

BATEMAN JAS. (JAMES)

A MONOGRAPH OF
ODONTOGLOSSUM

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James Bateman

A Monograph of Odontoglossum

INTRODUCTION

At the time (1864) when this Monograph was commenced, the successful application of the system of cool treatment to Orchids accustomed to a moderate temperature in their native haunts gave a fresh impulse to the cultivation of that charming tribe of plants. By its means, what might almost be regarded as a new Orchid-world, teeming with interest and beauty, was suddenly brought within our reach. A fresh field was opened to the enterprise of collectors, the spirits of cultivators revived, and the hopes of botanists mounted high. Foremost among the spoils that we sought to secure, stood the various members of the genus *Odontoglossum*, which from the days of Humboldt¹ and Lexarza, was known to abound in species pre-eminent for the

¹ The mention of the illustrious traveller's name reminds me of the obligations under which he laid me when I first visited Berlin, in the spring of 1836; for, young as I was, he deigned to pour into my delighted ears all the stores of Orchid-lore collected during his memorable wanderings among the Andes of New Grenada and Peru. Here, he said, the greatest store of beauteous Orchids was to be found, and we are now beginning to realize the truth of his remark.

loveliness and delicacy of their flowers but which had hitherto mocked the utmost efforts of our most skilful growers. For although (thanks to the labours of Warzewitz and Lobb) the Horticultural Society and Messrs. Veitch had more than once received large consignments of Orchids – among which were many *Odontoglossa*– from the mountain ranges of New Grenada and Peru, they had invariably succumbed under the stifling atmosphere to which, in common with the denizens of India, Guiana, or Madagascar, they were remorselessly consigned. Here and there, indeed, an accidental success was achieved in a greenhouse, but the hint was turned to no account, and as a rule – notwithstanding the repeated warnings and remonstrances of Mr. Skinner, Warzewitz, and others – for thirty years we persisted in the incredible folly of growing "cool" Orchids in "hot" stoves; so deeply rooted in the minds of horticulturists was the original prejudice! But it yielded at last, and no sooner had a few houses – constructed and managed on the cool-culture system – made it clear that the Orchids of temperate regions were prepared to submit to the skill of the cultivator, than a general raid was made upon the more accessible countries in which they were known to abound – more especially certain districts in Mexico and New Grenada. To the latter country, collectors were simultaneously sent off by the Horticultural Society, who despatched Mr. Weir; by Mr. Linden, of Brussels; and by Messrs. Low, of the Clapton Nursery; and all these rival envoys, much to their own mortification and chagrin, found themselves sailing for

the same destination in the same steamer on the same errand!

It was now that the idea occurred to me of devoting a work of adequate dimensions to the illustration of the particular genus, which from the dried specimens in our herbaria, the plates in *Pescatorea*, the figures of Humboldt, and the descriptions of travellers was evidently destined to hold the first place among all the numerous company of cool Orchids; and thus began the present Monograph. I had expected that after the work of importation had fairly commenced, not only would the species described by Lindley and Reichenbach be easily obtained, but that along with these a multitude of others entirely new to science would likewise be received. In this respect, however, the results have scarcely come up to expectations; a circumstance that is partly to be accounted for by the difficulty attendant on their importation,² but which is owing, I grieve to say, in a far greater degree to the untimely deaths of those zealous collectors, Bowman and Pearse, who, when in the very heart of the cool Orchid regions of Ecuador and Peru, succumbed under the pressure of their arduous labours. In Mexico, from which much novelty was expected, little has been added to the number

² Cool Orchids from the interior of South America, have either to be carried across the Andes, where the intense cold of the passes is often fatal to them, or to be conveyed by a tedious voyage down the great rivers, where the heat is greater than their constitution – often delicate – can endure. In this way whole importations have been lost, including, I am sorry to say, one or two cargoes of the exquisite *Odontoglossum Warczewitzii* (figured in Reichenbach's "Xenia") which still unhappily remains a desideratum.

of *Odontoglossa* previously known, and the same may be said of Costa Rica, notwithstanding the vigorous exertions of Mr. Endries. But in these countries it is evident that the genus is not so fully developed as in the mountain ranges of New Grenada, Quito, and Peru. From the latter country little indeed has yet been received, although the eastern slopes of its Andean chain are probably richer in species of unknown or unimported Orchids than any other portion of the globe. But we must await further improvements in the navigation of the affluents of the mighty Amazon, before we can hope to receive any large instalment of these much-coveted treasures.

