

THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

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THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

Established 1841.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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New Garden Plants.

CYPRIPEDIUM SANDERIANUM, n. sp.*

THIS is an extraordinary surprise as well as a beauty from the Malayan Archipelago. It is a nearly ally of *Cypripedium levigatum* (whose elder name is, however, philippinense) and Roebeleni, standing near the last in the narrower series, which are deltoid in *C. levigatum*. The strong blackish-purple velvety peduncle has a purple and green sheath at the base. I am not sure whether this is constant. The two peduncles at hand bear two flowers each. I am, however, persuaded they ultimately bear more, as in *C. levigatum*, where four flowers are quite usual. The green bracts have a purple hue outside, are ciliate at the borders, striped with darker purple outside. They exceed, equal, or are shorter than the green ovaries, which are covered with stiff purple hairs. Sepals very concave, triangulo-lanceolate, with dark purple nerves, short hairs outside scattered everywhere, and stiff, longer dark hairs on the mid-line. They are light whitish inside, where the dark nerves have a fine hue; the nerves are generally seven in number. Both sepals, the simple one and the other, which is the result of the union of two organs, are nearly equal. Petals linear, blunt, nearly three times as long as the sepals; broader at the base. In that situation they have short purple retrorse bristles standing quite near one another. In front there is a light yellow, then a light purple area, and all those are adorned with small dark purple spots, while the remaining one is dark blackish-purple. The dark brownish lip is nearly shaped as in *Cypripedium Stonei*; hence a slipper for a lady, and not a *sabot* for the woods. The side borders are narrow, the anterior small shoe is blunt, concave, retuse at the top. Whether it is always emarginate at the top, as I saw it in four flowers, I cannot say. There are fugacious most inconspicuous dark bristles at the front of the lip. They appear to perish very soon, and to bear very obscure asperities. The staminode affords quite a new aspect, though it is nearly comparable to those of the species named before. It may be divided in two parts. The superior one is cucullate, and overlapping a little the anterior ligulate retuse part, which has an apiculus in front and some teeth (of course very small ones) on the sides. The cucullus has hairs at the base on both sides. The leaves are as brilliant as those of *Cypripedium levigatum*, broad, stiff, shining as if varnished. I had a wild specimen, a living plant, and two peduncles. Those peduncles originated from imported plants, and there can be no doubt that when the plants are established we may have a far superior thing to the actual beauty. It is a great pleasure to dedicate this fine novelty to Mr. F. Sander himself. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CATTELEYA LABIATA LUDDEMANNIANA SCHROEDERIANA, n. var.

THIS is the *Catleya speciosissima* Schroederiana which made a *great favore* in London, and was kindly sent me by Baron von Schroeder. It is much in the way of *Catleya Reineckiana* bella, and some undescribed types of the glorious collection of Mr. Lee, but it has the narrow lip of *Catleya Luddemanniana*. The flower is large, snow-white, *exceptis exceptendis*, grand. There is an orange median line running in the mid-line of the basilar superior part, and there is an orange dash on each side, near the lateral angle. A series of oblique mauve-purple streaks stand one by one at the sides of the median line, and the whole anterior part of the blade of lip is covered with numerous broken lines of mauve-purple. All that speaks of relation to *Catleya Mossie*. The base of the column is green.

What I have seen of *C. speciosissima* Lowii from Mr. Low (and I have a type before me, dried) and the *C. speciosissima* regina of Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P., F.R.H.S., which has a much rounder lip, which is well depicted in Williams' *Orchid Manual*. But there is scarcely a doubt left to me that the Eng-

* *Cypripedium Sanderianum*, n. sp.—Aff. C. Roebelenii. Sepalis lanceis acutis, sepali impari linea mediana barbata; tepalis in basi latiori marginibus setaceo-hispidis, labelli ungue angusto, calceo brevi submarginato; staminodio dorso cucullato marginibus pilosis antice laminiformi ligulato retuso cum apiculo, lateribus minute denticulato. Ax. ins. Sanderici. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

lish call also the *Luddemanniana speciosissima* Lowii, since my late friend Luddemann obtained his *Catleya* under that name.

