

223. EPIDENDRUM SPECTABILE Rchb. fil. MSS. Huc: *Barkeria spectabilis* Batem. in Litt. Bot. Reg. XXVIII. 1842. Misc 45.

Racemo multifloro laxo, labello ovato-lanceolato tricarinato, sepalis lineari-lanceolatis, petalis ovatis acuminatis.

Under the name of *Flor de Isabel* the plant forms one of the votive offerings of the Guatemalese. It forms a tuft of cylindrical stems about 4—5 inches high, each of which bears two fleshy lanceolate acute leaves, separated from each other by intervals of about an inch. The raceme arises 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 M. Skinner now before me, it varies in length from 3 inches — a foot: and indeed I possess a wild specimen from that gentleman with as many as twelve flowers in a raceme. The expanded flowers are nearly 3 inches and a half wide, their colour is a bright lilac, the sepals are linear lanceolate, the sepals 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.

— Bat. Orch. 33: Caulibus brevibus foliosis 2 — phyll. — Guatemala. Skinner. Hartweg. Mexico. Karwinski.