A combination of the various causes referred to above, by limiting the choice of materials, has seriously delayed the publication of this work, which I had hoped would by this time have reckoned at least a dozen parts. But as there seems to be no immediate prospect of these hindrances to more rapid progress being taken out of the way, and as the sands of my life are fast running out, I have thought it best in the interests of my subscribers, to make the present number the last. The six parts now published will, however, form a volume of convenient size, and one which may, as I trust, serve to show how rich New Grenada is in the members of this glorious genus. What wealth of *Odontoglossa* Peru may possess, I must leave some future botanist to unfold. He will have a pleasant task, and will probably have doubled the roll of the genus as now known, before his work is done.

During the progress of this Monograph a curious incident has occurred, which may deserve a brief notice. When the publication was commenced, the introduction of two particular plants – more perhaps than of any others known to orchidists – was earnestly desired by growers, these two being the *Odontoglossum crispum* of Lindley, and the *Cuitlauzina pendula* of Lexarza. The finding, or rather the re-finding of the former – so magnificent were the specimens in the Lindleyan Herbarium – was declared to be worth a king's ransom; while for the latter – described as a native of Oaxaca – more than one collector had scoured that province in vain. *Strange to say, they were already in our grasp*: the *O. crispum* being none other than my *O. Alexandræ*, while – as explained under Plate VIII. – the *Cuitlauzina* proves to be identical with the long previously introduced *Odontoglossum citrosmum* of Lindley. Whether all the botanical pressure that can be brought to bear upon our cultivators may suffice to convert *O. Alexandræ* into *O. crispum*, or change *O. citrosmum* into *O. pendulum*, is an extremely doubtful question, so strong is the hold that the erroneous names have already secured on the public mind. In the parallel case of *Wellingtonia*, that popular Conifer – though now almost universally admitted to be a *Sequoia* – remains *Wellingtonia* still, and seems likely to do so for all time to come.

The range of the genus *Odontoglossum*, as may be gathered from the descriptions attached to the various Plates, is of a peculiar character, being at once restricted and extensive. It is

restricted, for it never leaves the Andes, and it is extensive, for it is found in all parts of that vast mountain-chain, from the confines of Florida to the frontiers of Chili. As yet no species has ever been met with at a lower elevation than 2500 feet above the sea-level, nor, with the exception of *O. hastilabium*, has any *Odontoglossum* been known to descend so low; – the most usual altitude being 5-6000 feet, though a higher point is often reached. Like the humming-birds which frequent the same mountains, and vie with them in beauty, nearly all the *Odontoglossa* are exceedingly local, and in this way two of the most beautiful species, *e. g.*, *O. vexillarium* and *O. Roezlii*, eluded discovery for many years, even in a region supposed to be well explored by collectors.

As to the botanical limits of the genus, I must needs confess that they are exceedingly difficult to fix. It is as true now as when Professor Lindley first made the observation to me, that "The more we build up the partition walls between *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, &c., the more the species break them down." Certainly no one at first sight would suppose *Odontoglossum cariniferum* was anything but an *Oncidium*, nor *Oncidium macranthum* other than an *Odontoglossum*. Indeed, I must own to a suspicion that ultimately both these genera, together with *Miltonia*, *Mesospinidium*, *Aspasia*, and possibly one or two others, may come to be regarded merely as *sub-genera*. But this difficult question is safest left in Professor Reichenbach's far abler hands. At the same time, it is not to be denied that there

is such a peculiar look about the *Odontoglossa*, that even a non-scientific observer has seldom any difficulty in at once referring most of the species to their true position.

