



CATASETUM RUSSELLIANUM. THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD'S CATASETUM.

Class and Order.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord.—ORCHIDÆ.)

Generic Character.

Perianthium sæpius globosum, nunc explanatum. *Sepala* et *petala* subæqualia. *Labellum* crassum, carnosum, nudum, ventricosum v. explanatum, fimbriatum, sub apice saccatum obsolete trilobum. *Columna* erecta, aptera, libera, apice utrinque cirrhosa. *Anthera* subbilocularis, antice truncata. *Pollinia* 2, postice biloba v. sulcata, caudicula maxima nuda demum elastice contractili, glandula cartilaginea subquadrata.—Herbæ terrestres v. epiphytæ, caulibus brevibus fusiformibus vestigiis foliorum vestitis. Folia basi vaginantia, plicata. Scapi radicales. Flores speciosi, racemosi, virides, nunc purpureo-maculati. Lindl.

Specific Name and Character.

CATASETUM *Russellianum*; pseudo-bulbo elliptico magno, foliis lato-lanceolatis, racemo amplo, labello submembranaceo antice inflato ore contracto margine anteriore producto undulato fimbriato disco membrana cristato, columna nuda (ecirrhosa.)

This, together with the subject of the following plate, were the last Orchideous plants that were communicated to me from Woburn Abbey during the life of its late noble possessor. They were sent from the gardens on the same day that His Grace was attacked with his alarming illness, and ere they could reach me, the news had arrived of his lamented death. In him Science and the Arts have lost a steady

steady friend, and a munificent patron: and Botany and Horticulture in particular have seldom had a more devoted admirer. The Tribes of Plants, which, as is well known, have been especially cultivated and fostered by His Grace, are the *Grasses*, the *Willows*, the *Heaths*, the *Pines*, the *Orchideæ*, and, above all, the *Cacteæ*; in nearly the whole of these families the Woburn Collection has stood unrivalled. May his name long be perpetuated among the votaries of that Science which he so much delighted to honour in the present new and remarkable species of *CATASETUM*: a species indeed so distinct, that it can hardly be assimilated with any other yet known to us. It was sent by Mr. SKINNER from Guatemala in 1838.

DESCR. *Pseudo-bulb* large, elliptical, greyish-green, transversely marked with rings, the traces of fallen leaves. *Leaves*, in our specimen, arising from the young and smaller bulb, about six, the lower ones small and almost abortive; the larger ones about a foot long, broadly lanceolate, acute, many-nerved, tapering at the base, membranaceous. *Raceme* ample, of numerous large, crowded, pale greenish-white flowers. *Sepals* and *petals* nearly uniform, but slightly spreading, concave, striated, ovate, acute. *Lip* large, very much inflated and below projecting forward (like the lip of our *CYPRIPEDIUM Calceolus*), of a thin, membranaceous texture, almost transparent, striated with darker green:—the orifice is contracted, the margin much projecting forward and spreading, thin, almost white, waved and fimbriated: on the disk is a somewhat three-lobed, conspicuous, membranous crest, the lobes acute and a little toothed; the middle one the longest. *Column* shorter than the perianth, broader and winged upwards, the apex, or *clinandrium*, acute (not acuminate), beneath which, in a hollow, the anther-case is situated: this is roundish, with a long, narrow acumen. *Pollen-masses* two, ovate, cleft, waxy, deep yellow, attached to a very broad elastic stalk, which itself is situated upon a large, viscid gland.

Fig. 1. Lip and Column. 2. Upper portion of the Column: front view. 3. Anther-case. 4. 5. Superior and inferior view of the Pollen-masses, with their Stalk and Gland: all more or less magnified.