



[PLATE 11.]

## THE SWEET TRICHOPIL.

(TRICHOPILIA SUAVIS.)

*A stove Epiphyte, from CENTRAL AMERICA, belonging to the Natural Order of ORCHIDS.*

### Specific Character.

**THE SWEET TRICHOPIL.**—Pseudo-bulbs thin, oblong, obovate, one-leaved. Leaves broad, oblong, wavy, leathery, nearly sessile. Peduncles about 2-flowered. Petals linear, nearly straight. Lip very large, 3-lobed, wavy, crisp, closely rolled up at the base, suddenly inflated upwards. Hood of the column 3-lobed, with all the lobes fringed, the middle one being the narrowest.

**TRICHOPILIA SUA VIS.**—Pseudo-bulbis tenuibus oblongis obovatis monophyllis, foliis latis oblongis undulatis coriaceis subsessilibus, pedunculis sub-bifloris, petalis linearibus rectiusculis, labello maximo bilobo undulato crispo basi arcuato convoluto sursum abruptè ventricoso cuculli trilobi laciniis omnibus fimbriatis intermediâ angustiore.

*Trichopilia suavis: Suprà p. 44, no. 70.*

AMONG the Vandeous Orchids, that is to say among the Orchids having waxy pollen-masses on a well-defined gland, and usually with a caudicle in addition, stands conspicuous, a group which we have elsewhere named BRASSIDS, comprehending the genera *Oncidium*, *Odontoglossum*, *Brassia*, *Cymbidium*, and many more. (See *Vegetable Kingdom*, p. 181.)

It is among these genera that the genus *Trichopil* is stationed, and well defined by its four pollen-masses at the end of a long wedge-shaped caudicle, its convolute free lip, and the remarkable hood of the column, divided, in the species hitherto seen, into three unequal lobes. *Helcia*, which is nearest it, has a flat lip with a distinct fleshy hypochil, and a fringed, not hooded, anther-lid.

It is not improbable that many more *Trichopils* lurk in the forests of Central America than we have any actual knowledge of. To the Cork-screw *Trichopil* (*Tr. tortilis*), so named on account of the spiral form of the petals, a second species, from Mexico, was some years since added by Messrs. Richard and Galeotti, with narrow stem-like pseudo-bulbs, and large solitary yellow flowers, under the name of *Tr. Galeottiana*. The plant now figured forms a third; and a fourth, still unnamed, has flowered with Sir Philip Egerton.

For the opportunity of publishing a coloured plate of this, the Sweet *Trichopil*, we are indebted to R. S. Holford, Esq., whose specimens reached us a few weeks since in admirable condition. It

had also been flowered about the same time by Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Loddiges. Its broad thin pseudo-bulbs and large leathery leaves will distinguish it when not in flower, and have led to the confusion of it with the large-flowered Tooth-tongue, *Odontoglossum grande*. The flowers emit the most delicate odour of Hawthorn. They are, when well grown, full five inches in diameter, delicate in texture, nearly white, with a few slight stains of red on the sepals and petals, and a great convolute lip richly spotted with clear rose, which, it seems, becomes, in the bright natural climate of the species, a rich and brilliant red.

The cultivation of the plant is exactly that of *Lycaste Skinneri*, and similar terrestrial Orchids. This has been well described in the *Journal of the Horticultural Society*, vol. v. p. 14.

“It should be recollected that no plants can exist for any very great length of time without rest, and that rest is induced in a tropical climate by drought, in the same way as low temperature in our own country suspends vital energy: therefore Orchids must be subjected to the usual seasonable changes of rest and activity. Rest is induced by withholding moisture from their roots, and partly from the air, and this state of things may be considered to represent their winter. Spring should be imitated by gradually reviving vital energy by increase of moisture, first to the atmosphere, and afterwards to the roots or soil, accompanied by a proportionate increase of temperature: this period of their growth should be very slow. Summer must be represented by a greater increase of both heat and moisture; partial shade should also be resorted to, to bring the energy of the plant into full force. And lastly, an autumn must be created to bring about maturity, by gradually reducing the quantity of both heat and moisture, until the plants are again brought to a fit state for repose. The first and last stages should be of but short duration, and require caution, otherwise much mischief may be done to the plants.

“By growing Orchids in the mean instead of the maximum of heat and moisture, they will not make such rapid growth; but they will become more robust and healthy, and be less liable to receive injury from sudden transitions, either of heat, drought, or moisture, in the atmosphere.

“The temperature of the house can only with certainty be kept regular by night, particularly in summer; therefore the fire should never raise the heat of the principal house higher than 60°, and about five degrees less should be maintained where the plants are in a less excitable state: but as the days lengthen, so the temperature may rise; yet it should if possible never range higher than 75° by night in summer; it will occasionally, however, be higher in very warm weather, and should be counteracted as much as possible by evaporation and ventilation by night, and by both, as well as by shading, by day.”