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Orchids and how to grow them in India and other tropical climates.

Samuel Jennings

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ORCHIDS



AND HOW TO GROW THEM

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ORCHIDS:

AND

How to Grow them in India and other Tropical Climates.

BY

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TO
DR. JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER, C.B.

D.C.L. (OXON.), LL.D. (CANTAB.), F.L.S., F.G.S.
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY,
DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW,

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DEEP INTEREST IN INDIAN BOTANY AND HORTICULTURE,
AND OF HIS UNVARYING KINDNESS
TO THE HUMBLEST STUDENT OF THE SCIENCE
IN WHICH HE HAS ATTAINED SO DISTINGUISHED A POSITION,

This Volume is Dedicated,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

TO

DR. JOSEPH DAYTON HOOKER, C.T.

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, NEW YORK

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS RESEARCHES IN THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

AND ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF MAN

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

WHICH HE HAS ATTENDED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

THIS PAPER IS PRESENTED

BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAP. I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. CULTIVATION OF ORCHIDS	3
III. THE HISTORY OF ORCHIDS	4
IV. NOMENCLATURE OF ORCHIDS	6
V. ORCHID-HOUSES.	7
VI. ON THE SEASONS OF REST, GROWTH, AND FLOWERING	10
VII. GENERAL MANAGEMENT—POTTING AND MOUNTING	13
VIII. „ CLEANLINESS AND WATERING	17
IX. TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS	20
X. ON PROPAGATION	23
XI. ON HYBRIDIZATION	25
XII. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	27
XIII. ON COLLECTING AND PACKING.	31
XIV. INSECT ENEMIES.	34
XV. THE DISEASES OF ORCHIDS	37

PLATE I. *CATTLEYA EXONIENSIS*.

- II. *DENDROBIUM WARDIANUM*.
- III. *ANGRÆCUM SESQUIPEDALE*.
- IV. *CYPRIPEDIUM SEDENI*.
- V. *SOPHRONITIS GRANDIFLORA*.
- VI. *LÆLIA ANCEPS*, AND *v. DAWSONI*.
- VII. *CÆLOGYNE CRISTATA*.
- VIII. *SACCOLABIUM GIGANTEUM*.
- IX. *LYCASTE SKINNERI*.
- X. *ONCIDIUM PAPILIO* { *v. KRAMERI*.
 v. PICTUM.
- XI. *VANDA CATHCARTII*.
- XII. *CYPRIPEDIUM STONEI*.
- XIII. *ODONTOGLOSSUM GRANDE*.

PLATE XIV. *BARKERIA LINDLEYANA v. CENTERIÆ*.

- XV. *PHALÆNOPSIS SCHILLERIANA*.
- XVI. *CYMBIDIUM EBURNEUM*.
- XVII. *MASDEVALLIA LINDENI*.
- XVIII. *CATTLEYA GIGAS*.
- XIX. *DENDROBIUM BOXALLI*.
- XX. *AERIDES FIELDINGII*.
- XXI. *EPIDENDRUM BICORNUTUM*.
- XXII. *LÆLIA PURPURATA*.
- XXIII. *VANDA SUAVIS*.
- XXIV. *DENDROBIUM FARMERI*.
- XXV. *CATTLEYA ACLANDIÆ v. SCHILLERIANA*.
- XXVI. *ODONTOGLOSSUM ALEXANDRÆ*.
- XXVII. *PHALÆNOPSIS ROSEA*.

CONTENTS.

PLATE XXVIII. CYPRIPIEDIUM NIVEUM.

- XXIX. ONCIDIUM VARICOSUM v. ROGERSI.
XXX. AERIDES QUINQUEVULNERUM.
XXXI. EPIDENDRUM VITELLINUM MAJUS.
XXXII. DENDROBIUM BENSONIÆ.
XXXIII. CATTLEYA DOWIANA.
XXXIV. VANDA CÆRULEA.
XXXV. THUNIA BENSONIÆ.
XXXVI. ODONTOGLOSSUM VEXILLARIUM.
XXXVII. MILTONIA MORELLIANA.
XXXVIII. PILUMNA FRAGRANS.
XXXIX. DENDROBIUM PARISHI.

PLATE XL. DISA GRANDIFLORA.

- XLI. LÆLIA MAJALIS.
XLII. ONCIDIUM MACRANTHUM.
XLIII. ANÆCTOCHILUS (GOODYERA) DAWSONIANUS.
 " " ORDIANA.
XLIV. PERISTERIA ELATA
XLV. CATTLEYA LABIATA
XLVI. VANDA INSIGNIS.
XLVII. PLEIONE LAGENARIA
 " PRÆCOX WALLICHIANA.
XLVIII. CALANTHE VEITCHII.

INDEX TO PLATES.

INDEX TO ORCHIDS DESCRIBED.