I may add that I had a very similar thing, rosy, but not nearly so grand in colours, from Mr. Kramer, Klein Flottbek, some years ago, as *C. speciosissima* Lowii. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

ORCHIDS FOR AMATEURS.

(Continued from p. 502.)

PLEIONE.—The section of the genus *Cœlogyne* known as Pleione consists of some half-dozen dwarf alpine forms, all from the lofty mountains of tropical Asia. They possess a very distinct and peculiar habit, which at once distinguishes them from the rest of the genus; they are sub-terrestrial plants, with large plated deciduous leaves which spring from the top of the pseudobulb. The bulbs are annual, and produce one or two flowers either after the fall of the leaves from the centre of the young shoots, or from the axils of the young leaves. When grown well, and surrounded by Selaginellas or bright green growing sphagnum, they are amongst the most beautiful of winter flowering Orchids.

Culture.—The great secret of the culture of Pleiones consists in keeping them dry and cool, with abundant air, from the time when the leaves just begin to fade and turn yellow until the flower-buds make their appearance; they will then need water, or the flowers will be poor, and at the same time some Selaginellas may be planted around the bulb, or a fresh supply of sphagnum should be laid over the pots. This will serve a double purpose—it will prevent the evils of neglect with regard to a due supply of water and will give a pleasing appearance to the plant when the flowers expand. No water should be allowed to fall on the open blossoms or they fade very quickly, but there is a distinct advantage in watering them overhead before the buds open.

After the plants have flowered if the bulbs are crowded they should be taken up and repotted, remembering that each flowering shoot will become a bulb and that the old bulbs will shrivel away and die; this will enable you to plant the pan so that none of the young bulbs will suffer from overcrowding, and no large unoccupied space need be left. As the leaves are 6 inches long and 2 or 3 inches broad when fully grown, sufficient room must be left for their development.

The most suitable compost for the terrestrial species is a mixture of good leaf-mould and sand; some recommend loam, peat and sand, but my observations lead me to prefer leaf-mould, provided it is good and free from worms. The arboreal species, the *præcox* group, should be grown in baskets in sphagnum, to which a little Oak bark and a few dry Oak leaves may be added with advantage.

In their native haunts the ground is often liberally carpeted with their flowers at the commencement of the rainy season, hence they have received the vernacular name "Indian Crocus."

Pleione lagenaria (fig. Warner, pl. 17; *Bot. Mag.*, 5370).—A native of Darjeeling and the slopes of the Himalaya, at an altitude of from 6000—8000 feet. It grows on the ground. This species is named "lagenaria" from its flagon-shaped pseudobulbs, which have the appearance of a box covered by a conical lid with a thick rim. The bulbs are green, spotted with brownish-red, and surrounded by a brown network derived from the bracts which surround them when young. The flowers are solitary, borne on short lateral scapes, two or more growing from each bulb. They are from 2 to 3 inches in diameter, of a pale rose colour. The lip is cornet-shaped, yellow within, with a white margin spotted with large crimson blotches. Although the commonest it is perhaps the most beautiful of the section. Some exceptionally fine varieties are in cultivation. It flowers in winter. This plant is so easily grown that it ought to have a place in every warm greenhouse. A plentiful supply of air is needed for its full development.

P. maculata (fig. Pax, *Fl. Garden*, ii, 39; *Bot. Mag.*, 4691).—A native of Khasya, Assam, at an altitude of 4000—6000 feet. The pseudobulbs resemble those of the last species, but are constricted by a horizontal groove. They have no network over them, but when young they are enclosed in broad scale-like imbricated bracts, which become brown as the bulbs mature. The flowers are white. The lip, which is also white, is marbled with golden-yellow in the

centre, and spotted with crimson around the margin. It flowers in October and November.

