"The genuine life
That serves the steadfast hours,
Is in the grass beneath, that grows
Unheeded, and the mute repose
Of sweetly-breathing flowers."

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1898.
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Paphiopedilum Victoria-Mariæ. Native of Sumatra.


Paphiopedilum Victoria-Mariæ; foliis late lineari-oblongis apice rotundatis et emarginatis, supra saturate viridibus tessellatis subtus pallidis unicoloribus, scape valido rufo-brunneo superne inter flores hirsuto, racemo plurifloro diu persistente et florente, floribus seriatim evolutis, bracteis magnis cymbiformibus obtusis ciliatis herbaceis fusco-rubro striatis, ovario breviter pedicellato 2/3 poll. pollicari stricto piloso, floribus amplis, sepalo dorsali 14 poll. lato erecto orbiculari viridi marginibus late albis ciliolatis, disco sanguineo hic illic striato, lateralibus in laminam labello suppositam late ovatum obtusam viridem confluentibus, petalis sepalis longioribus divaricatis linearibus tortis et undulatis ciliatis viridibus fusco-purpureo fasciatis et marginatis, labello elongato sepalo dorsali longiore obtuso purpureo, ore dilatato, marginibus viridibus, lobis lateralibus rostratis, staminodio ovato acuto basi pilosulo.


Cyprediadium Victoria-Mariæ, Rolfe l.c. p. 110.

The time has come, in the opinion of most orchidologists, for separating generically the tropical from the temperate species of Cyprediadium, and adopting for the former the name Paphiopedilum proposed by Dr. Pfitzer (“Morphol. Stud. Orchid.”, p. 11, 1886). Besides the wide difference of geographical distribution, the true Cyprediadium being all natives of the colder temperate regions, and the Paphiopedilum of tropical Asia and Australia, the following characters distinguish them. In Cyprediadium proper the leaves are cauleine, thin, and plicate in vernation, the perianth marcescent, and sepals valvate in aestivation. In Paphiopedilum the leaves are radical, coriaceous, and conduplicate in vernation, the perianth deciduous, and sepals imbricate in aestivation, the dorsal enfolding the lateral. Dr. Pfitzer has further included Reichenbach’s (American) genus Selenipedium (as Selenopedilum) in his Paphiopedilum; and accepted Ascherson’s (“Brandenb. Flora,” p. 77, 1864) conversion
of Cypripedium into Cypripedilum, for etymological reasons.

Mr. Rolfe, on the other hand, rightly ("Orchid. Rev.," vol. iv. p. 364) retains Selenipedium on the grounds of its American habitat, unilocular ovary and globose seeds; but unfortunately, for the sake of uniformity in nomenclature, reduces Paphiopedilum to Paphiopedium.

As regards the conversion of Cypripedium into Cypripedilum, it involves a departure from Linnaeus' meaning of the generic term, which he derived from κυπρις, Venus, and πόδιον, a foot ("Phil. Bot.," p. 186), and should have spelled Cypripodium. On the other hand, πέδιον, which would have given Cypripedium, is Greek for a plain, and πέδιλον (giving Cypripedilum), for a slipper. The simplest process, if change is desirable, would be to end all in podium:—thus, Cypripodium, Selenipodium, Paphiopedium, the only objection being the aesthetic one that, considering the shape of the lip of Cypripodium, the compliment to the goddess's foot is not a flattering one.

Paphiopedilum Victoria-Mariæ is a native of Sumatra, whence it was imported by Messrs. Sander of St. Albans, from whom the specimen here figured was procured. It flowered in the tropical Orchid-house of the Royal Gardens in March, 1897, and continued flowering for some months.

Descr.—Very robust. Leaves a foot long by one and a half to two inches broad, coriaceous, tip rounded, emarginate, with an apiculus in the sinus, upper surface bright green, mottled with darker green, under pale blueish green. Scape eighteen inches high, as thick as a goose-quill, dark purple-brown. Racemes erect, with many flowers, produced, one or two at a time, from below upwards on the stout, dark, red-brown, hirsute rachis. Bracts an inch long or more, cymbiform, obtuse, herbaceous, ciliate, green, with red-brown streaks. Ovary with short pedicel two and a half inches long, strict, erect, green, hairy. Flowers three inches long from the tip of the dorsal sepal to that of lip. Dorsal sepal orbicular, ciliolate, green, streaked with red, and with a broad, nearly white margin; lateral sepals united in an ovate, obtuse, green blade beneath the lip, about a third shorter than the latter. Petals two inches long, spreading horizontally, undulate and twisted, green, with
broad, red purple margins and nerves. Lip two inches long, by three-fourths of an inch broad below the broad mouth, slightly compressed laterally, dull purple, green round the mouth; side lobes erect, produced into short green horns. Staminode ovate, acute, hairy on the back towards the base.—J. D. H.

Fig. 1, Staminode and stigma, seen laterally; 2, staminode seen from above:—Both enlarged.