

THRIXSPERMUM LUNIFERUM, *sp. n.*

Foliis —, racemo oblongato, pilis abbreviatis hispido. floribus numerosis paulo distantibus, bracteis triangulis acutis uninerviis, perigonio ovarioque extus puberulo, sepalis tepalisque oblongis obtusiusculis, labello a basi dilatato, a columna abrupto, antice trifido, laciniis lateralibus angulatis, lacinia media brevissima bilobula, callo semilunari retrorsum papilloso postposito, sacco didymo retusiusculo, anthera utrinque deorsum filifera.

Sepala et tepala ochracea, disco cinnamomeo; labellum album striis radiantibus brunneis; callus rufus, centro flavus; columna apice ochroleuca, dorso ochroleuca, antice rufo picta; caudicula ligulata; glandula quadrata; ovarium cinnamomeum; pedunculus viridis.

Thrix-sper-mum! What an ugly name, some will say. It is indeed not very euphonious, but it was necessary to restore it in lieu of *Sarcophilus*, of *Gunnia*, of *Chiloschista*, of *Orsidice*, of *Dendrocolla*. It was at the British Museum that, assisted by Mr. Bennett's kindness, we recognised Loureiro's old genus, which has the priority over all the above-named genera. Our plant has small flowers, in the way of those of *Cleisostoma crassifolium*, on a long hairy peduncle. They are yellowish, with brown disk, except the white lip which bears purplish rays. The transverse, nearly crescent-shaped callus of the lip, is covered with many papillæ.

It is very interesting, in a geographical point of view, that Burmah possesses this species. The geographical range of the genus extends from Nepal to middle eastern Australia. What is especially interesting in this species though we have seen it in another from the Viti Islands, is, that the anther bears two long, tail-like, pendulous processes. No doubt the day will come when we shall learn their use in exciting the curiosity of insects. What a pity that insects cannot write books on their feelings! We are indebted for this great botanical curiosity to Messrs. Veitch & Sons. *H. G. Rehb., fil.*