

20. PHOLIDOTA CHINENSIS.*

Received from Mr. Fortune as "Cœlogyne sp. with yellow flowers, from mountain sides, Hong Kong."

This is a small creeping epiphyte, bearing ovate wrinkled quadrangular pseudo-bulbs on a short stout rhizome. The leaves are rather coriaceous, pale green, with a warm brownish edge. The flowers are greenish white, in drooping racemes not more than 2 or 3 inches long, and are remarkable for opening earliest at the point of the raceme instead of the base. The lip is pure white, and, although it is nearly oblong, with an acuminate point, it is so bent back as to look as if it were 2-lobed. The anther opens by longitudinal slits, and is not bilabiate, as in some species.

This species has long been known from Chinese drawings, in which it is represented as bearing yellow flowers: with us, however, they are pale greenish white, changing to white tinged with cinnamon.

It grows best when suspended on a block of wood in the Orchid-house, where there is plenty of light and moisture, when in a growing state; but it prefers to be kept rather dry when at rest.

It is a small neat species, but not very ornamental.

May 16, 1847.