

## \* LACÆNA bicolor.

*Two-coloured Lacæna.*

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

*Nat. ord.* ORCHIDACEÆ. § VANDEÆ; MAXILLARIDÆ.

*LACÆNA*, Lindl. *Perianthium* carnosum patens, *sepalis* subæqualibus basi subconnatis. *Petala* conformia minora. *Labellum* cum columnâ et in medio articulatam, hypochilio unguiculato cuneato bilobo apice pulvinato, epichilio integro. *Columna* erecta semiteres. *Pollinia* 2, posticè fissa, *caudiculâ* setaceâ, *glandulâ* minutâ. — *Herba*, *Peristeriæ habitus*.

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L. bicolor, Lindl. in *Bot. Register*, 1843. *misc.* 101.

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This fine plant was sent to the Horticultural Society from Guatemala by Mr. Hartweg, who found it in the mountains of Salama, in the province of Vera Paz, also near the village of Sunil, near Quezaltenango, in Guatemala, growing on rocks, at an elevation of about 7000 feet above the sea. In May, 1843, it produced its flowers, and ever since has been in such bad health that it is doubtful if it will survive.

In habit the species is so like some of the *Peristerias* with pendulous racemes, that it would certainly be mistaken for them; and in structure it approaches them no doubt very closely. It is, however, essentially distinguished by the labellum and pollen apparatus. In *Peristerias* the labellum, although having a moveable joint in the middle, is continuous with the column by a thick fleshy base; here the articulation at that part is very conspicuous. The *Peristerias* have four pollen-masses; here we have but two. And, finally, the strap by which the pollen-masses cohere is long and slender, like that of a *Lycaste*, not deficient, so as to render

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\* This was one of the names of Helen, and may be applied to this plant because of its beauty: but it may also be derived from *λακίς*, a cleft, in allusion to the divisions of its lip.

the pollen-masses sessile upon a crescent-shaped gland as in *Peristerias*.

The flowers of this plant are formed in a pendulous raceme, as much as eighteen inches long; the lower part being clothed with distant short blunt scales, which extend into bracts about half the length of the pedicels. Each raceme consists of nine or ten flowers of a dull greenish yellow, covered externally with short hairs; their petals have three streaks of violet; their lip is downy all over the upper surface, dark purple in the middle, with two or three spots of the same colour near the point. In the centre of the lower half is a large shaggy hump.

Fig. 1, represents the column and petals; 2, the labellum spread open; 3, pollen-apparatus.

It may be grown in a wire basket like a *Stanhopea*, or tied to a block of wood and suspended to a rafter, in a moist stove. If potted in the usual way, the flower-spike will be apt to go down into the soil and perish. Like many other Orchidaceous plants it requires an ample supply of water during the growing season, and shade in sunny weather, at a temperature between 80° and 90° by day, but not above 70° at night. Towards the end of October water should almost be withheld for a few weeks, no more being given than will prevent the pseudo-bulbs from shriveling.