



MORMODES ATRO-PURPUREA.

Black-purple Mormodes.

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDÆ.—GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Gen. Char. (Vide supra, TAB. 4455.)

MORMODES *atro-purpurea*; pseudo-bulbis oblongis squamis amplis imbricatis pallidis fusco-marginatis vaginatis, foliis . . ., floribus pendulis unicoloribus, sepalis petalisque arcte reflexis ovato-lanceolatis marginibus revolutis, labelli late obcordati velutini in stipitem basi attenuati lateribus revolutis, columna oblique torta breviter acuminata.

At our Tab. 4455 we gave the very pretty and singular *Mormodes lentiginosa*, whose flowers are pale, freckled with dark purple. The blossoms of the present species are of a uniform dark purple or blood-colour, the sepals and petals wider, the lip much broader and velvety with short hairs. It was communicated in January 1851, by our friend J. Dillwyn Llewelyn, Esq., from his collection at Penllergare, having been purchased by that gentleman at one of the sales of plants of Mr. Warcewitz from Panama.

DESCR. *Pseudo-bulbs* clustered, oblong, striated, the old ones entirely sheathed by large, membranaceous, pointed *scales*, of a pale straw-colour, edged with dark brown. The *leaves* we have not seen. *Scape* a foot high, rounded, articulated. *Flowers* rather distant, pendulous, of a nearly uniform dark purple-brown, or between chocolate and blood-colour. *Sepals* and *petals* nearly uniform, ovato-lanceolate, their sides reflexed. The *lip* porrected, velvety with short hairs, broadly obcordate, tapering below into a stipes, the sides singularly revolute. *Column* pale, purplish-brown, not half the length of the lip, with which it is nearly parallel, but it has an oblique twist; the apex short, acute.
W. J. H.

CULT. This singular species of *Mormodes* requires the temperature of the warm Orchid-house. It will thrive if potted in

MAY 1st, 1851.

loose turfy peat-soil, in pots well drained. During its season of rest very little water must be given, and it is best to remove it to a cooler and drier situation, again replacing it in a warm and moist atmosphere when it begins to show symptoms of growth. In bright summer weather it should be shaded from the direct rays of the sun. *J. S.*