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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

Plate 498
missing

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

VOLUME XI. □

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY B. S. WILLIAMS & SON,

AT THE

VICTORIA AND PARADISE NURSERIES, UPPER HOLLOWAY, N.

1897
MDCCCXCVII.

Mo. Bot. Garden.
1898.





CYPRIPEDIUM LAWREBEL.

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CYPRIPIEDIUM LAWREBEL.

[PLATE 498.]

Garden Hybrid.

Epiphytal or terrestrial. *Leaves* springing from the crown of the roots, broadly oblong, acute, distichous, and radical, from six to nine inches in length, and from two to two and a-half inches broad, of a deep green colour, and heavily tessellated with yellowish green on the upper surfaces. *Scape* solitary, erect, about a foot in height, proceeding from the axil of the leaves, with an acute, oblong, sheathing bract near the top, from which the bloom emerges. *Flowers* very large, of beautiful form, very showy, and thick in texture; *dorsal sepal* large, broadly ovate, white, with deep vinous purple veins extending almost to the margin, and heavily suffused with rich rosy crimson, but leaving a pure white border, greenish towards the base; *lateral sepals* small, oblong, greenish white, with purplish crimson veins; *petals* broadly oblong, slightly deflexed, greenish at the base, of a rich rosy crimson, much darker towards the ends, and heavily spotted with large and small spots of blackish purple, these usually appear in radiating lines; *lip* very large, pouch-shaped, deep crimson-purple above, yellowish green below, inside greenish yellow, with dark purple spots. *Staminode* wax-like, and of a deeper crimson-purple than the pouch.

CYPRIPIEDIUM LAWREBEL, *Lawrence, Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1892, xi., p. 502, as *C. Lawrellum*; *Id.*, 1892, xi., p. 560, fig. 82. *Williams' Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 7th ed., with woodcut, p. 273.

Without doubt this is one of the most beautiful hybrids ever raised, for although during the past few years this genus has been largely worked upon with such grand success by the hybridist, the subject of our present illustration must certainly rank with the finest, and take a first place in the best collections. This beautiful hybrid is also of great interest inasmuch as it is one of the first crosses with *Cypripedium bellatulum*. It was raised in the gardens of Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., at Burford Lodge, Dorking, and was obtained by crossing *C. Lawrenceanum* with the pollen of *C. bellatulum*, and we must certainly congratulate this skilled amateur upon the results of his work.

Cypripedium Lawrebel first flowered during April of 1892, and was exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society held at the Drill Hall, James Street, Westminster, on the 12th of that month, when it is needless to remark that it was the centre of very great attraction, and was unanimously awarded a First Class Certificate. The first seedling that opened its flowers from this cross, resembled more the pollen parent, but others that have flowered since partake more after *C. Lawrenceanum* both in size, manner of growth, and the colour of their leaves.

The name of this beautiful plant is derived from a combination of the names of its two parents. The plant here figured is evergreen and of robust habit, with fine large leaves from six to nine inches in length, and about two to two and a-half inches in breadth, very thick in texture; the upper surface is of a deep green ground colour, beautifully tessellated with a yellowish green shade. Even when not in bloom it is a very ornamental plant. The spike proceeds from the centre of the leaves, and stands erect, bearing a single flower of fine form, good substance, and richly coloured. The dorsal sepal is bold, erect, and flat, very broad, and of the purest white round the margin, greenish at the base, with numerous veins of deep vinous purple which extend almost to the edge and run through the whole centre which is heavily suffused with rich rosy crimson. The petals are broadly oblong, no doubt receiving the rounded shaped ends from the pollen parent, *Cypripedium bellatulum*, slightly deflexed, greenish at the base, changing into rich rosy crimson, and becoming much deeper towards the tips, which are heavily spotted with blackish purple in radiating lines; in some cases these appear in large wart-like spots with smaller ones between, and in other plants the petals are densely dotted all over. The lip, which is large and formed into a pouch, has much the shape of *C. Lawrenceanum*, but the lateral horn-like appendages are much less prominent; it is a lovely rich crimson-purple in front, whilst the underside is yellowish green, and inside it is greenish yellow with small blackish purple spots. The whole flower forms a very pretty contrast to all other varieties of this very popular genus, and combines good qualities from both its parents.

Cypripedium Lawrebel will succeed best if potted in good brown peat fibre and living sphagnum moss, or if some cultivators prefer it, a good mixture of turfy loam and fibrous peat, to which some sphagnum moss should be added to keep the soil more porous, and to allow the roots to push through more easily. The pots, however, should be well drained, as stagnation at the roots is very detrimental to the well-doing of this genus. A temperature similar to that maintained in the *Cattleya* house will be found to suit it admirably, and during the growing season a liberal supply of water is necessary. It must never, however, be allowed to become dry even in the dull winter months, although great care must be exercised in watering. The atmosphere should always be kept in a humid condition, to guard against the attack of thrips, which if allowed to become established will greatly disfigure and injure the plants. The flowers of this plant last for a considerable time in full beauty.
