



ONCIDIUM papilio.

Trinidad Butterfly-Plant.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDÆÆ. Div. Epidendrææ.
ONCIDIUM. Suprà fol. 727.

O. papilio; foliis solitariis ovalibus pictis patentibus, scapo articulato ancipite paucifloro, sepalis superioribus linearibus longissimis: inferioribus distinctis ovato-lanceolatis undulatis, columnâ bicorni: alis fimbriatis.

Folia ovalia, patentia, carnosâ, in bulbo compresso subangulato solitaria, suprà fasciis interruptis maculata, subtùs purpureo creberrimè punctata: maculis rotundis viridibus. Scapus radicalis, 3-pedalis, articulatus, nudus, articulis inferioribus teretibus, superioribus ancipitibus, 3-4-uncialibus, margine et disco rubro maculatis, basi squamâ scariosâ instructis. Perianthium patentissimum, diametro (in exempl. spont.) 5-unciarum ab apice sepali postici ad apicem labelli; sepalis 3 superioribus lineari-spatulatis, longè unguiculatis, erectis, atro-aurantiacis, nunc luteo interruptè fasciatis; inferioribus ovato-lanceolatis, falcatis, undulatis, crispis, labelli longitudine, et cum eo luteis aurantiaco nubilis. Labellum panduriforme, basi cordatum, apice dilatatum, emarginatum, undulatum, disco baseos glanduloso, glandulis pallidis purpureo fasciatis, et formam ranæ cubantis referentibus. Columna brevis, erecta, utrinque alata; alis patentibus, versùs basin quadratis, carnosâ, margine laceris, versùs apicem angustioribus fimbriatis, ad ipsam apicem cornubus duobus, subulatis, porrectis, apice glandulâ capitatis, instructis. Anthera terminalis, opercularis, unilocularis, ovata, ad cardinem foveata. Pollinia 2, cereacea, oblonga, collateralia, postice biloba, basi glandulâ latâ rostello affixa.

For this highly curious parasite, the public is indebted to his Excellency Sir Ralph Woodford, Governor of Trinidad, by whom living plants have been sent to several collections in this country. The plant from which our drawing was taken flowered in a stove at Mr. Colvill's Nursery, last March; but not in perfection, the blossoms in our only native specimen having a diameter nearly twice as great as is represented in the accompanying figure, and being much more completely expanded.

We have not succeeded in tracing this plant in any work within our reach. The Butterfly-plant of Santa Cruz, described by West, for which the "Helleborine flore papilionaceo" of Plumier is quoted by authors, is a totally different plant from this. The name has doubtless been suggested by the brilliant colours of the flower, its singular form, which may easily be likened to the wings, body, antennæ, and tongue of a butterfly, and its fluttering motion when hanging from its stalk at the extremity of the weak, elastic, jointed scape.

Leaves oval, spreading, fleshy, seated upon a compressed, somewhat angular, solitary bulb, above spotted with interrupted fasciæ, beneath dotted all over with very numerous purple points, with round, green spots among them. *Scape* from the root, 3 feet long, jointed, naked, the lower joints round, the upper 2-edged, 3 or 4 inches long, spotted with red at the edge and disk, and at the base having a scariose scale. *Flowers* spreading, 5 inches across (in wild specimens) from the tip of the upper sepal to the point of the labellum; the upper sepals linear, spatulate, with long stalks, erect, dark orange, sometimes interrupted with yellow; the lower ovate-lanceolate, falcate, wavy, curled, the length of lip, and like it yellow clouded with orange. *Lip* fiddle-shaped, cordate at base, dilated and emarginate at end, wavy, glandular at base, the glands pale, variegated with purple, and representing the figure of a couchant frog. *Column* short, erect, with spreading, fringed wings.

J. L.