

48. PLEUROTHÁLLĪS ophiocéphalā.

P. ophiocephalata ; folio oblongo emarginato concavo carnosio caule breviorē, flore solitario e spathâ duplici membranaceâ carinatâ erumpente, sepalis oblongis obtusis hiantibus intus papillosis extūs pubescentibus inferiore latiore emarginato, petalis lineari-oblongis intus villosis labello duplò minore lineari-ovato obtuso carnosio glabro canaliculato marginibus elevatis truncatis.

A most curious Mexican species, for which I have to thank Messrs. Loddiges and Mr. Barker of Birmingham. It has no beauty, but is remarkable for having one solitary flower protruding from the base of the leaf, and so similar to the head of a snake with the jaws open, that it is difficult at first sight to believe it really a flower that one looks upon. To add to the deception, the small labellum is shaped like a tongue, and moves up and down when you peep into the mouth of the flower. The stem of the leaf is strong, terete, six inches long, with one long striated brown sheath in the middle; the leaf is remarkably thick and fleshy, and above four inches long; the flower is dull yellowish brown, spotted with dull purple, and nearly three-quarters of an inch long.