

This diapher Orchid (fig. 23) was sent to me from Guatemala by Mr. John Kirk in 1898. From the first its peculiar habit attracted attention, being altogether different from any other Mexican Orchid known, and, indeed, from anything else in cultivation. In February, 1899, it flowered for the first time, and proved, as suspected, to be quite a new type. It will not fit into any existing genus, and the only course possible is to propose a new one for its reception. It belongs to the tribe Vandeae, as it possesses a distinct sepal and gland to the pollinia, and to the subtribe Cymbidinae, as the lip is adnate to the base of the column, and without a spur. Apparently it must stand next to the genus *Brachidium*, which has erect leafy stems, with distinct leaves, and one oval pollinia, which are united on a stalk-like gland. In that genus, however, the lip is three-lobed, and the sublobes embrace the column, which latter opens in continuous, and broadly two-winged, sacs of which characters are seen in the present genus—besides the well-marked difference in habit and in the marked pollinia. All the structural details are suitably represented in the attached figure, which has been prepared by Miss Smith. The sketch showing the habit of the plant is much reduced, as will be apparent when it is stated that the leaves are 4 inches long.

The upper branch on the right shows the short, almost caespitose raceme, a portion of which with three flowers and several leaves is represented, natural size, in the left-hand bottom corner. All the other details are enlarged. The plant, which at present is about 4 feet high, is lean and struggling in habit, as if it grew naturally among bushes and needed help of its support. Its branches at intervals, and apparently may grow to a much larger size. The distinct leaves are drooping, about 6 inches long, and the short, many-flowered racemes are borne at the ends of the branches. The flowers are white, except that the lip has a yellow midline and a row of many purple spots on either side, with

the anther- sacs dull purple. It is a very interesting addition to the somewhat meagre list of Tropical Mexican Orchids. It is named in honor of the late Mr. G. Reichenow, the well-known author of numerous classical botanical works, whose services to the flora of Guatemala has well been termed "a masterpiece of research and scientific taxonomy," and is certainly a great advance on anything which preceded it. The genera previously named in his honor have been singularly unfortunate.

The Neurenthamia of A. Richard has proved to be identical with *Heurynia*; and that of Lindley is only a section of *Conoclo*, characterized by its droops being united in a fleshy synsepium. But as this is generally luxury in gardens at Neurenthamia, it seems best to add the prefix "neo" (as has been done in several similar cases), in order to prevent confusion. The specific name *gracilis* refers to the slender habit of the plant. *R. A. Rolfe*.

*N. gracilis*, n. sp. et fig. 23. Habit, raceme, and individual spreading, the lateral ones slightly smaller, all free, also slightly adnate to base of lip. Petals distinct. Sep. somewhat spreading, white, somewhat increased and fleshy in lower half, white to base of column at various times, immovable; the disc deeply hairy, but without folds or veins. Column short and stout, ovate subulate, flattened pollinia 8, united with gland, attached to two slender curved sepals, which are united at various times, where they join the semi-circular stalk-like gland.

*N. gracilis*, n. sp. et fig. 24. Sep. spreading, and somewhat drooping plant, at present about 4 feet high, with slender somewhat spreading branches. The pro-branches numerous, bearing many many-petalled flowers, 4 to 5 inches long, 4 to 5 lines broad, however flattened, short, many-flowered, bracts linear subulate, 1 to 2 lines long. Pollinia 8 to 10 lines long. Sepals and petals sub equal, others 4 lines long to 1 inch broad, white. Lip 10 to 12 lines long, immovable, minutely apiculate, immovable on the column, somewhat hairy, white, with a yellow middle line, and a row of many purple spots on either side, the disc slightly pubescent. Column white, anther- sacs dull purple, minutely pubescent. Ovary of fruit Tropical Africa.

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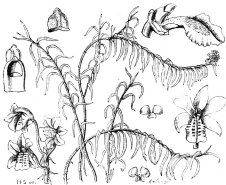


FIG. 23.—NEURENTHAMIA GRACILIS. (SEE P. 272)