ORCHIDS:

AND

HOW TO GROW THEM IN INDIA AND OTHER TROPICAL CLIMATES.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

EIGHT years ago but little was known in India of the habits and requirements of that most interesting Order of Plants the Orchidaceæ. It was commonly supposed that, being natives of the hills or of the moist swamps at the foot of the hills, any attempt to introduce them into cultivation in the gardens of the large cities of India must prove a failure. That they had been seen occasionally displaying their wonderful flowers at the shows of the Agri-Horticultural Society many years before the period alluded to is on record; these were, however, plants but recently imported from their native habitat, which after flowering once were invariably neglected, and of course perished in the burning heat of their first summer in the Plains. The Botanical Gardens in Calcutta possessed a small collection including a very few of the Exotic species and isolated specimens, particularly of *Oncidium luridum*, and two or three small *Epidendrums* might be met with in a few gardens belonging to wealthy natives; beyond these but little interest was shown in these curious and lovely plants. A great change has now taken place, and no garden of any pretensions is considered complete without its Orchid house; and the success which has attended the cultivation of these plants leads to the belief that an extended knowledge of their habits will lead to their increased popularity not only in India, but in other tropical countries where at present they are entirely neglected.

In the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta may now be seen a remarkably fine collection of, not merely indigenous Orchids, but also of many splendid foreign species which bloom year after year. In the dry and scorching plains of Central India and the North West Provinces success has also attended their cultivation, and the writer feels not the slightest doubt that equal success may be achieved in almost any other locality in the tropical world.

The object of this work is, in the first place, to afford such information to residents in tropical climates as shall enable them to appreciate and cultivate satisfactorily one of the most beautiful and fascinating of all classes of plants, and by placing so much of the writer's personal experience within the reach of all as may assist in saving thousands of valuable plants which are annually imported into Indian gardens only to perish for lack of such knowledge.

This is a more serious object from a scientific point of view than may at first sight be supposed. It is greatly to be feared that in a very few years some of our most highly

... und die nächsten 10 Seiten ...
... and the next 10 pages ...



T. W. Burbridge del. et lith.

Y. B. D. & S. Co.

AËRIDES FIELDINGII. *S. p. 1/3. -*

L. Reeve & Co. 5, Henrietta St. Covent Garden.

PLATE XX.

AERIDES FIELDINGII.

The word "Aerides" means "air plant," in allusion to their independence of habit, deriving nourishment from the moisture in the air. It is a beautiful genus of East Indian Orchids, possessing charming qualities whether in or out of flower. Their leaves are long and gracefully curved, shining, evergreen and always pleasant to look at; their long and vigorous roots often hang pendent in the air; the flower-spike which is sometimes branching, proceeds from the axils of the leaves, and is often two feet or more in length. The flowers are waxy and lie close together all round the spike; colours most delicate; fragrance powerful, so much so that a single spray of *Ae. odoratum* will perfume the whole house. They are very easy to cultivate in the tropics, growing freely on trees, they increase quickly and soon make wonderfully fine masses. Being found naturally in the valleys, they do not need very much rest, and it is important that they be supplied with sufficient moisture even during the cold weather, as if allowed to become too dry the leaves will shrivel and fall.

All the species belonging to this genus, with the single exception of *Aerides japonicum*, require the maximum amount of heat prescribed for Orchids. They are easily propagated by dividing the stem under the first root from the crown of the plant, as they readily push forth side shoots.

The species figured is popularly known as the *Foxbrush Aerides*. It is a native of Sikkim and Assam, and is frequently seen in Calcutta gardens. Its glorious branching spikes are sometimes as much as a yard long; the flowers are bright rose colour, mottled; the labellum finely expanded.

The following are amongst the best of this type of *Aerides* :—

Aerides affine ("related to," in allusion to its close resemblance to another species).—

Native of Northern India. Leaves light green and jagged at the tips; spike two feet long, often branching; flowers rose-coloured, speckled with purple. Scentless.

Aerides crispum (crisped at edges).—Native of India, mostly of the Bombay presidency.

Spike a foot long; flowers large, white, tipped with pink; labellum rosy. *Aerides Lindleyanum* is a very fine variety.

Aerides maculosum (spotted).—Native of Bombay. Foliage dark green, stiff and compact; spikes short; flowers pale rose, spotted with purple; labellum expanded, nearly flat, with a rich crimson blotch in the centre.

Aerides roseum (rosy).—Native of Northern India and Burmah. Closely resembles *Aerides affine*. Points of leaves smooth, not jagged. This species requires less moisture than any of the others, and is very liable to damp off. This is doubtless the reason why perfect spikes are so seldom seen in India.





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EPIDENDRUM BICORNUTUM.

L. Reeve & Co. 5 Henrietta, St. Covent Garden.

PLATE XXI.

EPIDENDRUM BICORNUTUM.

