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THE
ORCHID MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN. ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

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CYPRIPEDIUM SELLIGERUM.

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[PLATE 255.]

Garden Hybrid.

Epiphytal. Acaulescent, of free bold habit, the plant forming a tuft of evergreen leaves which spring up from the crown of the roots. *Leaves* distichous, ligulate oblong, bluntish, thick, shining, keeled beneath, spreading, greyish green, faintly tessellated. *Scape* erect, branched, pubescent, of a purplish crimson, bearing about three blossoms, each having at the base a concave ovate bract. *Flowers* large, high-coloured, and showy; *sepals* (dorsal) roundish ovate, white, flushed with dull red, and marked with numerous longitudinal deep crimson-red bands or stripes, the apex incurved, the connate sepal smaller and paler in colour; *petals* linear ligulate, attenuated at the apex, distinctly ciliated about three inches long, spreading, deflexed with a partial twist, vinous crimson, veined with crimson-purple and having several blackish hairy warts, especially on the upper edge; *lip* oblong, bluntly pouch-shaped, spreading at the upper edge which is rounded behind, greenish and slightly veiny, the anterior portion of a deep crimson or vinous red. *Staminode* obovate with an apiculus, pale reddish green, deflexed.

CYPRIPEDIUM SELLIGERUM, *Veitch, Catalogue of New Plants*, 1878, 13, with figure; *Gardeners' Chronicle*, N.S., xix., 776, fig. 133; *Moore, Florist and Pomologist*, 1878, 85, with figure; *Williams, Orchid-grower's Manual*, 6 ed. 257, with figure.

Hybrid *Cypripediums* have become numerous, and many new forms are being from time to time flowered. We have figured some of them, but there are many more which yet remain to be done. They are great favourites, and deservedly so, with many orchidophilists. We now illustrate one which was raised several years since; it is a very distinct and free-blooming variety, and one which also is easy of cultivation. There are several forms of this hybrid, but the one we now figure we consider to be the original. This was raised between *C. philippinense (lavigatum)* and *C. barbatum* by the Messrs. Veitch & Sons, Chelsea, who sent it out some years ago. Our drawing was taken from a plant in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries.

Cypripedium selligerum is a distinct hybrid plant of bold, massive habit, evergreen, with broad, thick, shining, faintly tessellated leaves, as in *C. philippinense*, and erect, blackish crimson pubescent flower scapes, which bear from two to three large flowers. The dorsal sepal is white, with broad blackish crimson veins; the strongly ciliated petals are about three inches long, deflexed with a partial twist, vinous red, veined with crimson-purple, and having several blackish marginal warts, especially on the upper side; while the lip or pouch is similar in shape to that of *C. barbatum*, but of a lighter red colour. This plant blooms at different times of

the year; indeed, we have had various plants flowering for the last six months, and each spike keeps in bloom for two months.

These plants are of easy culture, being very free in making their growth and flowering. They are best cultivated in pots with a good amount of drainage, at they require a plentiful supply of water at the roots during their active growth; in fact, even when at rest they should be kept rather moist at the roots, as they have no fleshy bulbs to support them. They must have thorough drainage, no stagnant water being allowed to hang about the roots, which should always have sound fresh material packed about them, consisting of good rough fibrous peat and live sphagnum moss, and they should also be elevated above the pot so that their roots can have room to work about the material; a few broken crocks will be beneficial to them by helping to keep the material open. We find the East India house to suit this *Cypripedium*, which flowers after the growth is completed, and when the blooming season is over they begin to put forth their fresh growth. This is a good time to pot them if they require it; if not, a little new material about them will be beneficial, removing the old soil and giving them fresh without injuring the roots. The plants should be kept free from insects. Sometimes the red thrips will attack them, also the white scale; these pests must be destroyed at once so that they may not injure the foliage.

Propagation is effected by dividing the plants between the growths so that sufficient crown and root are left to support them. They are free in making their young growths, and when these growths are completed they can be taken off if they have roots attached to them; the part retained will soon put forth a new growth. The offshoots should be potted in small pots, kept shaded from the sun, and will then soon establish themselves.
