



## EPIDENDRUM\* MACROCHILUM VAR. ROSEUM:

**BROAD-LIPPED EPIDENDRUM:***(Rose-coloured Variety.)*

*EPIDENDRUM macrochilum*; pseudo-bulbis ovatis diphyllis, foliis lineari-oblongis coriaceis acutis scapo simplici vel paniculato subæqualibus aut brevioribus, sepalis petalisque conformibus obovatis apicibus incurvis, labello libero alte trilobo lobis lateralibus ovatis acutis columnam amplectentibus intermedio maximo obcordato sub-sellæformi disco calloso, columnâ apterâ.

*EPIDENDRUM macrochilum*, HOOKER, *Bot. Mag.* 3534.

**Description.**

*PSEUDO-BULBS* ovate, from one to three inches long, of an extremely hard texture, smooth or wrinkled, but never furrowed; bearing two or three shining, rigid, coriaceous, sharp-pointed *LEAVES*, usually from four to six inches in length. *FLOWER-SPIKE* erect, simple in cultivated, but occasionally branched in native, specimens; bearing from two to twelve large, handsome *FLOWERS*, which are nearly three inches in diameter, from the tip of the upper sepal to the extremity of the lip. *SEPALS* obovate, mucronate, spreading, incurved at their extremities, an inch and a quarter long, chocolate-coloured, except at the base, where they have an olivaceous hue. *PETALS* similar in form and colour to the sepals, excepting that they are rather smaller. *LIP*, on its upper surface, of a bright rose colour, which is deepest at the apex, paler underneath, not united with the column, deeply 3-lobed—the lateral lobes enveloping and almost concealing the column, ovate, acute,—the middle lobe very large and broad, obcordate, and saddle-shaped in consequence of its edges being deflexed;—at the base there is a flattish fleshy disk. *COLUMN* not attached to the lip, triangular, compressed, destitute of wings, surmounted by the large, conspicuous, orange-coloured *ANTHER*.

**THIS** is one of the most attractive of *Epidendra*, even in the comparatively feeble state in which it is usually met with in our stoves; but when seen in all its native luxuriance, it must be, indeed, magnificent! In cultivation, not more than six or eight flowers are ordinarily produced, whereas in wild specimens, gathered in Guatemala by Mr. SKINNER, we find many-flowered panicles, like the one represented in the plate. The species succeeds best in houses where air is freely admitted, and appears to suffer from excessive moisture: if allowed to rest during the winter months, it rarely fails to flower in April or May. Its blossoms emit a powerful odour, which though agreeable at a distance, is pungent and slightly nauseous when too closely inhaled.

*E. macrochilum* is found abundantly in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Venezuela: and, as is usually the case with widely-distributed species, its varieties are exceedingly numerous; in some of these (like the one figured by Dr. HOOKER), the labellum is white, while in others it is of the beautiful rose-colour shewn in the plate:—Mr. SKINNER was, we believe, the first to enrich European collections with the latter.

The Insect figured below, is a species of *Mantis*, from the shores of the Pacific. Its vernacular appellation (according to Mr. SKINNER) is "Quebra Patita," and its bite is said to cause death.



"Duplices tendens ad sidera palmas."—VIRG.