One other matter remains to which I must very briefly advert. Mr. Darwin's fascinating work on the "Fertilization" of Orchids has led many persons to suppose that this beautiful tribe lends an exceptional amount of support to the theory with which that ingenious writer's name is so prominently associated, but there could scarcely be a greater mistake. Not only is the theory in question utterly rejected by Professor Reichenbach, the *facile princeps* of living orchidists, but the greater our knowledge of the order, the less countenance does it seem to yield to the Darwinian view. We have now become perfectly well acquainted with all the genera – we might almost say with all the species – that belong to particular countries, but it is in these that the limits of variation between the different forms are most distinctly defined; in these, too, the great principle of unity in diversity is most conspicuous – the genera holding aloof from each other, and even the species keeping themselves distinct, although the Orchid mark is unmistakably stamped upon all alike. Mr. Gould has remarked, in his great work on the "*Trochilidæ*," that the Darwinian theory derives no support from *them*, and the same may be safely affirmed of Orchids, which – we are now speaking of America – are the humming-birds' constant associates. Neither, while we contemplate the marvellous and inexhaustible variety of form by which the order is distinguished above all its fellows, can

any plead that this result is due to its ancient lineage, nor yet to the vast periods through which endless transformations are assumed to have been continually taking place, because Orchids – according to geologic reckoning – are but a thing of yesterday, and have never been found in a fossil state. Yet their constant companions the Ferns, trace back their pedigree to the earliest vegetation of the primeval world! To the believer, however, the problem is not hard to solve. Ferns and other flowerless plants came early in the Divine programme, because the coal, into which they were to be ultimately converted, had need to be long accumulating for the future comfort and civilization of our race; while the genesis of Orchids was postponed until the time drew near when Man, who was to be soothed by the gentle influence of their beauty, or charmed by the marvellous variety of their structure, was about to appear upon the scene. There are multitudes who could bear witness how amply, in their own experience, this gracious purpose has been fulfilled; while the writer – in whose breast a love of Orchids prevailed from his youth up – can only exclaim with the Psalmist, "Thou, Oh Lord, hast made me glad through Thy works, and I will rejoice in giving thanks for the operation of Thy hand."

J. B.

Knypersley Hall, April 24th, 1874.

Plate I.
ODONTOGLOSSUM
NEBULOSUM, *Lindley*

CLOUDED ODONTOGLOSSUM

O. (*Leucoglossum*, *Lindl.*) pseudobulbis ovatis compressis 2-3-phyllis, foliis oblongis acutis basi conduplicatis pedunculo radicali erecto (apice) nutante 3-7-floro brevioribus, bracteis scariosis amplexicaulibus ovario duplo brevioribus, sepalis petalisque latioribus membranaceis oblongis undulatis apiculis recurvis, labelli ungue cucullato carnosio, lamellis duabus erectis dentibusque totidem anticis, limbo ovato acuto dentato subpubescente, columnâ apterâ elongatâ. (*Lindl. quibusdam mutatis.*)

Odontoglossum nebulosum, *Lindl. Fol. Orch.*

Odontoglossum maxillare, *Lemaire (nec Lindley), Illustration Horticole* (1859), t. 200.

Habitat in Mexico, prope Oaxaca (*Karwinski, Galeotti, etc.*), *circiter 5000 ft.*

DESCRIPTION

Pseudobulbs 2 to 3 inches long, smooth, ovate, somewhat compressed, 2- or 3-leaved. Leaves 2 or 3 at the apex of the pseudobulbs, oblong, acute, shorter than the Scape, which, rising from the base of the pseudobulbs, is bent down at its upper extremity by the weight of from 3 to 7 large and handsome Flowers. Bracts only half the length of the ovary, embracing the flower-stem. Sepals 1½ inches long. Petals much wider than the sepals, and like them of an oblong form, waved at the margin, and a little recurved at the end, which is sharply pointed; both sepals and petals are of clear membranous white, clouded (as the name implies) by a profusion of spots or blotches of a reddish-brown colour, which extend to nearly half their length. Lip of the same texture and colour as the sepals, only that the brown blotches are broader, and that there is a patch of yellow on the claw; its upper portion is of an ovate form, acute, with the margins very much torn; its fleshy dish is hooded, or gathered into 2 erect plates, with a pair of teeth attached in front. Column very long, destitute of wings.

