



Mrs Drake del.

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Piccadilly Oct. 1. 1835.

J. Watts sc.

* GOVÉNIA supérba.

Superb Govenia.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDÆ, § VANDEÆ, Lindl. (Introduction to the Natural System of Botany, p. 262.)

GOVENIA, Lindl. Perianthium bilabiatum. Sepala lateralialia falcata, labello supposita, basi paululum connata, supremo paulò majora. Petala sub sepalo supremo conniventia, breviora, obliqua. Labellum integerrimum, ecalcaratum, concavum, cum basi parum productâ columnæ articulatam, sessile. Columna basi paulò producta, teres, subfusiformis, apice utrinque marginata. Anthera calyptriformis, 1-locularis. Pollinia 4, solida, incumbentia, caudiculâ brevi, glandulâ minore triangulari.—Terrestres. Folia plicata. Spicæ radicales, multifloræ. Flores speciosi. Lindl. gen. et sp. Orch. 153.

G. superba; labello ovato-cordato, spicâ cylindraceâ, bracteis acuminatis, foliis oblongis acuminatis basi angustatis scapo æqualibus.

G. superba, Lindl. in Lodd. Bot. Cab. t. 1709. Gen. & Sp. Orch. l. c.

Maxillaria superba. Lexarsa et Llave Orch. Mex. 2. 13.

Caulis cum foliis 5-pedalis. Folia 3-pedalia, et ultra, basi vaginis purpurascensibus vestita. Racemus 1-1½-pedalis, cylindraceus, floribus onustus. Sepala 7 lineas longa, lateralialia semi-oblonga. Petala obliquè rhomboidea acuminata. Labellum 3 lineas tantum longum, lividum, unguiculatum, cordatum, ovatum, obtusum, suprâ canaliculatum.

This noble species was originally discovered by Messrs. Lexarza and La Llave on the mountains near Valladolid, a town of Mexico, flowering in August. The native name is *Azuzena amarilla*. It is one of the handsomest plants of the whole order of Orchideæ, and is especially remarkable for its stately appearance, the rich orange of its flowers, and the long time they continue to open. The specimen in Messrs. Loddiges' collection grows to the height of a man; that from which our drawing was made was furnished by Mr. Bateman, in February 1834.

* So called in compliment to James Robert Gowen, Esq. under whose care were conducted many of the curious experiments upon cross fertilization at Highclere, the seat of the Earl of Carnarvon.

It is found to bear the hottest and dampest stove, but like all the terrestrial species requires a season of repose.

Beautiful as is this plant it must be equalled in the showiness of its blossoms by the *Maxillaria liliacea*, or *Azuzena del Monte* of the people of Valladolid, in the neighbourhood of which town it grows beneath the shade of trees. This plant is described as having a scape about a foot high, terminated by a thryse of snow-white flowers, whose segments are variegated with purple lines, and whose lip is spotted at the base with yellow. It is also in all probability a *Govenia*, and may be named *G. liliacea*.

Of a similar noble aspect is a species collected in Mexico by Count Karwinski, near Atotovilco el Chico, in a cool climate, flowering in June and July. Specimens of this plant, belonging to the Royal Herbarium of Munich, are now before us. The leaves are oblong-lanceolate, tapering to each end, especially to the point, a foot long and about 5 inches wide, and very like those of *Govenia superba*, except that they are smaller. The stem is stated to be five feet high. It is terminated by a short and very dense headed raceme of large flowers, to each of which is an oblong obtuse bract, not quite so long as the ovary. The raceme is 4 inches long, and as much broad at the base. In the form of the flowers it resembles *Govenia superba* very much, but they are three times as large; the sepals are an inch and half long and the other parts in proportion. The lip has an ovate form, but is not cordate at its base, it is not quite half so long as the sepals, and is marked towards its end with largish round very dark dots. The colour of the flowers cannot be ascertained from the dried specimen, but seems to have been pale and uniform; probably pale yellow. This plant may be thus distinguished —

G. capitata; labello ovato obtuso, racemo capitato, bracteis oblongis obtusiusculis, foliis oblongis acuminatis basi angustatis scapo multò brevioribus.