to be found many rare and valuable specimens, which have been frequently exhibited during the past few years, including the Liège Exhibition of 1881.

Odontoglossum brevifolium is a dwarf growing plant, and produces its erect spikes of flowers from the side of the pseudobulbs. There were seventeen blossoms on that which is here represented. The sepals and petals are of a bright chestnut-brown, margined and slightly marked near the base with yellow, the lip is rich yellow with two light brown patches at its base. It is altogether a strikingly showy plant, and one that should be always cultivated amongst Odontoglots for its distinctness of colouring.

The treatment which we find to suit the plant, is to grow it in a basket suspended from the roof, as it requires and enjoys all the light that can be given to it; but, of course, it needs to be shaded from the burning sun. The most suitable material in which to grow the plant is sphagnum moss and fibrous peat. It requires also a good supply of water in the growing season, so that it must be thoroughly drained. It thrives best in a cool house in which the same temperature is maintained as is found congenial to *Odontoglossum Alexandræ*, and others of that class.

ODONTOGLOSSUM LONDESBOROUGHIANUM.—We have been under the impression that this species was not so good as it was first reported to be, but we are now of a different opinion. There are no doubt many varieties of the plant, as is the case with nearly all Orchids. In their native countries they are produced freely from seeds, all of the variations not being equally good. If our collectors could only pick out the best, when in bloom, we should be saved many disappointments, but of course they cannot spend their time in doing this. We were agreeably surprised when we paid a visit to the collection of G. W. Law-Scholefield, Esq., New-Hall-Hey, Rawtenstall, near Manchester, to see a fine spike of the *O. Londesboroughianum* with twenty-five of its large blossoms, much finer than any we had ever seen before. The sepals and petals are yellow, barred with brown; the lip is large, of a bright golden yellow, and very showy, and, as the long spikes hung drooping among the white and coloured flowers of the other Orchids the effect was very good. No one could complain of having such a species as this, for it is a most showy flower.

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE.—When calling at Mrs. Haywood's, Norris Green, Liverpool, a few weeks ago, we were pleased to see a fine specimen of this old Orchid, which was two feet in diameter; on nearly all the numerous scapes there were two flowers, and very fine ones they were. Mr. Bardney, the gardener, informed us that they come so every year, which makes this plant the more interesting, as the character of the species is merely to produce one flower on a stalk. This plant was grown in the grand conservatory, in which there was a most wonderful display of blossom, in fact, the grandest lot of greenhouse flowers we ever remember to have seen in winter, consisting of Pelargoniums, Primulas, Camellias, Cyclamens, and the *Luculia gratissima*, with 40 or 50 heads of bloom. There are not many Orchids at this place, but, what there are, are doing well, and are well looked after.



DENDROBIUM SUPERBUM [MACROPHYLLUM].

[PLATE 42.]

Native of the Philippine Islands.

Epiphytal. *Stems* (pseudobulbs) stout, cylindrical, striated, the nodes of the flowering ones marked by the persistent scarious sheathing bases of the fallen leaves, drooping, and often attaining considerable length. *Leaves* alternate elliptic-oblong, acute or obtuse, subcordate at the base, nervose, thin in texture, two-ribbed. *Flowers* very numerous, usually in pairs from the joints of the stems, which form long floral wreaths; *sepals* lanceolate, plane, the lateral ones produced at the base, of a deep rich purplish magenta, varying in intensity in different forms; *petals* broadly oblong-ovate, somewhat undulated, of the same colour as the sepals; *lip* pubescent, cordate-ovate, acuminate, convolute at the base, so that with the extended front lobe it assumes something of the shape of an oblique-mouthed funnel, the margin denticulate, the basal portion of an intense sanguineous purple, appearing like two deep blotches; the front lobe purplish magenta, marked with longitudinal ribs, connected with finer transverse veins of a deeper purple, and having a transverse three-lobed callosity. *Column* short, included.

DENDROBIUM SUPERBUM, *Reichenbach fil. MSS.*; *Id.*, *Walpers' Annales Botanices Systematicæ*, vi., 282; *Williams, Orchid Grower's Manual*, 5 ed., 180.