It was at Munich, in the year 1835, that I first became acquainted with this fine *Odontoglossum* having, through the kindness of Professor Von Martius, been allowed to examine the rich collection of dried specimens that Baron Karwinski had then recently brought home with him from Mexico. Two years

afterwards living plants were sent to me from Oaxaca, which happening to arrive in the midst of that remarkably severe winter 1837-38, I naturally expected would have been destroyed on their way; so far, however, from this being the case, they appeared to have sustained little or no injury from the cold, and on being placed in a stove they soon began to push both roots and leaves. All went well so long as the temperature of the house did not exceed 70°, but when the winter had passed away and they had to face the intense heat at which the Orchid-houses of that period were ordinarily maintained, they then quickly lost their vigour and before a twelvemonth had passed were all gone, victims – like a multitude of other invaluable plants – to our then ignorance of the conditions under which alone the Orchids of *cool* countries could be expected to thrive!

I am not aware that this plant ever flowered in this country until within the last year or two, certainly no figure of it has ever been published in any English botanical periodical; I have, however, found in a French work (the *Illustration Horticole*), under the name of *O. maxillare*, what is obviously the same as the plant represented in the Plate. I should myself have probably fallen into the same mistake as Professor Lemaire, had I not enjoyed the opportunity – which he unfortunately had not – of examining the original specimens in Dr. Lindley's herbarium, and from which that able botanist drew up his description (in the *Folia Orchidacea*) of the two species. *O. maxillare*, of which Dr. Lindley only examined a single flower – though he made

a most careful drawing – is shown by a glance at the latter, to be a totally different thing; it has moreover, I fear, long since disappeared from our collections. In Dr. Lindley's description the flower-scape is said to be terminal, which in nature it never is, although from the way in which Karwinski's wild specimen was glued together, it certainly presents that appearance in the herbarium. The column moreover, and the base of the sepals and petals, are said to be pubescent, though nothing of the kind is visible to the naked eye when the flowers are fresh. With a powerful magnifying glass pubescence may certainly be seen.

Odontoglossum nebulosum flowers at different seasons of the year, always sending up its scape at the same time as the young growth. It is of the easiest culture.³ The figure was derived from a

³ As most of the *Odontoglossa* require to be treated in the same way, I transcribe, from the 'Guide to Cool-Orchid Growing' (Reeve, 1864), the following instructions for the culture of the genus: – "They will all succeed perfectly in a low lean-to house facing the north, the mean temperature of which need not exceed 60°. They should stand on a shelf of slate or stone, near the glass, but should always be protected from the direct rays of the sun. Constant humidity should be maintained by damping the shelves and floors, but the plants themselves will only require water in moderation, and what is given to them should pass away freely, for if it stagnates, or if the compost in which they grow becomes sodden, the roots will immediately decay. A gentle evaporation is greatly assisted by placing layers of moss – to be kept damp of course – on the shelves whereon the plants stand. *Odontoglossa* cannot endure wooden blocks, but will thrive in a compost of which one-half consists of small broken potsherds, the remainder being a mixture of shredded sphagnum (dusted with fine sand) and fibrous peat. About one-third of the entire depth of the pots may be filled with this mixture, the other two-thirds containing nothing but large pieces of broken pots, so as to admit as much air as possible to the roots. The pots in which the plants are grown should stand on other pots (inverted) placed in saucers of water, in order to secure humidity and

beautiful specimen that flowered last November in the collection of J. Day, Esq., of Tottenham, who grows this and many other *Odontoglossa* in high perfection.

Dissections. – 1. Lip, seen in front; 2. Ditto, seen sideways: *both magnified.*

protect them from wood-lice. Nearly all the species flower during the winter or spring months, a circumstance that greatly enhances their value. Many, *e. g. O. pulchellum*, are deliciously fragrant, and the flowers of nearly all the species remain in perfection for weeks, whether left on the plants or cut for bouquets. In so vast a genus we shall, no doubt, meet with many idiosyncrasies, but nine-tenths of the species will flourish under the treatment indicated above, and which may be regarded as suitable to the majority of cool Orchids. Most *Odontoglossa* are, like the *Masdevallias*, very impatient of the knife, and cannot therefore be rapidly multiplied. They have also a peculiar aversion to fumigation by tobacco, which causes their leaves to fall off."

