

27. HELCIA sanguinolenta.

Among the unexamined plants collected by Mr. Hartweg for the Horticultural Society, was a plant supposed to be a species of *Trichopilia*, of which it has entirely the habit, collected at Paccha, a miserable village in the Andes of Guayaquil. Having now flowered, I am able to state that although it certainly approaches nearly to that genus, yet it is in reality an entirely new form. Instead of its column being rolled up in the labellum, it stands erect and clear of it. Instead of the anther having but one cell, it has two. Instead of the anther-

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bed having two lateral lacerated processes, it is surrounded by a deep fringed border. Finally, instead of the lip being perfectly smooth, continuous, and destitute of all appendages at the base, it is contracted about the middle, below the contraction furnished with a pair of thick fleshy lobes hollowed out in the middle and standing erect on each side of the column, without however touching it; and the space between those lobes, forming the very base of the lip, is a hollow hairy pit.

Upon looking at this curious apparatus in front, the anther and column look like an old-fashioned head-dress peeping over one of those starched high collars, such as ladies wore in the days of Queen Elizabeth; or through a horse collar decorated with gaudy ribbons; and this has led to the name, which has been fashioned out of *Helcium*, a word said to mean the collar of a horse, though; considering its obvious derivation, one would rather have imagined it to signify his traces.

The following character will sufficiently indicate the peculiarity of this new genus.

HELICIA. *Sepala & petala* coriacea, conformia, patula. *Labellum* patulum, membranaceum, planum, medio contractum, basi utrinque appendice carnosâ truncatâ medio foveatâ in lineas duas breves elevatas procurrente auctum, ipsa basi excavatum pilosum. Columna libera teres, clinandrio erecto undique fimbriato. Anthera carnosâ, in pileum solidum obtusum producta, 2-locularis. Pollinia 2, postice excavata, caudiculâ cuneatâ, glandulâ parvâ ovali.—Herba *pseudobulbosa*, foliis *solitariis*, *coriaceis*, *undulatis*, pedunculis *radicalibus*.

H. sanguinolenta. Pseudobulbi ovati, elongati, subteretes. Folia 4-6 pollicaria, undulata, basi in petiolum canaliculatum angustata. Pedunculus pseudobulbis brevior, uniflorus, bibracteatus. Sepala et petala olivacea, fusc sanguineo maculata. Labellum album striis sanguinolentis, obovatum, emarginatum, appendicibus luteis denticulatis striatis.

The relationship of this plant is evidently greatest to *Trichopilia*. It is however also an associate of *Aspasia*, from which it differs in not having the lip united to the column, and in its deep-fringed anther-bed. All these are stationed in a subdivision of *Vandææ*, to which I propose to give the name of *Brassidææ*.