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## SARCOCHILUS LUNIFERUS.

*Native of Burma.*

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDÆ.—Tribe VANDEÆ.

Genus SARCOCHILUS, Br.; (*Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Pl.* vol. iii. p. 575.)

SARCOCHILUS *luniferus*; acaulis, radicibus numerosissimis elongatis compressis, foliis rarissime evolutis, pedunculo rachi racemi et ovario hirtellis squamis paucis ovatis acutis instructo, racemo elongato decurvo multifloro, bracteis ovatis membranaceis, ovario brevi, sepalis petalisque consimilibus ellipticis obtusis flavis aurantiaco-maculatis, labello albo carnosio in calcem dorso obtusum producto, lobis lateralibus magnis erectis ovato-oblongis obtusis; lobo medio minuto revoluta ovato, disco papilloso inter lobos laterales crasse bicarinato, anthera hemispherica 3-calcarata, calcaribus 2 lateralibus setaceis antico breviora robustiora, pollinibus 2 globosis stipite elongato lineari affixis.

S. luniferus, *Benth. mss.*Thrixspermum luniferum, *Reichb. f. in Gard. Chron.* 1868, p. 786.

*Sarcochilus*, as reconstituted in the "Genera Plantarum," consists of a very difficult group of thirty or forty Indian, Malayan, Australian, and Pacific Island Orchids, differing greatly in habit, and out of which some eight or ten genera had been differentiated before a better knowledge of their characters, and the discovery of other species modifying the value of these characters, suggested the propriety of uniting all under one genus. For this genus Reichenbach proposed to adopt the name of *Thrixspermum*, Loureiro (1790), as being anterior to *Sarcochilus*, Blume (1810), a course which Bentham did not adopt in the "Genera Plantarum," on the very sufficient grounds that the name is utterly bad in construction, and because the description of the latter is so incomplete that it would have been impossible to have recognized the plant intended by it, but for a scrap preserved in Loureiro's Herbarium preserved in the British Museum. On the other hand, *Sarcochilus* has been recognized by all authors for three-quarters of a century. Many species have been described under that generic name; and there is a well-known genus of *Tiliaceæ*, *Trichospermum*, Blume.

MARCH 1st, 1889.

Professor Reichenbach, who first described *S. luniferus* remarks that the curious spurs or tails in the anther are not peculiar to it, but are found in a Viti species. The very appropriate specific name which he gave to the Burmese plant refers to the form of the lip as seen on a front view. In its ordinary state leaves are not developed, but Mr. Watson informs me that one specimen at Kew bore several small leaves, and Mr. Parish notes that in its native state leaves occasionally appear.

*S. luniferus* was discovered by the Rev. Mr. Parish near Moulmein in Tenasserim, and was introduced by Messrs. Veitch in 1868. The plant here figured was sent by Dr. King from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta, in 1887, and flowered in the following year.

DESCR. *Leaves* in the ordinary state of the plant none. *Roots* very many, three to five inches long, flattened, one-sixth of an inch broad. *Peduncle* one to two inches long, stout, decurved, hispidulous, as are the rachis of the raceme and ovary, green, purple-spotted, with two to three white ovate acute scales. *Raceme* three to five inches long, drooping, many-flowered; bracts minute, ovate, membranous; ovary very short; flowers half an inch in diameter. *Sepals* elliptic-oblong, obtuse, and similar petals yellow spotted with orange. *Lip* white, saccate, with large erect ovate obtuse side-lobes, a minute recurved mid-lobe, and two thick ridges on the papillose disk. *Anther* hemispheric, with a straight lateral marginal horizontal setiform spur on each side, and a much shorter one in front. *Pollinia* two, globose, on a long linear stipes.—*J. D. H.*

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Fig. 1, Column and lip; 2, front view of lip and column; 3, lip viewed from the position of the column; 4 and 5, anther; 6 and 7, pollinia:—*all enlarged.*