Plate II.
ODONTOGLOSSUM
URO-SKINNERI, *Lindl*

MR. SKINNER'S ODONTOGLOSSUM

O. (Leucoglossum, *Lindl.*) pseudobulbis ovato-oblongis ancipitibus compressis guttulatis 1-2-phyllis, foliis oblongis acuminatis scapo multifloro simplici vel subpaniculato multo brevioribus, bracteis membranaceis cymbiformibus acuminatis ovario 3-plo brevioribus, petalis sepalisque subæqualibus late-ovatis acuminatis, labelli ungue bilamellato limbo cordato maculato acuminato undulato, columnæ alis ovatis deflexis.

Odontoglossum Uro-skinneri, *Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 1859, pp. 708, 724.

Habitat in Guatemala, prope Santa Catarina de los Altos, 5-6000 ft., *Skinner*.

DESCRIPTION

Pseudobulbs 3 or 4 inches long by nearly as many wide, much flattened, and very sharp at the edges, always

powdered with minute brown dots, which do not appear until the second year. Leaves oblong, broad, and stiff, acuminate at their extremities, much shorter than the scape. Scape generally simple, but sometimes slightly panicled, about a yard high, and bearing from 10 to 20 agreeably scented Flowers. Bracts of a delicate texture, boat-shaped, scarcely more than one-third the length of the ovary. Sepals and Petals nearly equal, broadly ovate, about an inch long, of a green colour, covered with rich reddish-brown spots. Lip broad and spreading, heart-shaped, acuminate, and turned inwards at the apex, its disk white, but covered with round blue spots, which cease at the foot of the isthmus (claw), where two upright and nearly parallel lamellæ (plates) are stationed. Column furnished with ovate, decurved, round-headed wings.

This is a robust and stately plant, nearly allied to *O. Bictoniense* to which at one time Dr. Lindley was disposed to refer it, but far larger and handsomer in all its parts. Its broad pseudobulbs which become covered in their second year with a multitude of small reddish dots, its wide sepals and petals, the spotting of its lip, and its general resemblance to *Zygopetalum Mackaii* will, however, sufficiently distinguish it. Being found at a higher elevation than *O. Bictoniense*, it requires to be kept more cool, and as it affects dark and wet banks in its native wilds, it is better to place it in a north house where it can be more readily protected from the sun. Treated in this way it grows luxuriantly and flowers abundantly at Knypersley, whence the specimen figured in the Plate was

derived. Its flowering season seems to vary, for while with me it is now (May) coming into bloom, about London November is the more usual month.

O. Uro-Skinneri was the latest discovery of my indefatigable friend Mr. Skinner (after whom it was named by Dr. Lindley), and who, though now settled in England, is as much devoted to his favourite tribe as when, while resident in Guatemala, he was wont to delight the Orchidists of Europe by the multitude of new and beautiful plants that he was constantly dispatching across the main.

Dissection. – 1. Side view of lip and column: *magnified*.

Plate III.
ODONTOGLOSSUM
PHALÆNOPSIS, *Rchb. fil*

MOTH-LIKE ODONTOGLOSSUM

O. (Leucoglossum, *Lindl.*) pseudobulbis ovatis obtuse ancipitibus 1-2-phyllis, foliis linearibus acutissimis racemis bi-vel trifloris spithamæis longioribus, sepalis oblongo-ligulatis acutis, petalis latioribus obovatis obtusis; labelli ampli pandurati emarginati bilamelligeri disco velutino, columnæ alis abbreviatis membranaceis.

Odontoglossum phalænopsis, *Rchb. fil. in Seemann Bonplandia*, ii. 278; *Pescatorea, Linden et Rchb. fil.* ii. 44.

Miltonia Pulchella, Hort.

