

## ON SAUNDERSIA, A NEW GENUS OF ORCHIDACEÆ.

The grand days of Orchidology are gone for ever—the days when every month afforded a new genus. There appear to be very few new genera to be discovered; the greater then is the pleasure to see an old, long-known plant at length taking its place in the annals of science.

Among the drawings of Descourtilz, made more than thirty years ago, mostly near Bananal, in Brazil, there was one representation of a cæspitose plant, with ligulate leaves, no developed bulbs, basilar sub-capitate racemes of yellowish-white flowers striped with brown, and long tongue-like, bifid lips. Dr. Lindley took a copy of this plate, which is now in his Herbarium at Kew; and I remember well, that he and I looked despairingly on the mystery, as on one not to be solved, for no details as to the pollen, &c. were known. My astonishment was great when I found an excellent representation, made by Mr. W. Wilson Saunders, at Hillfield House, near Reigate, from the living plant. This gentleman had even prepared careful dissections; but the apex of the pollen apparatus had escaped his observation, and I did not know whether the plant belonged to the *Vandææ* or to the *Epidendrææ*.

At length, shortly before the International Exhibition, Mr. Saunders, at my repeated request, sent me the "*rarissima avis*," which proved, as no one could have suspected, nearly allied to *Trichocentrum*, but very well distinguished as a genus by the spur being adnate to the ovary, by the pyriform solid pollen masses, and by the long narrow glandula. I dedicate the genus to the above-named gentleman, whose attachment to science and gardening is so well-known, and whose highly interesting gardens and stoves are quite unique. The technical characters are the following:—

*SAUNDERSIA* *Rehb. fil. Nov. Gen.*—Ovarium hispidum canaliculatum, calcar cylindraceo optime adnato. Sepala oblonga apiculata, concava, extus carinata. Sepala subæqualia, minora, dorso carinata, omnia recte seu subrecte inserta. Labellum plus duplo longius, æstivatione inflexum, lineari-ligulatum, apice flabellato dilatatum, bifidum, cruribus oblique rhombeis, carina crassa utrinque in limbo medio marginante. Columna brevis, crassa, androclinium immersum in rostellum subulato bifidum extensum. Alula ciliolata utrinque juxta foveam obcelata ab alis quadratis, maximis, oblongo retusis protensis. Anthera oblonga, apice attenuata, unilocularis, septulis minutissimis. Pollinia gemina pyriformia in caudicula lineari ac glandulâ subposita ligulata.

*Saundersia mirabilis*: planta ebulbis. Folia cuneato ligulata, obtuse acuta. Pedunculus cephalotes, squamis vestitus oblongis, acutis, scariosis, superne capitato racemosus uti diximus. Flores erecti. Ovarium purpureum, sepala et petala flaveola, purpureo zebrina, labellum eboraceum.

In Brasilia legerunt *Descourtilz* (icones Mus. Delessert) et

**Blunt, mercatoris excellentissis. Low, Claptonensis, collector, unde in Hort. Saundersianum, introducta est nitida planta.**