



Persea glandulata L.

W. Green del.

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PERISTERIA GUTTATA.

(*Spotted Dove-flower.*)

LINNEAN SYSTEM.
GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

NATURAL ORDER.
ORCHIDACEÆ § VANDEÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Peristeria (HOOKER). *Perianthium* globosum. *Sepala* basi subconnata, concava, basi labello connata. *Petala* conformia, paulò minora. *Labellum* erectum, medio articulatum; dimidio superiore obovato truncato, medio pulvinate, inferiore bilobo columnâ continuo. *Columna* erecta, semiterete, basi magnâ dilatâ. *Anthera* cristata, bilocularis. *Pollinia* 2, posticè fissa, glandulâ sessili nudâ rostellum involvente. Herba subterrestris, pseudobulbosa. *Folia* plura, plicata. *Scapi* vaginati, radicales, multiflori. *Flores* speciosi. *Lindl. gen. et sp. Orch.* p. 160.

Perianth globose. *Sepals* somewhat connate at the base, concave, united at the base with the labellum. *Petals* similar in form, a little smaller. *Labellum* erect, articulated in the middle; the upper half obovate, truncate, cushioned in the middle, the lower half 2-lobed, continuous with the column. *Column* erect, semiterete, with a large dilated base. *Anther* crestless, 2-celled. *Pollen-masses* 2, divided posteriorly, with a sessile naked gland covering the rostellum. *Plant* rather terrestrial, with pseudobulbs. *Leaves* many, folded. *Scapes* sheathed, radical, many-flowered. *Flowers* handsome.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

P. guttata; *scapo* brevi, pendulo, multifloro; *racemo* denso, secundo; *labelli* dimidio inferiore disco crasso concavo, lobis lateralibus vix conspicuis, superiore ovato margine denticulato apice integro abruptè incurvo, intùs tuberculis minutissimis obsito; *columnâ* apterâ.

Scape short, pendulous, many-flowered; *raceme* dense, secund, the inferior half of the lip with a thick concave disc, lateral lobes scarcely perceptible, the superior or middle lobe with a finely-toothed margin, the apex abruptly incurved, the inner surface covered with very minute tubercles; *column* without wings.

DESCR.—*Pseudobulb* ovate-oblong, compressed, shining, from 3 to 4 inches long, slightly sheathed at the base with membranaceous scales, and bearing generally at the summit three broadly-lanceolate, acuminate, plaited leaves, dilated and sheathing at the base, about a foot in length. *Scape* short, rigid, clothed with short, ovate scales, and bearing on the upper side eight or nine closely-arranged flowers. *Flowers* erect, fleshy, ventricose, of a pale salmon colour, copiously marked within and without with spots of a reddish purple or morone colour, and emitting a powerful, peculiar, and agreeable odour. Upper *sepal* ovate-oblong, obtuse, lateral ones enlarged and tumid below, embracing and united with the base of the labellum. *Labellum* jointed in the middle, the upper portion, or lobe, erect, purplish at the apex, lying against and partly embracing the column; the inferior portion concave, with a fleshy border extending from the joint to the base of the column. *Column* thick, semiterete, spotted, much dilated

at the base, and gradually terminating in the lip. *Pollen-masses* two, nearly sessile, compressed, pellucid, obovate-oblong, with a deep fissure in the margin; *gland* thick, somewhat triangular.

THIS beautiful species of *Peristeria* is somewhat allied to *P. pendula* of the Botanical Magazine; from which it differs in the colour, the shape, and the smaller size of the flowers, in the absence of wings from the column, and in the scarcely-developed lateral lobes of the labellum. It is much more nearly allied to *P. cerina* of the Botanical Register, with which it agrees in the general shape of the flowers, and the denticulated margin of the middle lobe of the labellum; but differs from it in the colour and copious markings of the flowers, in the entire (not emarginate) apex of the middle lobe, and in the absence of distinct lateral lobes. Still, however, the resemblance between them (except in colour) is so great, that we question whether our plant may not eventually be considered merely a spotted variety of *P. cerina*.

For an opportunity of figuring it we are indebted to George Barker, Esq., of Springfield, in whose stove it has recently flowered, and who obtained it, we understand, from Mr. Knight, of King's Road, by whom it was imported from Rio.

Fig. 1, labellum, column, and germ; 2, pollen-masses and gland; 3, anther-case.