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THE
ORCHID MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN. **ALBUM,**

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

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J. Nugent Fitch del. et lith.

CYPRIPEDIUM SCHRÖDERÆ

B.S. Williams Publ.

CYPRIPEDIUM SCHRÖDERÆ.

[PLATE 196.]

Garden Hybrid.

Terrestrial. *Stems* short, bearing a tuft of deep green foliage below, and a branched inflorescence above. *Leaves* a foot long or more, strap-shaped, taper pointed, and spreading. *Scape* or *Flowering stem* taller than the leaves, branched, densely pubescent, bearing about five large and highly coloured flowers, with compressed glabrous semi-ovate spathaceous subfalcate bracts, becoming smaller upwards, greenish, blotched with purple. *Flowers* large, solitary, very distinct in aspect; *sepals* (dorsal) ovate, two inches long and an inch broad, downy on both surfaces, flushed with rose and faintly veined with olive-green, the central and stouter veins tinted with rose, the lower one broadly ovate obtuse concave; *petals* deflexed, about four inches long, half an inch broad at the base, tapering gradually to a long narrow point, of a purplish rosy hue, deeper outside, and becoming paler inside near the base, ciliate at the edge, hairy inside at the base especially on the lower side, the hairs deep purple; *lip* large, an inch broad and nearly two inches long, oblong, very obtuse, the opening about an inch deep, dark purplish rose or dull crimson, somewhat veiny with deeper rose, the anterior edge crenulate, the broadly infolded fleshy edges creamy white, with brown spots, the inner surface white spotted with rose, and covered with short stiff hairs. *Staminode* fleshy, transversely oblong, with a short claw, the front edge with a central apiculus, where it is recurved against the tongue-shaped lower portion, creamy white, with a whisker-like fringe of deep purple hairs behind, and on the lower side a fleshy bluntly-triangular process having its upper surface hollowed out, and set thickly on both surfaces with short stiff hairs.

CYPRIPEDIUM SCHRÖDERÆ, *Reichenbach fil.*, in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, xix., 432; *Williams, Orchid Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., 256.

We now introduce to our readers one of the many hybrid forms of *Cypripedium* that have been raised within the past few years, and amongst which there are many fine subjects that will be real acquisitions to our collections. The Lady's Slippers are very useful for the bright colours of their flowers, and also for their lasting qualities; moreover, most of them are easily cultivated. The one we now illustrate is a great improvement on any of the previous forms of the *C. longifolium* section; others have been raised that were improvements on those we formerly had, but *C. Schröderæ* is far in advance of them all, and is no doubt a grand acquisition. It was raised by Mr. Seden, in the Nurseries of Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, who have been very successful in producing many new and distinct hybrid forms. Some account of the experiments carried out in this establishment are referred to in the very elaborate paper read by Mr. Harry J. Veitch, at the Orchid Conference held at

South Kensington, on May 13. Mr. Veitch's remarks on the Hybridisation of Orchids were exceedingly interesting, especially to those who are fond of experiments of this kind, at which many other growers are now trying their hands with very successful results. The beautiful novelty we now figure is named in honour of the Baroness Schröder, and we are indebted to Baron Schröder, of the Dell, Staines, for our drawing of it, our artist having been permitted to make his sketch from the original plant which now has its home in this very fine collection.

Cypripedium Schröderæ is an evergreen Orchid, with long gracefully spreading foliage of a light green colour. The flower stem proceeds from the centre of the young growth, and bears several large handsome blossoms. The dorsal sepal is of a pale yellowish hue, tinged with dull red, the petals dull crimson lighter towards the base, and the lip dull crimson, densely spotted in the interior. It blooms in December, and continues flowering for some time.

Mr. Ballantine grows this plant in the same manner as we have recommended for *Cypripedium calurum*, at Plate 136 (vol. iii.) of the *Album*; it is also propagated in a similar way.

MASDEVALLIAS AT SANDRINGHAM.—We have received a splendid assortment of these showy flowers from Mr. C. Penny, gardener to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, at Sandringham, where these plants are well cultivated, as is attested by the vigour of the cut flowers sent, which must have been produced on well-grown plants. The colours were brilliant, and the flowers not only of large size but also of stout substance. There were several varieties of *M. Harryana*, especially *magnifica*, of a bright magenta-crimson, while others of the varieties were bright shades of crimson, scarlet, and various other colours. There was also a fine flower of *M. Veitchiana grandiflora*, with its bright orange, scarlet, and yellow hues, the scarlet being flushed with purple. These are most useful plants to cultivate, as they are free-growing, and will endure cool treatment; besides which they afford colours that are required amongst our hundreds of the white *Odontoglossum crispum (Alexandræ)*, &c., and by intermixing them, as Mr. Penny does, they form a most effective picture.—B. S. W.
