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ILLUSTRATING AND DESCRIBING
Plants of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew,
AND OF OTHER BOTANICAL ESTABLISHMENTS;
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PAPHIOPEDILUM VILLOSUM, var. ANNAMENSE.
Annam.

Orchidaceae. Tribe Cypripedieae.


Paphiopedilum villosum, Pfitzer, var. annamense, Rolfe (nov. var.); a typo foliis longioribus et angustioribus, sepalo postico gilvo et disco viridi atropurpureo-fasciato differt.


The typical form of Paphiopedilum villosum, Pfitzer, is a native of Burma, which was discovered and introduced to cultivation over half a century ago, and for a long period has been one of the most popular winter-flowering species of the genus. A somewhat different form has now appeared, having been sent from Annam by Mr. W. Micholitz, when collecting there for Messrs. Sander & Sons. A plant in flower was presented to Kew by the importers about a year ago, from which the annexed plate was prepared, and owing to the longer, narrower and more erect leaves, together with a marked difference in the colour of the dorsal sepal, it was proposed to distinguish it as above. A plant exhibited at a meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society last March by Messrs. Sander possessed the same peculiarity, and we understand that it applies to the whole importation. Indeed, when out of flower, it was taken for something quite different. It appears to be a distinct geographical form, but in the present state of our knowledge it seems best to accord it varietal rank only. These

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Annamese importations have proved surprisingly rich in novelties, and there are other geographical problems on which they may throw light when the results are better known.

Descri.—A dwarf tufted herb, about a foot high. Leaves erect or arching, linear-oblong, bidentate at the apex, coriaceous, 8–16 in. long, nearly an inch broad, dull green, spotted with brown at the conduplicate base. Scape stout, erect, villous, 6–10 in. high, green, spotted with brown, one-flowered. Bracts elliptic-oblong, subobtuse, conduplicate, over 1½ in. long. Flowers large. Ovary shaggy. Upper sepal erect, obovate- orbicular, obtuse, slightly ciliate, nearly 2 in. long, with the margin somewhat incurved at the apex and recurved at the base, cream-coloured, veined and suffused with dark purple on the disc, which is slightly margined with green; lower elliptic-oblong, acute, about as long as the lip. Petals spreading, obovate-oblong, obtuse, ciliolate, slightly undulate, about 2½ in. long, light yellow, veined and reticulated with brown. Lip slipper-shaped, about 1½ in. long, yellow, suffused with brown in front, mouth somewhat dilated, side lobes nearly ½ in. long. Column somewhat villous; staminode orbicular-elliptic, ½ in. long, somewhat concave, tridentate at the apex, bilobed at the base, and with an erect fleshy tooth in the centre.—R. A. Rolfe.

Fig. 1, column, showing stamens, staminode, and stigma; 2, the whole plant:—1, enlarged, 2, much reduced.