

AERIDES maculosum.

Spotted Air-plant.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDACEÆ. § VANDEÆ.

AERIDES. Bot. Reg. 18. fol. 1485.

* *Labello indiviso v. tantum auriculato.*

A. maculosum; foliis coriaceis planis apice obliquis obtusis, racemis densis nutantibus subpaniculatis, sepalis subrotundo-oblongis, petalis conformibus duplò latioribus, labello ovato subundulato integerrimo basi utrinque unidentato tuberculo indiviso interjecto, columnâ brevissimâ.

This is more like Sir Richard Brookes' Air-plant, figured at t. 55 of our volume for 1842, than any species in our gardens; but it differs in many important particulars.

In the first place, the flowers are distinctly panicled, and not strictly racemose; then they are smaller; moreover, their column is short, and the lip neither crisp, nor toothed, nor saddle-backed, but quite entire, and nearly flat. The little lobes at the base of the lip are also different; in Sir Richard Brookes' they stand at right angles with the column; here they are very small, and direct themselves towards the point of the lip.

The colour of the flowers of this spotted Air-plant is much less vivid; it has more the tint of the *A. affine*, has very little white, and both sepals and petals are spotted all over with light purple on a pale rose-coloured ground.

The Air-plants divide into two very distinct groups, of which this represents one, and the sweet-scented species (*A. odoratum*) the other. They are readily distinguished by the form of their lip, which, in the latter, is deeply cut into three or even five lobes of nearly equal length, while in the former group the lip is either not divided at all, or at the most has only a pair of ears or toothings at the base. Those who wish

to remember the differences between the many species of this genus, which are much alike, will do well to bear this in mind.

The accompanying drawing was made in the Nursery of Messrs. Rollissons, in June 1844.