

TAB. XVIII.

EPIDENDRUM* ALATUM:

WINGED EPIDENDRUM.

EPIDENDRUM *alatum*; pseudo-bulbis pyriformibus lævibus bi-triphyllis, foliis loratis arcuatis coriaceis acutis scapo paniculato duplo brevioribus,—sepalis petalisque subæqualibus obovato-unguiculatis margine undulato,—labello alte trilobo basi tantum columnæ adnato, lobis lateralibus obliquè obovatis, intermedio majore subrotundo crispo venoso calloso,—columnâ arcuatâ stipitatâ alis duabus falcatis decurvis versus apicem instructâ.

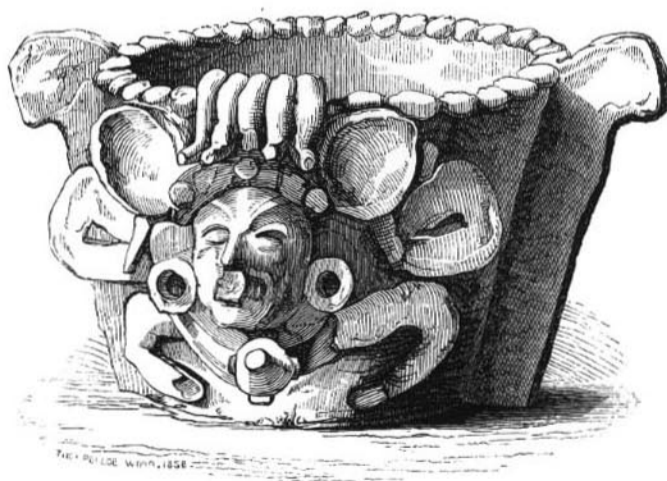
Habitat in Honduras propè Isabal. SKINNER.

Description.

PSEUDO-BULBS pear-shaped, smooth, three or four inches long, bearing two or three fleshy, shining, pointed, curved LEAVES, sometimes two feet long, and an inch and a half broad. Sheathed at the base by the leaves, rises the SCAPE to the height of three feet or more, bearing a large panicle of shewy FLOWERS, which are rather loosely arranged. PEDICELS upwards of an inch long. SEPALS and PETALS nearly equal, rather shorter than the pedicells, unguiculate, obovate, waved at the margin, slightly obtuse at the point, reddish-brown, with a margin of greenish-yellow, on the upper side, olive on the under. LIP united with the base of the column, an inch long, deeply 3-lobed; the lateral lobes obliquely obovate, primrose-coloured, smaller than the middle one, which is nearly round, curled at the margin, bordered by a narrow band of brilliant orange, and covered with innumerable streaks, composed of small purplish hairs, which radiate from its base. COLUMN bent, club-shaped, its margins membranous, and forming in its upper part two decurved falcate pseudo-wings, from between which protrudes the deep orange-coloured ANTHER.

A SOLITARY plant of this stately *Epidendrum* was discovered by Mr. SKINNER on his return to Guatemala, in 1837. It was found growing in company with *E. Stamfordianum* (figured at Tab. XI. of this work); and, like that species, it seems to delight in a greater degree of warmth and humidity than the majority of Mexican *Orchidaceæ* require:—if this circumstance be borne in mind, its cultivation will be found perfectly simple. It flowers, at Knypersley, in May and June, and its blossoms, which are most exquisitely fragrant, continue in perfection for several weeks. The rich band of intense orange, which skirts the front part of the labellum, gives to the species a remarkable appearance, and such as it is quite impossible for any drawing to convey.

The Vignette represents a rude earthenware Vase, doubtless of great antiquity, which, with many other relics of equal singularity and interest, were dug up, by Mr. SKINNER, in the vicinity of Istapa.



“With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture decked.”—GRAY'S ELEGY.

* Suprà, Tab. V.

