

ZYGOPETALON ROSTRATUM. ROSTRATE  
ZYGOPETALON.

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*Class and Order.*

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

{ Nat. Ord.—ORCHIDÆ. Div. IV. Anthera terminalis mobilis decidua; Massæ pollinis demum cereacæ. Br. }

*Generic Character.*

*Petala* æqualia, basi (tria superiora precipue alte) connata. *Labellum* explanatum, disco tuberculo carnosissimo; basi calcare obtuso vel nullo. *Columna* marginis superiore alata. *Anthera* compressa, calceiformis, disco subtus affixa, loculis duobus bivalvibus. *Massæ pollinis* duæ, bilobæ, *glandula* magna inserta.

*Specific Character.*

ZYGOPETALON *rostratum*; labello rotundato integro marginibus reflexis, columna alis rotundatis, anthera longe rostrata.

DESCR. Parasitic. *Roots* simple, whitish, fleshy. *Bulbs*, when fully grown, and after the falling away of the leaves, oblong, compressed, pale green, smooth. *Leaves*, several, distichous, lanceolate, submembranous, striated, acute. *Scape* arising from the base of the young leafy stem, five to six inches long, terete, having here and there foliaceous scales, and bearing one (or more) flower; upper scale, or bractea, large, concave. *Flower* very large, handsome, scentless. *Petals* greenish-brown, spreading horizontally, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, waved, the three upper ones connate for one-fourth of the way, so as in fact to be one tripartite petal, the two lower ones connate to a lesser height from the base; but the whole five when seen from the underside are united into one piece around the top  
of

of the germen. *Lip* nearly as long as the petals, very broad, subrotundate, the margins reflexed, pure white, with a few radiating red lines near the base, and at the very base, a large fleshy tubercle, in shape resembling the reversed hoof of a horse, purple at the edge, slightly crenated, elegantly and delicately pencilled with red within. *Column* semicylindrical, the margin above projecting forward into two rounded wings, the upper margin distinctly spinuloso-serrate. *Anther* ovate, compressed, slipper-shaped, white, as is the whole column, tapering into a long beak, which surmounts the column considerably, shortly two-lipped, within having two bilabiate membranous cells, in which the pale yellow *pollen-masses* are lodged. These *pollen-masses*, four in number, (or two, each two-lobed) are attached to a very large, notched, horny, dark purple *gland*, which projects beyond the base of the anther-case, and lapt over the square *stigma*; the under-side of the gland, is, at the lower extremity, covered with a clammy fluid. *Germen* cylindrical, not twisted.

At tab. 2748\* of the present work, I had the pleasure of figuring a new Orchidous plant from Brazil, upon which I founded the Genus ZYGOPETALON: and it is with no small satisfaction that I am now able to give a second species of this handsome and curious genus, and one no less remarkable in the size and structure of its flowers. The credit of introducing this fine plant from Demerara to the Liverpool Botanic Garden, is due to our excellent friend C. S. PARKER, Esq. Beneath the perfect blossom in the figure will be seen an abortive flower, so that in all probability the scape when in perfection is two or many-flowered; and under any circumstances the plant is highly deserving of cultivation. It flowered in October, 1827.

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Fig. 1. Front view of the Lip. 2. Column and base of the Petals. 3. Anther, seen from the underside. 4. Pollen Masses. 5. Ditto, seen from the underside.—*Magnified.*

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\* *Z. Mackaili*; labello subrotundato emarginato, columna vix superne alata, anthera obtusa.

