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THE  
**ORCHID ALBUM,**

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

**ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.**

CONDUCTED BY

Plate 498  
missing

**ROBERT WARNER, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.**

AUTHOR OF SELECT ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

AND

**HENRY WILLIAMS, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.**

THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.

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1897  
MDCCCXCVII.

Mo. Bot. Garden.  
1898.





CYPRIPEDIUM CALLOSUM

## CYPRIPEDIUM SUPERBIENS.

[PLATE 486.]

*Native of Mount Ophir, Malay.*

Terrestrial. Stemless, having distichous, oblong-ligulate leaves, which are keeled below, tessellated on the upper surface with pale and dark green, but of an uniform pale green beneath. *Scape* erect, bearing a large and showy solitary flower bract, short, much smaller than the ovary. *Flowers* about four inches across, dorsal *sepal* broadly ovate, acute, white, regularly streaked with pale green, the lower sepal much smaller, ovate-lanceolate, similar in colour to the upper one; *petals* slightly deflexed, oblong-ligulate, white, streaked with pale green, thickly spotted with dark blackish purple wart-like spots, and fringed on the margins with dark hairs; *lip* large, pouch-like, of a bright brownish green, flushed with purple in front, passing into light green beneath; the large infolded lobes are reddish crimson. *Staminode* sub-reniform, obtuse, white, netted with pale green.

CYPRIPEDIUM SUPERBIENS, *Reichenbach fil. in Bonplandia*, 1885, p. 227. *Ibid* in *Xenia Orchidacea*, ii., p. 9, t. 103. *Warner's Select Orchidaceous Plants*, ii., t. 12. *Flore des Serres*, xix., t. 1996. *Williams' Orchid Grower's Manual*, 6th ed., p. 258.

CYPRIPEDIUM BARBATUM SUPERBUM, *Belgique Horticole*, 1883, p. 97.

CYPRIPEDIUM VEITCHIANUM, *L'Illustration Horticole*, xii., t. 429.

CYPRIPEDIUM BARBATUM VEITCHII, *Flore des Serres*, xiv., p. 161, t. 1453.

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This is a very fine form of the Slipper Orchid, and one that has been very useful to the hybridiser. We consider it one of the finest *Cypripedes* in cultivation, and we should recommend all collectors to have it in their collections as being a great beauty and free bloomer, added to which are its long-lasting qualities. It was one of the parents of that superb hybrid raised in the first place by Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea, and named by them *Cypripedium Morgania*, since obtained in different varieties by other growers, and many other fine forms have also this plant as one of their parents. It has only been imported upon two occasions, the first time by Messrs. Rollisson and Sons, then of Tooting, and which was said to have been sent to them from Assam or from Java—two localities far enough apart to be easily determined, we should think. This plant passed into the hands of Consul Schiller, of Hamburgh, then an assiduous collector of new and rare species and varieties. The next time it came home it was sent to Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea, from Mount Ophir, with a lot of *C. barbatum* collected by Thomas Lobb. These are the only occasions upon which it has been found in a wild state, which would lead one to infer it had a hybrid

origin, but the species to which we attribute its parentage has not been found growing in the neighbourhood. Much difference of opinion has arisen about the varieties of this plant, but as only two have been brought to us to obtain the whole stock from, it must be from cultivation alone that we have so many different forms varying both in the size of the blooms as well as in the depth of their colouring. The plant which we here figure flowered in the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries during the summer of 1893.

*Cypripedium superbiens* is a fine bold kind of the coriaceous-leaved section of this genus, and was one of the earlier arrivals, and still maintains its place as one of the finest amongst the numerous forms of these Slipper Orchids which are to be found in cultivation at the present day. It is a plant with bold leaves arranged in a two-ranked fashion, which are tessellated on the upper side, but of an uniform pale green beneath. The flowers are large and beautifully coloured, blooming from the month of May up till the end of July, the plant lasting fully half that time in full perfection. We grow it in a moist part of the East Indian house, and we find it to like good heat and moisture—in fact, when lacking the latter element we have found it to become affected by attacks of the red thrips, which is even more injurious to these plants, if possible, than the black thrips, and the marks made by them show even more on account of the pale green of the leaves. The plant likes good drainage, which should be kept in a free and open condition, using for soil some good brown peat-fibre and sphagnum moss in about equal proportions, with a little light turfy loam from which the greater portion of the fine soil has been beaten, and to be kept in a fairly moist part of the East Indian house.

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