Habitat in N. Granada, prope Aspasica, alt. 5-6000 ft., *Schlim.*

DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial. Pseudobulbs nearly two inches long, ovate, bearing one, or more frequently two, narrow linear, very acute Leaves, less than a foot long, and usually withered

at the extremities. Raceme nodding, shorter than the leaves, furnished with a few small acute Bracts, and bearing two, or occasionally three, very large and handsome flowers, which, the markings of the lip excepted, are of a uniform white. Sepals oblong, sharp-pointed, about an inch long. Petals broader than the sepals, obtuse. Lip fiddle-shaped, its front portion deeply emarginate, spread out nearly flat, very broad, its side portions much smaller, rounded, and with two continuous upright lamellæ on its velvety disk; the lip has two large irregular pale-crimson blotches on its anterior portion, with concentric lines of the same colour on its lower portion, with a small patch of yellow on either side the isthmus (i.e. point of junction between the upper and lower divisions of the lip). Column short, with membranous wings much abbreviated.

This most charming *Odontoglossum* was discovered in the year 1850 by M. Schlim at that time engaged in exploring the higher regions of New Granada in the service of M. Linden to whose well-known horticultural establishment at Brussels he had the honour of introducing it. The species was seen in flower for the first time in the year 1856 when it appeared at some Horticultural Exhibitions both on the Continent and in London and, as may readily be conceived, attracted universal admiration. Since that time its lovely blossoms have been rarely produced, owing no doubt to its cultivation having been imperfectly understood. It has however, I believe, bloomed occasionally in the collection of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and more

recently in that of E. M'Morland, Esq., of Haverstock Hill, with whom it thrives amazingly, and to whose kindness I am indebted for the opportunity of figuring it. In its native country it is found in a mild climate growing on the ground, or upon rocks in moist and shady situations, and by simply imitating these conditions Mr. M'Morland cultivates it with the most perfect success. His plants are kept in pots, with living moss on the surface, and their base resting in pans of water the evaporation from which cannot fail to be highly beneficial. The temperature of the house in which they are grown is that of an ordinary greenhouse, but the air is always humid, and water is freely given because, in consequence of the *open potting*, it can pass as freely away. The plants seem to grow and flower almost all the year round, though their proper and principal flowering-season is in May and June.

O. phalænopsis is entirely distinct from any species of the genus yet in cultivation, but it is allied to a still finer plant detected by Warszewicz in Costa Rica, and called in honour of its discoverer *O. Warszewiczii* by Professor Reichenbach.

Dissections. – 1. Lip. seen sideways; and 2. Front view of lip: *both magnified*.

Plate IV.
ODONTOGLOSSUM
INSLEAYI, *Lindl*

INSLEAY'S ODONTOGLOSSUM

O. (*Euodontoglossum*, *Lindl.*) pseudobulbis ovatis compressis diphyllis, foliis coriaceis oblongo-ensiformibus subundulatis apice recurvis racemo 5-10-floro erecto rigido brevioribus, sepalis petalisque oblongis subæqualibus undulatis infimis connatis, labello angusto obovato retuso basi auriculato, disci cristâ apice bilobâ dilatâtâ utrinque in medio dente refracto auctâ, columnæ alis incurvis cirrhatis. (*Lindl. Fol. Orch.*)

Oncidium Insleayi, *Barker in Bot. Reg.* 1840, *Misc.* 21; *Bateman, Orchid. Mex. et Guat. t.* 21; *Van Houtte, Flore des Serres*, 1848, *t.* 62.

Habitat in Mexico, *Barker*; Oaxaca, *Loddiges*; 5-6000 ft.

DESCRIPTION

Pseudobulbs *ovate*, *slightly furrowed*, *compressed*,
bearing 2 leathery, sword-shaped, sharp-pointed Leaves,

which are less than a foot long, and like the rest of the plant of a glaucous hue. Scape upright, longer than the leaves, bearing from 5 to 10 flowers, usually from 2 to 3 inches in diameter, but sometimes considerably more. Bracts few, about an inch long, occurring at intervals somewhat longer than themselves, and fitting tightly to the stem. Sepals and Petals nearly equal, oblong, waved, the two lateral ones attached at their base, of a pale yellowish-green tint, crossed throughout their entire length by broad bands of reddish-brown. Lip narrow, obovate, turned a little back, of a bright yellow colour, bordered by a belt of red blotches; on its disk are a group of tubercles, mounting two teeth on either side, and with cleft callus in front. Column-wings bent inwards, and resembling in form the antennæ of an insect.

