

\* SOBRĀLIĀ sēssīlis.

*Sessile-flowered Sobralia.*

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GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. ORCHIDACEÆ, § ARETHUSEÆ.

**SOBRALIA.** *Fl. Peruv.* Perianthium maximum, petaloideum, subæquale; sepalis patentibus vel reflexis, petalis erectis. Labellum cucullatum, columnam amplexans, basi angustatum, disco plicato-barbatum, apice bilobum. Columna elongata, marginata, clavata, apicis trifidi lobo medio cucullato antherifero. Stigma marginatum, basi gibbere gemino nectarifero. Anthera terminalis, stipitata, semiquadrilocularis. Pollinia farinacea, 4, compressa, posticè cohærentia et contortuplicata, ecaudiculata.—*Herbæ Americæ æquinotialis, terrestres, simplices, sæpe triorgyales, foliosissimæ; foliis plicatis; floribus racemosis terminalibus, vel axillaribus geminis, niveis, roseis, sanguineis, violaceisve. Omnes ferè species loca rupestria, sicca, aprica, calidissima eligunt, dumeta sæpius ampla formantes.* Gen. & Sp. Orch. p. 430.

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*S. sessilis*; caule foliisque subtus nigro-pubescentibus, foliis sessilibus oblongo-lanceolatis acuminatis 2 terminalibus squamæformibus acuminatis herbaceis, floribus sessilibus, labello rhombeo-oblongo glabro lamellis 2 intramarginalibus pone basin. *Bot. Reg. misc.* 1841. no. 11.

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Some of the finest Orchidaceæ known are species of this genus, which inhabits Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Demerara, and no doubt the intermediate districts. They are like Evelynas in their manner of growth, or to use a more familiar comparison, they resemble reeds loaded with large red, or white, and often fragrant flowers which always grow from the extremity of the reed among the large plaited grassy leaves. One species, *S. Liliastrum*, is figured in the *Sertum Orchidaceum*, from drawings made by Mr. Schomburgk, and has most lovely white or rosy blossoms, but it does not exist in our gardens. Another species with stems from twelve to twenty feet high is “Flower of Paradise” of the Peruvians, and bears large

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\* So called by the authors of the *Flora Peruviana*, after Don Francisco Martin Sobral, a botanist of their acquaintance.

flowers, white without and violet within, smelling of Wall-flowers. Another has the inflorescence of a Heliconia. They are all said to love dry sunny rocky places, where the heat is excessive, and where they often form large thickets.

That now figured is the least pretty of any we know. It was flowered by Messrs. Loddiges last December, having been received from Mr. Schomburgk.

I previously possessed wild specimens of it, and they show that the garden plant is quite as perfect as in its native meadows. Its stem is covered with small black hairs and stiff-ribbed taper-pointed leaves. From the summit of the stem there appears a single rose-coloured flower, which is very fugacious. The lip is many degrees darker than the other parts.

Fig. 1. represents the columns and anther; fig. 2. exhibits the inside of the lip. I had no opportunity of examining the former.