

CYCNOCHES ROSSIANUM, *Rolfe, n. sp.**

* *Cycnoches Rossianum*, n. sp.—Pseudobulb subfusiform, about 3 inches high, 2- to 4-leaved. Leaves narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, about 3 to 6 inches long. Racemes and flowers sexually dimorphic. Male racemes pendulous, elongate, and slender, about 2½ feet long, and with thirteen flowers. Bracts lanceolate, acute, ½ to ¾ inch long. Flowers membranous, segments variously recurved, light yellowish-green, heavily blotched with purple-brown. Dorsal sepal narrowly lanceolate-linear, acute, 1 inch long, scarcely 2 lines wide; lateral ones a little shorter, and subfalcate. Petals a little broader than lateral sepals, but similar in other respects. Lip with slender claw, about 4 to 5 lines long, and nearly circular blade, with about ten oblong or clavate marginal appendages, the whole about 4 or 5 lines in diameter. Column very slender, nearly an inch long. Female raceme erect, with three bracts and a single flower (probably two flowers are sometimes borne). Bracts ovate-oblong, acute, ¾ inch long. Flower coriaceous, the segments spreading, colour bright green. Sepals narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, 1½ inch long, 4 lines broad. Petals ½ inch broad, otherwise similar. Lip ovate, very acute, very fleshy, 1½ inch long, about 7 lines broad, slightly darker green than the other segments. Column stout, 5 lines long. Habitat unknown. *R. A. Rolfe.*

This is a most interesting species of the remarkable genus *Cycnoches*, often known as Swan's-neck Orchids. It has flowered in the collection of Signor H. J. Ross, Poggio Gherardo, Florence, Italy, on various occasions; but in 1889 it produced both a male and female raceme on opposite sides of the same pseudobulb. These were sent to Kew, and on comparing them I was unable to identify them with anything hitherto described, and therefore believe them to represent a new species. The origin of the plant is unknown, except that it was purchased as *C. Warscewiczii*, which, however, it is not, that species having denser male racemes of wholly green flowers. In the present species the male racemes are long, slender, and few-flowered, and the flowers, when expanded, about 1½ inch in diameter, heavily blotched with purple-brown on a light yellowish-green ground. The female raceme bore a single flower; but as there are three bracts, I suspect that at least two flowers are occasionally produced. This flower is twice the size of the male, and of a uniform bright green, except that the lip is a shade darker than the other segments. There are no brown spots, as in the males. The great difference in size, colour, and texture of the male and female flowers is remarkable. It is a most interesting addition to the genus, and makes at least the fifth species of which both sexes are known, the others being *C. ventricosum*, Lindl. (the male of which was described as *C. Egertonianum*, Lindl.), *C. Loddigesii*, Lindl., *C. Warscewiczii*, Rehb. f., and *C. pentadactylon*, Lindl. There are about half-a-dozen others, of which only one sex is known; but it is to be hoped that ere long some other blanks in our knowledge of this sportive genus may be filled up. *R. A. Rolfe.*