

* CHŸSĪS bractēscēns.

Bracteated Chysis.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDACEÆ, § EPIDENDRIÆ.

CHYSIS. *Botanical Register*, vol. 23. fol. 1937.

C. bractescens; bracteis cucullatis venosis foliaceis ovario longioribus, sepalis petalisque ovatis obtusis, labelli lobis lateralibus obtusis intermedio minore carnosio bilobo hypochilio plicato lamellis 5 carnosis subæqualibus parallelis basi pubescentibus, columnâ latissimâ carnosâ cymbiformi anticè pubescente. *Bot. Reg.* 1840. misc. no. 131.

Caules *fusiformes, carnosi, palmares*. Folia *ovato-lanceolata, basi cucullata, imbricantia, undulata, acuminata, subplicata*. Racemus *lateralis, horizontalis, foliis brevior, 4-5-florus*. Bracteæ *magnæ, foliaceæ, reticulatæ, obtusæ, concavæ, cucullatæ, laxæ, ovario longiores*. Flores *magni, cerei, candidi, coriacei*. Sepala *lateralia dorsali latiora, obtusa, margine incurva*. Petala *oblonga, erecta, obtusa, basi angustata*. Labellum *intus luteum, extus candidum; hypochilii lobis lateralibus erectis rotundatis, cristis 5 lævibus parallelis basi pubescentibus, epichilio bilobo nudo complicato*. Columna *latissima, cymbiformis, carnosâ, antice pubescens, in pedem producta*.

A fine epiphyte from Mexico, whence it was imported by George Barker, Esq. who flowered it in April 1840. It forms the third of the genus now known, and is readily distinguished by its large white, not yellow, flowers, and great inflated leafy bracts. Its pollen-masses (fig. 1) show yet more strongly than those of the original species the singular structure upon which the genus is founded.

In this, as in most other Orchidaceæ, the most exact attention should be paid to the markings and elevations of the labellum, for they furnish the most constant and exact characters for distinguishing species. Figures or descriptions

* See *Botanical Register*, vol. 23. fol. 1937.

in which these are neglected, or represented inexactly, are worthless in the present state of our knowledge. In the original *Chysis aurea* there are five principal ridges on the hypochilium, and three minor ones on each side, all downy, and diverging; in the whole nine. In *C. bractescens* there are five equal ridges only, all smooth and parallel; and in *C. lævis*, there are three large somewhat confluent ridges, and one smaller on each side, the whole being smooth. The whole of those species of Orchidaceæ which stand in books without a *precise* description of the tubercles of the lip, require to be re-examined critically.



Miss Drake del.

Pub. by T. Ridgway 169 Piccadilly Sp. 1841

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