DENDROBIUM MACROPHYLLUM, *Lindley, Botanical Register*, 1839, misc. 46; 1844, misc. 62; *Id. Sertum Orchidaceum*, t. 35; *Pescatorea*, t. 40; *Paxton's Magazine of Botany*, viii., 97.

DENDROBIUM MACRANTHUM, *Hooker, Botanical Magazine*, t. 3970; *Planchon in Flore des Serres*, viii., t. 757.

This is a magnificent Orchid, especially in the case of its finer varieties, whether superior on the score of size or colouration. It was first bloomed by the Messrs. Loddiges in 1839, in their wonderful plant emporium at Hackney, having been introduced by them from the Philippine Islands. A grand variety called *giganteum*, having flowers of immense size, is figured in Mr. R. Warner's *Select Orchidaceous Plants* (1 ser., t. 26); and in respect to colour, the form of which we now give an illustration, is one of the richest and most effective we have yet seen. The materials from which our figure was prepared were obligingly sent to us by Mr. C. Penny, gardener to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, at Sandringham. It will be at once seen that the specimen in question was a well-grown example, and we understand that the plant yielded two similarly well furnished wreaths, bearing as many as forty blossoms. Besides this there are many other Orchids of superior merit to be seen in the collection at Sandringham gardens, these plants, the magnates of the vegetable world, being highly appreciated both by the Prince and the Princess of Wales.

The *Dendrobiums* are among the most beautiful and charming of our Indian Orchids, many of the species being of a most graceful habit of growth, and by their brightly coloured flowers imparting a remarkably picturesque character to our Orchid houses. Some of them, moreover, have delicately fragrant blossoms. In very many cases they bloom most profusely, and with their long pendent stems look well suspended from the roof of the house. Our present subject belongs to this latter class, and is one of the most showy and beautiful of the species.

Dendrobium superbum, which is more commonly known in gardens as *Dendrobium macrophyllum*, is a deciduous plant, losing its foliage just as it begins to blossom. It is a noble object when growing, producing stems from two to three feet long, furnished along each side with flowers growing in pairs; these flowers are four inches across, with sepals and petals of a lively magenta-rose, and a lip similar in colour, but with a purplish crimson throat. It blooms during February and March, the individual blossoms lasting about a fortnight in beauty. It thrives best when grown in a basket, and suspended from the roof. If hung up when in blossom, amongst the foliage of the other plants, the flowers are shown off to greater advantage, as it naturally blooms without foliage. It grows well in the East India Orchid house, and requires a good amount of heat and moisture during its growing season. After growth is completed it will do well in the *Cattleya* house during the dormant period, and when it begins to show its flower buds a little water may be given to induce the buds to swell and develop fine flowers. When the flowering season is over it may, if required, be placed in fresh sphagnum moss. It is a free growing plant, and thrives best suspended near the glass in the full light, but shaded from the burning sun. It is, indeed, absolutely necessary to give it all the light possible; and, in summer, a slight syringing when the house is closed will tend to keep the red spider and thrips in check.

DENDROBIUM HILLII.—There is in the collection of R. Wyatt, Esq., Lake House, Cheltenham, a very fine specimen of this cool Orchid, which has been bearing numerous spikes of blossom, some of the spikes being as much as twenty inches in length. The specimen was a most beautiful object, with its long racemes of creamy white blossoms, which proceed from the apices of its thick fleshy pseudobulbs; it has, moreover, dark green foliage. This plant was growing in the conservatory, and had continued in bloom for about two months, so that it is a most useful subject for winter decoration. It is a very old Orchid, but is worth cultivating, especially as it will grow in a conservatory or in any cool house. There was also in the same collection a very fine variety of *Cypripedium villosum*, one of the best we have seen, the flowers being wonderfully bright in colour, and of large size. Of *Lycaste Skinneri* there was a well-grown plant, with very fine flowers, the sepals and petals being broad and pure white, and the front portion of the lip bright magenta, with the throat white.