

5. BARKERĪĀ Lindleyānā.

B. *Lindleyana* (Bateman mss.); foliis ovalibus acutis, bracteis linearibus pedunculo multò brevioribus, labello exactè oblongo apiculato bicarinato carinā alterā sub apice interjectā, unguiculato plano basi columnæ adnato, columnā clavatā alatā apice tridentatā immaculatā.

This beautiful plant has exactly the appearance of *Epidendrum Skinneri*, with which, at first sight, it would perhaps be confounded. It appears however to be a *Barkeria* as far as that genus has any character to separate it from *Epidendrum*; that is to say, it has the winged column, and the labellum with a thin membranous border down far below the head of the column. It is however to be observed, that in the original *Barkeria* the labellum was absolutely free and sessile; while in the present species it has a distinct unguis connate with the base of the column.

The flowers of this plant are of a rich deep purple; the sepals and petals are of equal size, linear-lanceolate, and disposed in the same plane, directed forwards in the same manner as in the original species; the petals are however rather broader than the sepals. The labellum is rather more than three quarters of an inch long, exactly oblong, and rounded at each end, terminating in front in a small mucro, and abruptly narrowed at the base into a short unguis united to the base of the column; it is of the same rich purple as the other parts, but somewhat deeper, except in the centre, where it is nearly white; two elevated keels pass upwards along the middle, and lose themselves near the point of the lip; and a third keel much shorter is placed between them towards the point; so that the lip is bicarinate in the middle and tricarinate below the apex. The column is slightly winged, pretty exactly wedge-shaped, and 3-toothed at the point. The anther is sunk within those three teeth, and is depressed in the middle, while it is elevated at each side; it is very fleshy, and contains four cells, in which are located as many pollen-masses, each having a powdery strap bent back upon it. The plant is a native of Costa Rica, whence it was sent to Mr. Bateman by Mr. Skinner. In a letter received from the former of these gentlemen it is stated that this most charming species "has been fully seven weeks in flower, and yet the blossoms first opened are as fresh as ever, a case quite without parallel among orchidaceous flowers of its colour."