A hundred years ago almost everything Orchidaceous and epiphytal was called an Epidendrum, and even now this generic name seems to have been reserved especially for the benefit of Orchids, which, botanically considered, will not fall in under any other genus. As a natural consequence, it contains a very large number of species, all natives of America, all epiphytal, all evergreen, though as varied in habit and inflorescence as are the different species of Dendrobium in the Eastern World. Some of them closely resemble Cattleyas in their manner of growth, though none can compare with them as regards the magnificence of their flowers; still, some of them can boast of fine colours and delicious scent, though the bulk of them are of but little interest to the horticulturist—only an ardent botanist would care for their inconspicuous flowers. Some have long, reed-like stems, with narrow leaves from top to bottom, flowering in clusters or dense spikes from the top of the stems. A pretty little species of this nature, *Epid. crassifolium*, is well known in Calcutta, where it blooms regularly without any trouble, potted in broken brick and lumps of charcoal. Some species do very well on a block of wood with a little moss round the root, amongst which the subject of our Plate is a favourite old plant. Its habit is very like a Dendrobium, but it produces its spike from the point of its thick fleshy pseudobulbs. Its flowers are sometimes as much as two inches in diameter, pure white, the labellum being delicately spotted with crimson. It is a native of Guiana, and is probably suitable for growing in India.

Epidendrum aurantiacum (orange).—Native of Mexico and Guatemala. Growth closely resembles *Cattleya Skinneri*. Flowers freely; bright orange; the labellum is streaked with crimson.

Epidendrum dichromum (two-coloured).—Native of Bahia. Pseudobulbs dwarf; leaves long and narrow; blooms abundantly upon graceful panicles, flowers two inches in diameter, white or pale rosy; labellum dark crimson. There are several varieties of this beautiful plant, which differ in the tint and marking of the flowers.

Epidendrum atropurpureum (deep purple).

„ *macrochilum* (broad lipped).

These two names belong to the same plant. The first is its more correct name, but it is more generally known under the second. Native of Mexico and Guatemala. Sepals and petals greenish-white, or sometimes pale rose; labellum broad, with a deep purple blotch at its base. In the variety called *roseum*, the lip is of a fine rose colour.

Epidendrum nemorale (growing in woody secluded spots).—Native of Mexico. Pseudobulbs short; inflorescence abundant in drooping panicles; petals and sepals mauve colour; labellum white, margined with rose, and striped with violet.

THE HISTORY OF THE

A history of the city of London, from its first foundation to the present time. The city of London is one of the most ancient and most important cities in the world. It has been the seat of power and commerce for many centuries. The city has a long and rich history, and its people have played a significant role in the development of the world. The city has a unique character, and its people are proud of their heritage. The city has a beautiful skyline, and its people enjoy the view of the city from the river. The city has a vibrant culture, and its people are always looking for new ways to improve the city. The city has a strong sense of community, and its people are always looking out for each other. The city has a rich history, and its people are proud of their heritage. The city has a beautiful skyline, and its people enjoy the view of the city from the river. The city has a vibrant culture, and its people are always looking for new ways to improve the city. The city has a strong sense of community, and its people are always looking out for each other.

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F.W. Purdie del. et lith.

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LÆLIA PURPURATA.

L. Reeve & Co. 5, Henrietta, St. James's Garden.

PLATE XXII.

LÆLIA PURPURATA.

One of the grandest plants in cultivation, a favourite, and fortunately not a rare Orchid, from Brazil. Its pseudobulbs are stout and shining, about eighteen inches high, each bearing a solitary leaf of light green. The flower spike of three or four blossoms issues from a flattened spathe borne on the top of the pseudobulb. Each flower is about five inches across, the sepals and petals pure white, in some varieties faintly tinted with rose; the labellum is magnificent, gracefully unfolding to the view a fine expanse of the deepest purple, relieved by rich crimson streaks—a marvellous combination of the purest white with the darkest purple. No collection should be without such a gem. There are several varieties, exhibiting more or less intensity in the lip, or rosy blush in the rest of the flower. This plant requires a moderately cool climate, and would succeed best in India, grown on a block of wood sunk in a shallow pan of broken brick and charcoal.

The following are some of the finest *Lælias* in cultivation :—

Lælia elegans (handsome, delicate, preferable).—Native of Brazil. Its colour varies much from white to rose, with crimson or cinnamon spots upon the sepals and petals; the labellum a rich purple. *Lælia Wolstenholmiæ* is a very fine variety, the edges of the sepals and petals being stained or spotted deep purple.

Lælia grandis (imposing, stately).—Native of Bahia. Pseudobulbs club-shaped; foliage solitary, dark green; flowers nankeen colour; labellum white, marked with lilac veins.

Lælia Perrini (after Mr. Perrin, gardener to Mr. Harrison, of Liverpool, one of the earliest cultivators of Orchids).—Native of Brazil. Sepals and petals rosy purple; labellum three lobed, rich crimson.

Lælia Russelliana, a rare plant, allied to the subject of the Plate. Sepals and petals white, tinted with lilac; labellum pale yellow at the base, streaked with crimson, the disc rosy lilac.