

# \* BURLINGTONIA cándida.

## *Snow-white Burlingtonia.*

### GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDACEÆ, § VANDEÆ.

**BURLINGTONIA.** *Perianthium* membranaceum, convolutum, obliquum. *Sepala* unguiculata, labello breviora, basi a petalis distincta; *lateralialia* basi concava, connata, labello supposita. *Petala* unguiculata, labello parallela, sepalis longitudine æqualia, sed latiora. *Labellum* unguiculatum, bilobum, basi cornutum aut muticum, cum columnâ parallelum, apice dilatatum; ungue canaliculato, lamellato. *Columna* teres, longè clavata, nunc apice appendicibus duabus coloratis aucta; clinandrio dorsali, stigmatè utrinque cornuto. *Anthera* unilocularis. *Pollinia* 2, posticè excavata, caudiculæ subulatæ elasticæ adnatæ.—Herbæ *epiphytæ*, pseudobulbis 1-2-*phyllis*, basi *foliatis*.

*B. candida*; racemis pendulis, sepalo anteriore apice bilobo supremo petalisque obtusis, labello seriebus duabus lamellarum carnosarum in disco.

Rodriguezia candida. *Bateman in litt.*

Folia *oblonga*, apicem versus paulò latiora, *subcanaliculata*, *solitaria*. Racemus *pendulus*, 5-*florus*. Flores *candidi*, *membranacei*, *semidiaphani*; *venis* quibusdam *luteis* in labello, *duos pollices longi*. Sepalum *supremum obovatum*, *planum*, *emarginatum*; *inferius canaliculatum*, *bifidum*, *basi concavum*, *ad calcar incurvum labelli recipiendum*, *a petalis distinctum*. Petala *obovata*, *apice patula*, *circa columnam voluta*. Labellum cum *columnâ parallelum*, *ungue canaliculato*, *apice utrinque unidentato*, *apice dilatatum*, *subcuneatum*, *bilobum*, *venis lutescentibus ornatum*; *lamellis pluribus distichis carnosis in disco*, *quarum anteriores multò longiores*. Columna *gracilis*, *teres*, *clavata*, *apice dentibus duabus carnosis stigmati adstantibus*; *clinandrio declivi immarginato*.

The vegetable kingdom comprehends nothing more perfectly lovely than the delicate flowers of this plant, in which not a tinge of colour sullies the snow-white transparency of the petals, unless it be a faint dash of straw-colour on the lip. For its introduction to this country we are indebted to Mr. Bateman, who imported it from Demerara, and flowered it in his rich collection at Knypersley, in April 1835.

In many respects it agrees with the genus *Rodriguezia*, especially in its lower sepals being united in one, in its lip having a short horn at the base, in the column being taper, and in the structure of the pollen masses; and I was at first disposed to refer it thither; but its membranous and convolute (not herbaceous, or coloured and spreading) flowers, its unguiculate (not sessile) petals and sepals, its long slender (not dwarf) column, and its membranous 2-lobed lip, so much longer than the other parts, have satisfied me that it is a truly distinct genus.

The species now represented does not stand alone in solitary beauty, but it belongs to a little family, at present consisting of five, each of which

\* Those who have the honour to be acquainted with the Countess of Burlington will feel that no compliment was ever more justly conveyed, than in the dedication of these most lovely flowers to the amiable and accomplished Lady whose name they are henceforth to bear.

vies with the other in loveliness. One of them, *Burlingtonia venusta*, a native of Brazil, may be literally said to sink beneath its long heavy clusters of snow-white blossoms just tinged with pink; a second, seated upon the highest branches of the Cedrela tree, perfumes the forests of the same country with the odour of Jonquils: it is *Burlingtonia fragrans*; while a third, *Burlingtonia rubescens*, delicately spotted with rose colour, inhabits the trunks of the Calabash tree in the mission of Yurimaguas, in the province of Maynas, the hottest part of Peru, and is loaded with blossoms all the year long; and the fourth, *Burlingtonia rigida*, with many peculiarities, to which I shall immediately advert, breathes the delicious fragrance of the violet.

At the end of the column of *Burlingtonia fragrans* there are two little brownish purple teeth, which are probably rudiments of anthers; even in *Burlingtonia venusta* there is a trace of them, but a less distinct one. These bodies, in *Burlingtonia rigida* become long purple ears, fringed with gland-like hairs, and standing erect like a pair of curved pen-knife blades. Nothing indeed is more common throughout the whole of the order than such rudimentary stamens in one state or other. In *Zygostates* they attain their greatest degree of developement, separating from the column to the very base, and spreading away from it at a right angle. One species of the latter genus exists in Dr. von Martius's Brazilian Herbarium; the other I find among M. Descourtilz's drawings.

Characters of the four additional species of *Burlingtonia*, and of the last mentioned genus, are given below.

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- Burlingtonia venusta*; racemis pendulis, sepalo anteriore integerrimo supremo acuto, labello infra medium transversè plicato.—Brazil; Descourtilz's drawings, No. 83.
- Burlingtonia fragrans*; racemis erectis, sepalo anteriore integerrimo supremo acuto, labello postico cucullato supra unguem bilamellato disco pubescente elevato apice tridentato.—Brazil, in the districts of Morro-Quegado and Macahé, and in the neighbourhood of the town of Bom Jesus de Bananal; Descourtilz's drawings, No. 12.
- Burlingtonia rubescens*; racemis erectis, sepalo anteriore integerrimo lineari-lanceolato patente supremoque acuminatis, labello basi auriculato bilamellato.—Peru; Pöppig (*nov. gen. et sp. vol. 1. p. 41. t. 70* Rodriguezia Batemanni).
- Burlingtonia rigida*; caulibus teretibus rigidis durissimis erectis per longa intervalla proliferis, pseudobulbis obovatis compressis monophyllis, foliis oblongis, scapo longo rigido apice racemoso, labello basi mutico disco sparse lamellato, columnâ pubescente apice appendicibus 2 falcatis erectis pilosis auritâ.—Found in Brazil, near Villa Nova de Almeida, by Prince Maximilian of Wied Neuwied, and preserved in the Brazilian Herbarium of Dr. Von Martins.—This singular plant has stiff, apparently erect stems, the thickness of a crow's quill, which throw out pseudo-bulbs at intervals of from 1½ to 2 feet, each pseudo-bulb pushes forth its own roots, which are extremely long and as fine as hairs; and gives birth to a scape of the same thickness and texture as the main stem, a foot and half long, at the tip of which are clustered 5 or 6 flowers, the size of those of *Burlingtonia nivea*, with the perfume of violets. I believe Messrs. Loddiges possess living plants of this.
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