

45. BARKĚŘIĀ spectābilis.

Bateman in litteris.

B. spectabilis; racemo multifloro laxo, labello ovato-lanceolato tricarinato, sepalis lineari-lanceolatis, petalis ovatis acuminatis.

Under the name of Flor de Isabal this beautiful plant forms one of the votive offerings of the Guatemalese. Mr. Skinner long since sent living plants to England, and more recently Mr. Hartweg, one of whose specimens has just flowered in the garden of the Horticultural Society. It forms a tuft of cylindrical stems about four or five inches high, each of which bears two fleshy lanceolate acute leaves, separated from each other by intervals of about an inch. The raceme rises out of some brown dry sheaths, and in the plants that have flowered bears about six most lovely nodding blossoms: but according to a memorandum from Mr. Skinner now before me it varies in length from three inches to a foot: and indeed I possess a wild specimen from that gentlemen with as many as twelve flowers in a raceme. The expanded flowers are nearly three inches and a half wide, their colour is a bright lilac; the sepals are linear-lanceolate, the petals ovate-lanceolate in form and unspotted: but the labellum is white at the base and in the middle, lilac at the edge and point, and richly marked with small blood-red spots. Along its middle, below the column, are five purple lines, which pass into three elevated colourless ridges, beyond the place where the anther touches the lip. It is with Cattleyas, and such beautiful plants that this charming species is worthy to be arranged.