

56. ACINETA CHRYSANTHA. *Lindley*. (alias *Neippergia chrysantha*, *Morren*.) A stove epiphyte, supposed to be from Mexico, exhibited at Ghent, by M. Auguste Mechelynck, in September, 1849. Flowers the size of *A. Barkeri*, in erect racemes, of a bright golden yellow colour. Very handsome. Natural order of Orchids.

This noble looking plant has exactly the habit of the other *Acinetes*, except that the raceme grows erect, to the height of a foot or so, instead of being pendulous. It is loaded closely with golden yellow blossoms, each more than 17½ inches wide, very like those of *A. Barkeri*, except in colour. The lip appears to be white, and the column crimson. At night the flowers have a sweet aromatic odour; by day they are scentless. From the other *Acinetes* it is distinguished especially by the presence of a long, blunt, papillose horn arising from the hypochil. *Annales de Gand*, t. 282. We do not perceive any ground for separating this plant from *Acinete*, the horn upon which Professor Morren relies, being equally present upon both Barker's and Humboldt's *Acinete*, although of a different form. Nor do we feel certain that the erect position of the flowering raceme is habitual with this plant, for, according to the drawing, while one raceme rises upright, another is bent downwards in the same manner as in the *Acinetes*. Annexed to the article which describes this plant, M. Morren makes the following startling announcement: "I shall prove in another place that *Anguloa*, *Lycaste*, or *Maxillaria*, are simply *isophorous* forms of the same organisation, that is to say, that one may be transformed into another, so that the same plant will produce one year the flower of *Anguloa*, and another that of *Lycaste*. This strange fact I have witnessed, and, connecting it with other analogous facts, well ascertained to exist in the Vegetable Kingdom, I think of soon bringing forward a general theory of isophorism in plants, a doctrine exactly analogous to that of isomerism, now perfectly established in chemistry and mineralogy. I suspect that this *Neippergia* is also an isophorous form, that is to say, transformable into another genus."