

TRIZEUXIS FALCATA.

NAT. ORD. Orchideæ. Sect. 5. Br. Prodr. I. 330.

LINN. SYST. Gynandria Monandria.

TRIZEUXIS. Perianthium bipartitum ; laciniâ superiore bilobâ ; inferiore tripartitâ, inflatâ. Labellum columnâ parallelum, limbo recurvo dilatato. Stigma excavatum. Anthera unilocularis, carnosâ. Pollinis massæ 2, pedicello fusiformi carnosâ adhærentes, ipsis duplò longiori. *Arboribus parasiticæ. Folia pauca, disticha. Racemi compositi. Flores non resupinati.*

Trizeuxis, foliis falcatis enervibus, floribus confertis. 4.

DESCR. *Arboribus parasitica. Radices fasciculati, fibrosi. Folia radicalia, disticha, falcata, compressa. Scapi ex axillis, paniculati, teretes, fragiles, pallidè brunnei, ad nodos bracteati. Flores minimi, capitulis demùm elongatis dispositi, pallidè virides, bracteis parvulis, acutis, persistentibus suffulti, non resupinati. Ovarium sessile, refractum, perianthio brevius. Perianthium subglobosum, bipartitum, laciniis obtusis, semidiaphanis, conniventibus ; superiore bifidâ, planâ, inferiore tripartitâ, inflatâ, galeæ recurvæ ad instar, lobo intermedio majore. Labellum columnæ appressum, et cum eâ articulatum, concavum, carnosum, apice recurvum, ovatum, acutum, subundulatum, luteum, utrinque auriculatum, laciniis cæteris paululùm longius. Columna subcylindrica, clavata, labello duplò brevior, apice anticè utrinque obscure unidentata. Stigma excavatum, viscidum, lateribus involutis columnæ partim clausum. Anthera terminalis, 1-locularis, mobilis, operculiformis, decidua ; superficie granulosa. Massæ pollinis 2, breves, cereæ, parallelæ, in apice columnæ, juxta cardinem antheræ jacentes, utrinque pedicello ipsis duplò longiori, fusiformi, albo, diaphano adnatæ. Glandula intensè lutea, viscida, quoad axim columnæ verticalis, apicem stigmati et pedicellum massarum connectens.*

If we were requested to select the most interesting from the multitude of vegetable tribes, we should, on the whole, perhaps, be willing to give the preference to the natural order of ORCHIDÆ. Whether we consider general elegance of individuals, durability of blossoms, splendid colours, delicious perfume, or extraordinary structure, it would be difficult to select any order superior to Orchideæ in these respects, and few even equal to them. To the cultivator, who esteems plants for their beauty only ; to the botanist, who, rejecting outward attractions, is chiefly captivated by anomalous structure, or intricate organization ; or to the amateur, who wisely prefers to have these requisites combined ; to all, or any of these, we conceive that accurate figures of foreign Orchideous plants cannot fail to be particularly acceptable. We therefore propose to publish one species of this family in each succeeding number ; and we hope to be able soon to add such important information with respect to the treatment of Orchideæ, as will entirely remove the present difficulty of cultivating them, and as may enable any one to manage them as readily as the most common plants of our hot-houses.

We are obliged to Mr. Griffin for the communication of this very curious little parasitical plant, which flowered in his stove, last July, immediately after its arrival from Trinidad.

It is perhaps of the same genus as some supposed species of *Cranichis* ; but does not appear to have been hitherto taken up by botanical writers. It, however, differs from *Cranichis*, and from every other genus of the same section, in the characters we have assigned it above. The curious manner in which the segments of the perianthium are united,—the two lateral outer ones and the inferior outer and lateral inner segments partially cohering in two divisions, which are themselves slightly connected towards their base,—is very remarkable. Something analogous takes place in *Masdevallia*, *Restrephia*, *Pleurothallis*, &c. which are otherwise very different.

We have described the flowers as not resupinate ; agreeably to Mr. Brown's very ingenious and correct idea, that the Labellum becomes the lowest segment in *Orchis*, *Ophrys*, &c., from a twist of the Ovarium, or of its stalk, and that, therefore, the flowers of those genera are in reality resupinate, properly speaking ; and not those which, like the present plant, have the Labellum above the Columna.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

1. Flower seen laterally. 2. Front view of the same. 3. Labellum and Columna exposed by the removal of the Perianthium. 4. Columna separate, with Anther and Stigma. 5, 6. Different views of the same. 7. The same divided through its axis, exhibiting half the Stigma. 8. Masses of Pollen with their stalk and gland.