



PL. CCCXXVIII.

PERISTERIA LINDENI ROLFE.

MESSRS LINDEN'S PERISTERIA.

PERISTERIA. Vide *Lindenia*, Engl. ed., vol. I, p. II.

Peristeria Lindeni. Dense caespitosa. Pseudobulbi ovoideo-oblongi, magni. Folia lanceolata. Racemi penduli, breves, subsecundi, circa 7-flori. Bractee lanceolato-oblongae, subobtusae, concavae, 1.3 cm. longae. Pedicelli 5 cm. longi. Sepala elliptico-oblonga, obtusa, 2.5 cm. longa, 1.5 cm. lata, lateralia basi breviter connata. Petala similia, paulo minora. Labellum breviter unguiculatum, trilobum, lobis lateralibus erectis subobliquis submembranaceis late oblongis subobtusis, mesochilio obovato-oblongo, epichilio articulado basi quadrato deinde subcordato-reniformi obtuso, apice reflexo, disco bicarinato. Columna brevis, bicurvis, cruribus deflexis linearibus.

Peristeria Lindeni ROLFE, *supra*.

It was as long ago as 1831 that Sir WILLIAM HOOKER established the genus *Peristeria*, upon the well-known Dove Orchid, the *El Espirito Santo* of the Spaniards, upon a specimen which had been sent to him from Liverpool, by Mrs ARNOLD HARRISON. Five years later came *P. pendula* HOOK., with its pendulous raceme, so different from the habit of the original species. In 1837 Dr LINDLEY described his *P. cerina*, and the following year came *P. guttata* KNOWLES and WESTCOTT, a species which no one appears to have collected again to the present day. Then came a great gap of over forty years during which no new *Peristeria* was described, but in 1883 *P. ephippium* RCHB. F., appeared with Messrs F. SANDER and Co, of St. Albans. In 1887 *P. laeta* RCHB. F., appeared in the *Hamburgh Botanic Garden*, from no one knows where, and in the following year *P. Rossiana* RCHB. F., was described, from a specimen in the celebrated Italian collection of Signor H. J. ROSS. Of these two, the origin seems to be unknown. Upwards of a year ago, *P. aspersa* ROLFE was described and figured in the *Lindenia* (t. 267), from specimens collected by BUNGEROTH on the declivities of the Sierra de Marawaca, one of the most elevated mountains of the Parana chain, in Venezuela, and now Messrs LINDEN have introduced and flowered yet another novelty, bringing the total number up to nine species. It is a native of Tropical America, and is dedicated to its introducers.

P. Lindeni has a pair of strong linear decurved arms to the column, which at once fixes it as an ally of *P. pendula* HOOK., and *P. ephippium* RCHB. F. The former is a native of British Guiana, and is figured in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 3479, a glance at which will show how distinct is the present species. The latter, which is a native of western South America, is only known from REICHENBACH's description, from which, however, we learn that the shape of the epichile is altogether novel in the genus, being rhomboid and broader at its anterior

retuse end, where it is equally three-lobed, that there is a low transverse triangular body at the summit of the column, and that the flower is destitute of spots. The distinctness of the present species is therefore clearly established, as the other species are characterised by the absence of the pair of fleshy arms to the column.

The raceme is very short, the first one produced bore seven flowers, which were all turned to one side, though whether this character is constant I cannot at present say. The flowers, which are perfectly globular in shape, have the sepals and petals light green, which except at the apex are suffused with dull purple, and covered throughout with deep dark purple spots. The lip is margined and striate underneath with the same colour on a pale ground. This organ is always a highly complex organ in this genus, and the following characters may be noted. The unguis is very short and broad, and the erect, somewhat decurved side lobes about 7 millimetres long, and nearly membranaceous in texture; between them, on the base of the mesochile, are two acute plate-like keels which terminate suddenly below. The mesochile, to the apex of which the epichile, or front lobe, is very delicately hinged, is about equal to the side lobes in length, while the epichile itself is somewhat peculiar in shape. Its lower half is about 8 millimetres broad by the same in length, and thus quite square, while the front half is very suddenly dilated into a subcordate-reniforme body, fully 15 millimetres across, very obtuse, fleshy and reflexed at the front, but more membranaceous at the sides, and with a pair of somewhat curved keels on the very fleshy disc. The arms of the column are linear, and about 3 millimetres long. It is a very interesting addition to the genus.

R. A. ROLFE.

