

PL. CXLVII

## NANODES MEDUSAE RCHB. F.

## MEDUSA-LIKE FRINGED NANODE

ETYMOLOGY: *Nanodes*, dwarf flower. Genus founded by LINDLEY for the tiny flowered *Nanodes discolor*.

**NANODES.** Sepala ringentia, posticum fornicatum, lateralia labello sub-opposita, eique basi connata. Petala sepalis lateralibus subconformia et subparallela, libera. Labellum cum columna connatum, carnosum, indivisum. Columna clinandrio alato. Anthera bilocularis, rostrata. Pollinia quatuor, compressa, collateralia, in caudicula ovata oblonga vel lineari-sessilia.


Herbae brasilienses et Novae Granatae incolae, epiphytae, caulescentes, humiles, caespitosae. Folia disticha, vaginantia, brevia, approximata. Flores apices versus caulis axillares, solitarii.

LINDL. *Bot. Reg.*, 1541.

*Nanodes Medusae.* Caulibus crassis pendulis pedalis, foliis tripollicaribus oblongis obtusis apice inaequaliter bilobis, floribus magnis, sepalis petalisque subaequalibus lineari-oblongis acutis fusco-viridibus, labello maximo orbiculato apice bilobo basi cordato bilobo ambitu profunde fimbriato luride purpureo, pollinis caudicula lineari-oblonga.

Species andicola.

*Nanodes Medusae* RCHB. F., *Gard. Chron.*: 432 (1867). – HOOK. *Bot. Mag.*, 5723. – *Nasonia splendens* LINDL. Litt.

he strange flower that is our subject this time has both an original shape and colouring. It reminded the botanist of the wretched Gorgon who one day dared to think she was lovelier than the learned Minerva and whose hair was turned into snakes. The long fringes bordering the edge of this *Nanodes*' lip are perhaps reminiscent of those snakes but this Orchid does not have, like Medusa's head, the power to turn hearts into stone; it is happy to be simply astonishing and always pleasing to the eye. The *Flore des Serres*, when featuring the plate which had previously appeared in the *Botanical Magazine* (*loc. cit.*) described the plant as a "bizarre vegetal octopus which, soaked in the blood of its prey, looks rather like a *Brassavola Digbyana* flower after a succulent lunch." We well remember witnessing the author's joy at having produced this somewhat hyperbolic comparison; Edison could not have been more pleased with himself when he invented the telephone!

One seldom sees *Nanodes*, a small group detached from the genus *Epidendrum*, in collections. *Nanodes discolor*, which was introduced from Brazilian forests around Rio de Janeiro, has all the general aspects of the species dealt with here but its flowers are extremely small. This is not the case with *Nanodes Medusae* which has relatively large flowers. The stem is thick, hanging down and measures 12 inches; the leaves are elongated, obtuse and unequally bilobate at the tip; the perianth's segments are almost the same: narrow, oblong and green with a hint of fawn; the lip is very large and rounded with two lobes and heart-shaped at the base; the lamina is deeply fringed around the edges; the lip is a dull shade of purple, as are the fringes; the caudicle is oblong and linear.

*Nanodes Medusae* was first discovered in the Andes, in Ecuador, by WALLIS who was travelling on behalf of, and under the instructions of Mr. J. LINDEN. Since then, the plant has been found several times at high altitudes, and even, at times, quite near to the level where the snow begins. This natural habitat should have made it obvious that the species is not at all susceptible to the cold and is perfectly happy in a temperate climate. If the plant sometimes dies so quickly in European greenhouses and if it produces few or puny flowers, it is simply because people persist in giving it too much heat, which it does not need at all.

The *Lindenia* has pleasure in publishing the following circular:

L'ORCHIDÉENNE  
SOCIETY OF ORCHID LOVERS

*Founded in the aim of promoting and encouraging progress in Orchid growing by means of shows, meetings and lectures.*

FOUNDED IN BRUSSELS

Honorary presidents	{	Mr. H. J. REICHENBACH <i>for Germany</i> ; Mr. J. LINDEN <i>for Belgium</i> ; Mr. J. G. DE LANSBERGE <i>for the Netherlands</i> .
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Honorary Presidents for other countries will be appointed later.

Brussels, August 15, 1888

SIR,

We have the honour of bringing to your attention the fact that a group of amateur Orchid growers from different countries have just founded, in Brussels, a Horticultural Society whose aim is to promote Orchid growing and progress in that domain on the Continent. The rules of this Society, set up for the pleasure and instruction of its members, will be submitted to the vote of the *General Meeting of its founder members* which will take place on the 23rd of September at 10 o'clock in the morning, at 79, rue Wiertz in Brussels.

Members of the steering committee will be appointed at that meeting.

Apart from *meetings and lectures on the history and the cultivation of Orchids*, which will take place on the second Sunday of each month, the Society will organize each year a *Show especially for Orchids* where amateurs alone will be able to compete. The Society will publish every month a report on its exhibitions, meetings and lectures.

Society members' subscription fees have been fixed at 10 francs per year.

Everyone interested in the cultivation of Orchids is warmly encouraged to join. All those who join *before the 20th of September* next, at the address of Mr. L. LINDEN, 100, rue Belliard, Brussels, will be considered as *founder members*.

The first monthly *meeting*, with beautiful, rare and new Orchids on show (plants in flower and cut flowers), and the first lecture will take place on Sunday, the 14th of October next.

The Society will be responsible for unpacking and placing the plants and cut flowers, and also the packing and returning of plants sent to its meetings and shows.

Yours faithfully,

THE FOUNDER MEMBERS