

## NOTES ON ORCHIDS CULTIVATED IN CEYLON

### DENDROBIUM SUPERBIENS. ROXB. F.

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**T**HIS magnificent species is a native of tropical Australia, and is undoubtedly one of the most charming of all the Dendrobes.

It is a most profuse bloomer and has the peculiarity of blooming from the old stems at the same time as from the new ones, and frequently repeats this freak of nature for several years in succession.

In addition to this it flowers in a very young state, when the stems are scarcely 6 inches high. These stems when fully grown are from 2 to 3 feet high, and about 3 inches in circumference, furnished with thick, oblong acute leaves. The flowers are produced from fifteen to twenty-five at a time in long racemes, the sepals being dark purple, beautifully reticulated, and having a whitish border, the petals of a beautiful warm purple, longer than the sepals, and the lip crimson-purple, short, with incurved side lobes. The flowers last three months in perfect condition.

*Culture.*—This and other allied species, which have jointed, bamboo-like pseudo-stems are easily propagated by removing the ripe pseudo-stems from an old plant, cutting them into lengths of 6 inches or so, and fastening them on to pans or baskets of moist sphagnum moss. Under this treatment the pieces soon form shoots and these when rooted may be removed and planted separately in a compost of porous brick, charcoal and bone, the ordinary compost used for Dendrobiums. It requires very moist tropical treatment when growing. Owing to free and vigorous root action of this plant, a fairly large sized pot, preferably made of teak, should be provided, if the best results are to be obtained. The plant likes plenty of sunshine after it is well established.



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