



ANGRAECUM GRACILIPES.

Madagascar.

ORCHIDACEAE. Tribe VANDEAE.

ANGRAECUM, Thouars; *Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Plant.* vol. iii. p. 588.

Angraecum gracilipes, Rolfe; species nova ab *A. recurvo*, Thouars, foliis amplioribus et pedicellis longissimis differt.

Herba epiphytica, caulibus brevibus. *Folia* disticha, suberecta vel arcuata, lorata, breviter biloba, 8-18 cm. longa, 2-5 cm. lata, coriacea, basi conduplicata. *Pedicelli* axillares, graciles, suberecti vel arcuati, 15-18 cm. longi, vaginis paucis spathaceis obtecti, uniflori. *Flores* mediocres, albi. *Sepala et petala* patentia, lanceolata, obtusa, 2.5-3 cm. longa. *Labellum* subpandurato-ovatum, obtusum, 2.5-3 cm. longum, basi subconduplicatum; calcar gracile, 5-7 cm. longum, basi curvatum et incrassatum. *Columna* lata, 0.5 cm. longa, utrinque late auriculata, auriculis truncatis et integris. *Pollinia* 2, orbicularia et subcompressa; stipites brevissimi; glandula oblonga.—*Angraecum recurvum*, Hort. Gard. Chron. 1913, vol. liv. pp. 367, 374, fig. 132; Orch. Rev. 1913, fig. 65; non Thouars.—R. A. ROLFE.

The Madagascar *Angraecum* now described was introduced from that island some years ago by Messrs. Charlesworth and Company, Hayward's Heath. The individual flowers in this species bear so close a resemblance to those of *A. recurvum*, Thouars, also a native of Madagascar, that when in November, 1913, an example flowered in the establishment of Messrs. Charlesworth, it was exhibited in public and was accorded an award of merit under the name *A. recurvum*, which was also employed in connection with figures of the plant, reproduced from a photograph, published in the same year. An example purchased from Messrs. Charlesworth for the Kew collection of orchids flowered there in November, 1916, and enabled the figure here given to be prepared. The study of this plant has made it clear that it belongs to a species, which may be termed *A. gracilipes*, very distinct from the true *A. recurvum* in its greatly elongated pedicels and its much larger leaves.

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It is a member of a distinct group of species, one of which is *A. fragrans*, Thouars, figured at t. 7161 of this work, whose sweet-scented leaves, known as "Fahame," have been used after the manner of tea leaves in Bourbon and Mauritius. *A. gracilipes* thrives well in the same house and with the same treatment as that required for the well-known *A. eburneum*, Bory, figured at t. 4761 and *A. sesquipedale*, Thouars, figured at t. 5113 of this work. It is remarkable in the genus for the unusual length of its pedicels which appear in the lower leaf-axils of a short stout stem, and when, as sometimes happens, over a dozen flowers are simultaneously produced, the plant forms a very graceful object.

DESCRIPTION.—*Herb*, epiphytic; stems short. *Leaves* distichous, nearly erect or slightly recurved, lorate, shortly 2-lobed, $3\frac{1}{2}$ – $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $\frac{3}{4}$ –2 in. wide, coriaceous, conduplicate at the base. *Pedicels* axillary, slender, suberect or slightly recurved, 6 – $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, 1-flowered, bearing a few spathaceous sheathing bracts. *Flowers* showy, white. *Sepals* and *petals* spreading, lanceolate, obtuse, 1 – $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. long. *Lip* subpandurate-ovate, obtuse, 1 – $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, somewhat conduplicate at the base; spur slender, $2\frac{3}{8}$ – $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, curved and thickened at the base. *Column* wide, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, widely auricled on each side, the auricles truncate and entire. *Pollinia* 2, orbicular and slightly compressed; stalks very short; gland oblong.

TAB. 8758.—Fig. 1 and 2, column, showing the auriculate wings; 3, sketch of the entire plant:—*all enlarged except 3, which is much reduced.*