



TAB. 8714.

STAUOPSIS IMTHURNII.

*Solomon Islands.*

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ORCHIDACEAE. Tribe VANDEAE.

STAUOPSIS, Benth.; Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Plant. vol. iii. p. 572.

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**Stauopsis Imthurnii**, Rolfe; species insignis, a speciebus adhuc notis foliis longissime arcuatis et inflorescentiis amplissimis laxè paniculatis differt.

*Herba* epiphytica. *Caulis* erectus, brevis, crassus, 3·5 cm. latus. *Folia* arcuata, crasso-coriacea, elongato-ligulata, acuta, 7·5-10 dm. longa, 5-7·5 cm. lata, basi in vaginis amplexicaulibus dilatatis, imbricata. *Scapus* erectus, laxè paniculatus, circiter 1 m. altus; ramuli 10-20 cm. longi, laxè multiflori; bracteae breves, patentes, late ovatae, obtusae, 2·5-3 cm. longae; pedicelli 1 cm. longi. *Flores* modicae, subcarnosi, 3·5-4 cm. diametro. *Sepala* et *petala* patentia, subspathulato-obovata, obtusa, 1·5-2 cm. longa. *Labellum* breviter unguiculatum, carnosum, trilobum, medio saccatum, 0·5-0·7 cm. longum; lobi laterales erecti, orbiculari-oblongi, circiter 3 m. longi; lobus intermedius inflexus late oblongus, obtusus, prominenter carinatus. *Columna* lata, 0·8 cm. longa. *Pollinia* obovoideo-oblonga; stipes late oblongus; glandula squamiformis.—R. A. ROLFE.

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This fine *Stauopsis* is remarkable for its exceptional size and its ample lax panicle of white flowers with violet blue markings on the lip. A native of the Solomon Islands, Kew is indebted for the plant to Sir Everard im Thurn, who met with it in 1905 when visiting that Archipelago on H.M.S. "Torch," as Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific. At Langa Langa, on the west coast of Mala (Malaita) Island, an opportunity was afforded of botanising in the bush. In a forest with many large canopy trees but little undergrowth, the plant figured was found on a fallen trunk on which grew a dense mass of other orchids with ferns and grasses; it bore the remains of a fairly recent flower-spike. On reaching Fiji it was planted on a topped tree fern under a "bush house" in the gardens of Government House. It showed no sign of a new flower-spike until May, 1908. This spike was under a foot long in August, 1909, when it began to develop more rapidly, but still showed no

JUNE, 1917.



tendency to branch. In March, 1910, Fiji was ravaged by a violent hurricane. The *Stauroopsis* was rescued from the "bush house" by Mr. D. Yeoward, Curator of the Fiji Botanic Station, and brought intact to the ruins of Government House, where it was fastened for safety underneath a billiard table. After the storm it was reinstalled on its old tree-fern stem, and during the next seven months its spike branched to some extent, and produced two rather poor flowers. In November, 1910, it was brought from Fiji by Sir Everard, and after a journey across Canada was sent from Liverpool to Kew, where it has since thriven well in the Tropical Orchid House, coming once more into flower in September, 1916. During flowering the prolonged development of the spike described by Sir Everard as regards 1903-10 has been equally manifest, but during 1914-16 branching has been more extensive. As in 1905 the plant gave evidence of having flowered during 1904, it is possible that in *S. Imthurnii* we may have a species which flowers only at definite periods. In keeping with this suggestion is the fact that in October, 1910, an imperfect dried specimen, accompanied by a sketch of a plant of this *Stauroopsis*, was received at Kew from Mr. C. M. Woodford, then British Resident at Tulagi, Solomon Islands. Mr. Woodford found his plant in August, 1910, when the flowering period appeared to be nearly over, on the north side of Ysabel Island, and has noted that he had met with the species once before, but that on the first occasion it was not in flower.

DESCRIPTION.—*Herb*, epiphytic; stem short, stout, erect,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. *Leaves* arcuate, firmly coriaceous, elongate-ligulate, acute,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -4 ft. long, 2-3 in. wide, imbricate and dilated at the base into stem-clasping sheaths. *Scape* erect, laxly paniculately branched, about 3 ft. long; branches 4-8 in. long, loosely many-flowered; bracts short, spreading, wide ovate, obtuse,  $1-1\frac{1}{4}$  in. long, pedicels over  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. *Flowers* medium-sized, somewhat fleshy,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide. *Sepals* and *petals* spreading, subspathulate-ovate, obtuse,  $\frac{2}{3}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long. *Lip* short-clawed, fleshy, 3-lobed, saccate in the middle,  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long; lateral lobes erect, orbicular oblong, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long; mid-lobe inflexed, wide oblong, obtuse, prominently keeled. *Column* broad,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. *Pollinia* obovoid-oblong; stipe wide-oblong; gland scale-like.

TAB. 8714.—Fig. 1, lip and column; 2, part of the lip, showing the sac; 3, anther-cap; 4, pollinarium; 5, sketch of an entire plant:—all enlarged except 5, which is much reduced.