



Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce
Trinidad and Tobago

Vol. III]

[Part I

FLORA

OF

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MICROSPERMAE

HYDROCHARITACEAE (By N. W. SIMMONDS)

BURMANNIACEAE (By N. W. SIMMONDS)

ORCHIDACEAE (By R. E. SCHULTES)

or at most minutely acuminate; *ovary* obovoid, 3-glandular at the top, 1-locular with 3 parietal placentae; *caps.* obovoid-turbinat 2 x 1.5 mm, crowned by the persistent perianth; *seeds* ovoid subglobose, brown, 0.3 mm long.

Trinidad: "On rotten wood and dead leaves in woods of the northern mountains, Feb. 1883: Johow" (Urban *loc. cit.*); not otherwise known.

Endemic.

FAMILY 3. ORCHIDACEAE

By R. E. SCHULTES

Perennial plants, herbaceous, shrubby or rarely vine-like or climbing, terrestrial, epiphytic, occasionally lithophytic, semi-aquatic or, rarely, subterranean, autophytic or saprophytic. Rhizome fibrous, coral-like or fleshy and tuberous. Roots subterranean or aerial, fibrous, fleshy, tuberous or corm-like. Stems terete, flattened or angular, often swollen to form variously thickened pseudobulbs; pseudobulbs from slender and stem-like to globose, fusiform or pyriform, bearing one or more leaves, subtended by cataphylls. Leaves solitary or numerous, radical or cauline, alternate or occasionally whorled, simple, varying from a sheathing bract to a definite blade which is membranaceous, papyraceous, coriaceous or fleshy, usually parallel-veined. Inflorescence terminal or lateral, from 1- to many-flowered, spicate, racemose or paniculate. Flowers minute and inconspicuous to large and showy, often sweet-scented, gynandrous, usually hermaphroditic, rarely unisexual or polymorphic, sometimes cleistogamous. Perianth of 2 trimerous whorls of free or variously united segments: outer whorl of 3 sepals; inner whorl of 2 petals, 1 lip or labellum. Sepals usually more or less adnate to inferior ovary. Petals usually similar to sepals. Lip variously modified. Column in centre of flower consisting of united stamens and pistils. Stigmas 3, borne ventrally on front of column, in *Diandrae* free at apex of column, in *Monandrae* 2 fertile ones somewhat confluent into an apparent single body, third one sterile and modified to form rostellum which separates anther from stigmatic surface. Anthers 1 or 2, versatile or rigidly attached on or near apex of column or laterally. Pollen powdery, granular, waxy or cartilaginous, usually (except in *Cypripediloideae*) compressed (as pollen tetrads) into 2 to 8 distinct masses or pollinia. Fruit a dry capsule or fleshy pod. Seeds indefinitely numerous, minute and dust-like, without endosperm.

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| <p>1. Fertile stamens 2, a third forming large staminode. Pollen not united into masses</p> | <p>... 1. Selenipedium</p> |
| <p>1A. Fertile stamen 1, with 2 laterals aborted or forming small staminodes. Pollen united into masses or pollinia</p> | <p>... .. 2</p> |