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VANILLA PFAVIANA, n. sp.\*

THIS was recently rediscovered by one of Mr. Pfau's collectors. Strolling under an immense Oak he found a single flower, of which I have before me a painted sketch. The collector took his telescope, studied branch for branch, but he could find no vestige of pseudobulbs, and home he went in bad spirits. And yet all goes on in a natural way in Nature. The plant had no pseudobulbs, as it was a climber—a Vanilla, and who knows whether the ardent collector did not see hundreds of twigs with their shining leaves! I decidedly could not do much with a single flower if it were not so very characteristic, and if I had not immediately recognised in it one of those hundreds of undescribed species I have by me. It was found in Mexico long since. It has a slender zigzag stem, with oblong, suddenly acuminate broad leaves (6 by 4 inches).

The terminal inflorescence has lanceolate acuminate bracts, surpassing or equalling the ovaries. Whether there are axillary inflorescences also is unknown; whether those also have leaf-like bracts is another question. The flower is comparable to that of *Schomburgkia tibicinis* in general appearance, though the cuneate oblong acute sepals and petals are not undulate, but twisted and green. The threefold white lip has two oblong erect lateral laciniae and a well projected emarginate anterior one, with crenate outer margins. There are no rows of lamellae on it, but one long thick cushion extending from the place before the anterior sinus towards the base, and then running out in two lines, each terminating in an upright angle, having there a small keel between them. The column adheres to the base of the lip, and has an acuminate cuculla to the androclinium, as well as an apiculate anther. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

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\* *Vanilla Pfaviana*, n. sp.—Caule flexuoso: foliis magnis oblongis acuminatis; inflorescentia (semper ?) terminali grandiflora; bracteis decrescentibus oblongo-lanceolatis acutis; sepalis cuneato-oblongis acutis tortis; tepalis paulis per minoribus tortis; labello columnae basi adnato cuneato dilatato trifido; laciniiis lateralibus erectis; lacinia antica producta emarginata, disco a regione ante apiculari pulvinate incrassato basi in dentes duos excurrente, carinula interjecta; androclini margini acuto; anthera apiculata. Mexico. *H. G. Rchb. f.*