

* *ASPÁSIA* variegáta.*Variegated Aspasia.*

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDACEÆ, § VANDEÆ.

ASPASIA. Lindl. — *Perianthium* patens, æquale. *Sepala* lateralialia libera; supremum cum petalis basi et dorso columnæ connatum. *Labellum* oblongum, concavum, ecalcaratum, obsoletè 4-lobum, cum columna semi-connatum. *Columna* labello parallela, semiteres, marginata. *Anthera* bilocularis. *Pollinia* 2, pyriformia, posticè sulcata, caudiculâ planâ cuneatâ, glandulâ parvâ. — *Herbæ* epiphytæ, caulescentes, pseudobulbosæ. *Folia* subcoriacea. *Spicæ* radicales, breves.

A. variegata; pseudobulbis oblongis ancipitibus, sepalis lineari-oblongis petalisque subrhomboideis acutis, labelli lobis lateralibus recurvis intermedioque carnosis serratis.

Bractæ ovatæ, cucullatæ, herbacæ, coriacæ. *Sepala* coriacea, herbacea, sanguineo fasciata. *Petala* herbacea luteo-marginata sanguineo interruptè striata, cum basi sepali supremi connata ideoque obliquè inserta. *Labellum* carnosum, serratum, album, violaceo-maculatum, basi limbi bicallosum. *Pollinia* pyriformia, posticè sulcata caudiculâ simplici inserta.

A native of the tropical part of South America. I received specimens of it for the first time from Mr. Joseph Knight of the King's Road, in February, 1836, and subsequently from Mr. Bateman. The flowers are deliciously sweet in the morning. It will probably prove a plant of easy cultivation, and if so it will deserve to be in every collection.

In most respects it is very like *A. epidendroides*, for which, before I carefully examined it for publication, I had mistaken

* From ἀσπάζομαι I embrace, in allusion to the manner in which the column is embraced by the labellum.

it. There are however some essential differences between them, especially in the form of the labellum, and in the far greater degree of obliquity in the insertion of the back sepal in *A. epidendroides*; it is moreover probable from the dried specimens of the latter that its flowers are whole coloured; I have subjoined a character by which it may be distinguished.

In the same collection of unpublished drawings, belonging to Baron Delessert, to which I have already referred (fol. 1904), there is a figure of a third species of this genus. It has oblong smooth not two-edged pseudo-bulbs, solitary much larger scentless flowers, of which the sepals and petals are yellowish green blotched with crimson, and the lip and column pure white, with a faint purplish crescent-shaped stain in the middle of the lip. M. Descourtilz found it on the Cedrela in Brazil, in the district of Bananal. A variety of it is mentioned by him with a pale lilac lip, the stain on which is deep violet. He also represents the pollen masses as each furnished with a separate caudicula; if this is correct it will be an additional reason for doubting how far that character is of importance in distinguishing Genera.

Of the dissections in the accompanying plate that in the centre represents a magnified view of the column and the base of the labellum; the other the pollen masses with their caudicle and gland seen from behind.

A. epidendroides (Gen. & Sp. Orch. p. 139); pseudobulbis oblongis ancipitibus, sepalis lineari-oblongis acutis, petalis obtusis concavis, labelli lobis lateralibus rotundatis integerrimis, intermedio crenulato emarginato.——Panama and Columbia occidentalis.

A. lunata; pseudobulbis oblongis compressis lævibus, sepalis petalisque linearibus obtusis patentissimis, labelli lobis lateralibus nanis intermedio plano subquadrato undulato, floribus solitariis.——Brazilia.——Sepala et petala luteo-viridia, sanguineo-maculata. Labellum album maculâ lunatâ in medio. Flores inodori.