This *Odontoglossum* was originally introduced from Mexico by the late Mr. Barker, of Birmingham, after whose gardener it was named by Dr. Lindley. It flowered with Mr. Barker somewhere about the year 1840, when a figure was prepared for the 'Orchidaceæ of Mexico and Guatemala,' but I had not then the opportunity of examining the plant, nor indeed did I ever actually see it in flower until the autumn of last year (1863) when I happened to meet with the specimen from which the illustration is derived, growing and blooming vigorously in the collection of Dr. Cauty, of Liverpool. The species had, in fact, virtually disappeared from collections during an interregnum of twenty years, and its reappearance is entirely due to the adoption of the rational system of cool treatment now happily prevailing, and

under which it may be cultivated with the greatest ease.

In habit *O. Insleayi* is quite indistinguishable from *O. grande*; and although its flowers are far inferior in beauty to those of that glorious species, they bear a certain sort of resemblance to them in their colouring and general arrangement. The structure is however entirely different, for while *O. grande* has no bristle-like appendages to its column, and therefore belongs to the section of the genus which has been called *Xanthoglossum* by Dr. Lindley, the processes in question are clearly present (see Dissections) in the case of *O. Insleayi*, thereby bringing it under the preceding section, to which the title of *Euodontoglossum* has been given by the same authority. The time and mode of flowering are also different in the two plants, for while in *O. grande* the flower-scapes appear almost simultaneously with the leaves, and are usually in perfection in July, those of *O. Insleayi* are not produced until long after the pseudobulbs have been matured, nor do they expand their blossoms until late in the autumn.

As is the case with most of its congeners, there are many varieties of *O. Insleayi*, some of which are much less attractive in their colouring than the one represented in the Plate, while others have much larger flowers, as in the example given in the vignette which is copied from an old woodcut in the Journal of the Horticultural Society. Unfortunately this latter variety has, I greatly fear, been lost to the country, but collectors should endeavour to reintroduce it.

I have already referred to Dr. Cauty's success in the treatment

of the subject of the present Plate, but his skill and care are equally conspicuous in the management of a miscellaneous collection of Orchids, which he contrives to grow under circumstances such as would have deterred most men from attempting to grow any plants at all. The house in which he lives is in the very centre of Liverpool, and has in its rear a small back court, such as is usually devoted to dustbins and coal-holes, but where Dr. Cauty has found space for three little Orchid-houses of different temperatures in which the Orchids of different climes are perfectly at home. I can really see no reason why in all large towns – in London more especially – Dr. Cauty's example should not be extensively followed, and the luxury of an Orchid-house be thus brought within the reach of many who now consider it quite beyond their grasp.

Dissections. – 1. Lip, seen sideways; 2. Ditto, seen in front: *both magnified.*

Plate V.
ODONTOGLOSSUM
PESCATOREI, *Lindley*

M. PESCATORE'S ODONTOGLOSSUM

O. (*Isanthium*, *Lindl.*) pseudobulbis ovatis lævigatis nebulosis diphyllis, foliis loratis planis basi angustatis paniculâ amplâ erectâ multiflorâ 3-plo brevioribus, bracteis minutis, floribus membranaceis, sepalis ovato-oblongis apiculatis leviter undulatis, petalis conformibus latioribus, labello cuspidato subpandurato basi denticulato, cristæ lamellis lateralibus distantibus cartilagineis laceris lineis duabus divergentibus apice denticulatis interjectis, columnæ brevis alis brevibus cuneatis laceris. (*Lindl. Fol. Orch., quibusdam mutatis.*)

Odontoglossum Pescatorei, *Lindley*, in *Paxton's Flower Garden*, iii. t. 90; *Pescatorea*, t. 1; *Warner's Select Orchidaceous Plants*, t. 25.

Odontoglossum Nobile, *Reichenbach fil.* in *Linnæa*, 22, 850.

Habitat in New Granada, Province of Pamplona, at the height of from 5000 to 6000 feet, *Funck and Schlim.*

DESCRIPTION

Pseudobulbs *from 2 to 3 inches long, of an ovate form, glossy, and mottled with dark brown, usually bearing 2 lorate*
Leaves, *which are from 6 inches to a foot long, narrowed at the base and sharp at the end, much shorter than the tall upright branched*

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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