P. humilis (fig. *Bot. Mag.*, 5674).—A native of Upper Nepal and Sikkim, in even loftier regions than the two former. It is found at an elevation of 8000—10,000 feet. The pseudobulbs are ovate and pointed, not more than half an inch in diameter, and covered by a sparse network of brown fibres. The flowers are larger than those of *P. Lagenaria*, white, or a faint rose colour. The lip, which is fringed with sharp teeth, is covered with a brown marbled network of veins. It flowers in March.

P. humilis tricolor (*Orchid Album*, iii., pl. 102).—The lip is pale yellow, with a golden-yellow network, and very large.

P. præcox (fig. *Bot. Mag.*, 4496).—Sikkim and Nepal, 5000—7000 feet above the sea. This species is also known as *P. Wallichiana*. It grows upon the branches of Oaks, and should be cultivated in a basket. The pseudobulbs resemble those of *P. Lagenaria*, but the circular rim is not so marked, or is altogether absent. Each bulb produces a single flower 3 inches in diameter. It is rose-coloured, with a white labellum. The labellum is beautifully fringed with sharp teeth, and has a few small round crimson spots near its margin.

P. birmanica, from Burmah, is undoubtedly the same as *P. præcox*. It is said to have two flowers on each peduncle.

P. Reichenbachiana, Moulmein.—The pseudobulbs are something like a Dutch bottle, and about 2 inches high. The flowers are very large, two from a single scape. The sepals and petals are lilac. The lip is broad and open, with a notch at its tip. The throat has three raised crests. The limb is spotted with large deep purple spots. It is exceedingly rare.

P. Schilleriana (fig. *Bot. Mag.*, 5072).—Also a native of Moulmein. It produces its flowers from the axils of the young leaves. The flowers are fawn coloured or pale blue. The lip is three lobed. The lateral lobes shorter than the column. The median lobe nearly twice as broad as long, deeply notched, with recurved edges. It is ochre coloured, veined and marbled with golden-brown. It flowers in June and July.

P. Hookeriana (fig. *Bot. Mag.*, 6388).—The pseudobulbs are only half an inch to an inch in length, smooth, ovoid, and perennial. They form close tufts on the branches of Oaks. It is a native of Sikkim at an altitude of 7000—10,000 feet. The flowers are borne on a long scape, springing from the axils of the young leaves. They are 2 inches in diameter and rose coloured. The lip is blotched with pale purple-brown macule. It flowers in May. *B. T. Lovene.*

(To be continued.)

IRIS CENGIALTI.

AN ATTEMPT TOWARDS GARDEN NOMENCLATURE.

UNDER this name there has recently been introduced into cultivation a dwarf feet blooming, light blue, bearded Iris, which, especially when grown freely in masses, is a welcome addition to the floral beauties of the latter end of May or early June, though its somewhat flimsy and tender petals are apt to be torn and disfigured by the, alas! too frequent fierce winds of early summer. It needs no special care, only ask to be placed in light but rich soil in some sunny spot, where the dark dampness of winter shall not lay too firm a hand upon it.

But it is not about its culture or the worth of its beauty that I wish now to speak; I desire rather to call attention to it because it seems to illustrate exceedingly well certain difficulties of nomenclature which so often arise, or, may I say, always arise, whenever any one attempts to cultivate all or even a large number of different kinds of the same sort of plant. (I purposely use the untechnical words "kind" and "sort.")

And first let me speak concerning the authority for applying the above name *Iris cengialti* to the plant introduced under that name.

My earliest specimens came to me from my friend, Mr. Max Leichtlin, and probably reached him from Vienna, but two years ago I brought away from a visit to that admirable botanist, Don Pedro Porta, in his lovely home in the Val di Ledro, on the west side of the Lago di Garda, a plant which he called *Iris cengialti* (and his knowledge of the flora of the