

AERANTHES grandiflora.

Large-flowered Aeranthes.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDÆÆ.—Sect. IV. Epidendrææ.

AERANTHES. *Labellum calcaratum, membranaceum, integrum, cum processu unguiformi columnæ cui lacinia anticæ adnascuntur articulatam. Perianthium ringens. Pollinia 2, cava, hinc perforata, filo nullo! glandulâ duplice. Herbæ parasiticæ, perennes, radicibus filiformibus. Folia disticha. Flores maximi, solitarii, pallidi. Sepala cornuta, æqualia.*

A. grandiflora, foliis apice bilobis valde inæqualibus scapo radicali vaginato debili brevioribus, calcare emarginato.

Herba parasitica, non bulbosa. Radices fibrosæ, glabræ. Folia disticha, ligulata, undulata, apice valde inæqualiter biloba, glaucescentia. Scapus radicalis, debilis, foliis longior, vaginis aridis, duris, lineatis vestitus, serie continuatâ florifer. Flos solitarius, magnus, inodorus. Perianthium ringens, pallide flavum. Sepala æqualia, carnosa, lucida, glaberrima, semidiaphana, ad basin pallide viridia, versus apicem flava, patentia, canaliculata, acuminata, quasi cornuta; exteriora ovato-lanceolata, lateralibus ad basin connatis antice usque ad articulum labelli productis, rotundatis, cum ungue columnæ subtus connatis; interiora breviora, cordata, abruptè acuminata, marginibus posticis conniventibus, anticis cum columnâ connatis. Labellum album, liberum, lanceolatum, integerrimum, ad basin subrepandum, cum calcare et pede columnæ articulatam; calcar e processu unguiformi columnæ productum, breve, incurvum, ore abruptè constricto, basi inflato, depresso, emarginato, viridi, intus piloso. Columna brevis, teres, in pedem membranaceum, alatum, cum lacinis interioribus ad marginem, anticis subtus connatum, demum calcaratum producta, antice utrinque alata, alis semiovatis, conniventibus, supra gynizum horizontaliter porrectis. Gynizum subrotundus, excavatus, infundibularis. Anthera terminalis, opercularis, bilocularis, decidua. Pollinia 2, rotunda, cava, hinc perforata, filo nullo, glandulis duabus.

Roots of this singular plant were sent, in a living state, from St. Mary's, Madagascar, by the late Mr. Forbes, in 1823, to the Horticultural Society; in whose garden our drawing was taken in June last. It is there successfully cultivated in decomposed woody soil, in the same manner as other plants of the same family.

So little has hitherto been done in describing the Orchideous plants of tropical countries, that new forms are continually presenting themselves, and requiring the establishment of new genera for their reception. The distinctions upon which these are to be founded, however minute they may occasionally appear, are singularly permanent and decisive. Thus the genus now proposed, which, in many respects, is allied to *Aerides*, of which *A. odoratum* must be considered the type, has a decidedly different

habit, and, to a certain extent, geographical distribution, which are accompanied by peculiar modifications of the parts of fructification. In *Aerides* the spur is an integral portion of the Labellum; in *Aeranthes*, of the Columna! *Aerides* has the solid pollen-masses attached to a long elastic process, as in *Vanda*; while *Aeranthes* has its pollen-masses of the same number, but hollow, with a small perforation on one side, and no process whatever, at least not when the flower is fully expanded.

Among the curious Orchideous plants, for a knowledge of which the world is indebted to the perseverance of M. du Petit Thouars, are two plants, native of the isles of France, Madagascar, and Bourbon, which are referable to this genus. The first resembles *A. grandiflora* strongly in habit, but is essentially distinct. It may be called,

A. arachnitis, foliis apice emarginatis scapo radicali suberecto longioribus.
Dendrobium Arachnitis. Pet. Thouars hist. orch. afr. t. 88.

The second is a plant with large white flowers, and native of Madagascar. It may be called,

A. sesquipedalis, cornu longissimo filiformi, spicis vaginatis axillaribus.
Angræcum sesquipedale. Pet. Th. l. c. tt. 66 et 67.

The following is a list of the other genera of that section of *Epidendræ* to which *Aerides* and *Aeranthes* belong:

EPIDENDRÆ. Sect. IV. *Calcaratæ, vel saccatæ; polliniis duobus.*

VANDA. *Brown in bot. reg. f. 506.*

SARCANTHUS. *Nob.* Labellum carnosum, integrum, saccatum, sepalis patentibus, regularibus, subconforme. (*Cymbidium præmorsum*. Willd.)

AERIDES. *Swartz in Schrad. diar. 1799. p. 233. t. 2. f. 4.*

AERANTHES. *Nob. in pag. opp.*

IONOPSIS. *Humb. et Bonpl. nov. gen. et sp. 1. t. 83.*

We were formerly, judging from the figure in the work just cited, disposed to think with Meyer, that this genus was referable to *Oncidium*. We now believe, however, that the original species must be placed with *Dendrobium utricularioides* and *testiculatum* of Swartz, which certainly belong to this section.

EULOPHIA. *Brown in bot. reg. t. 686.*

ANGRÆCUM. *Pet. Thouars hist. orch. afr. passim.*

ÆONIA. *Nob.* Labellum membranaceum, cucullatum, 3-lobum, horizontale. Perianthium explanatum, liberum, secundum. Pollinia duo postice 2-loba, glandulis propriis, filo nullo.—*Sp. Æonia Auberti Nob. Epidendrum volucre* Pet. Th. l. c. t. 81.

CRYPTOPUS. *Nob.* Labellum membranaceum horizontale, liberum. Sepala heteromorpha, lobata, unguiculata, explanata, basi distantia. Pollinia 2, integra, filis et glandulis propriis in bursis totidem clinandrii occultis!—*Sp. Cryptopus elata Nob. Angræcum elatum* Pet. Th. l. c. tt. 79, 80.