

NOTES ON ORCHIDS CULTIVATED IN CEYLON

STAUROPSIS LISSOCHILOIDES, PFITZER

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Anoble and stately looking epiphyte of the Vanda tribe, indigenous to the Philippines and Moluccas. It has an upright growth often attaining a height of five to six feet with distichous leaves, that is, arranged on two sides resembling a large fan. The stem is stout and fairly woody, the leaves are green and fleshy, about eighteen inches long and two inches broad, slightly decurved, and embracing the stem at their base. The apex of the leaf is either obliquely jagged, or forms a minute tooth.

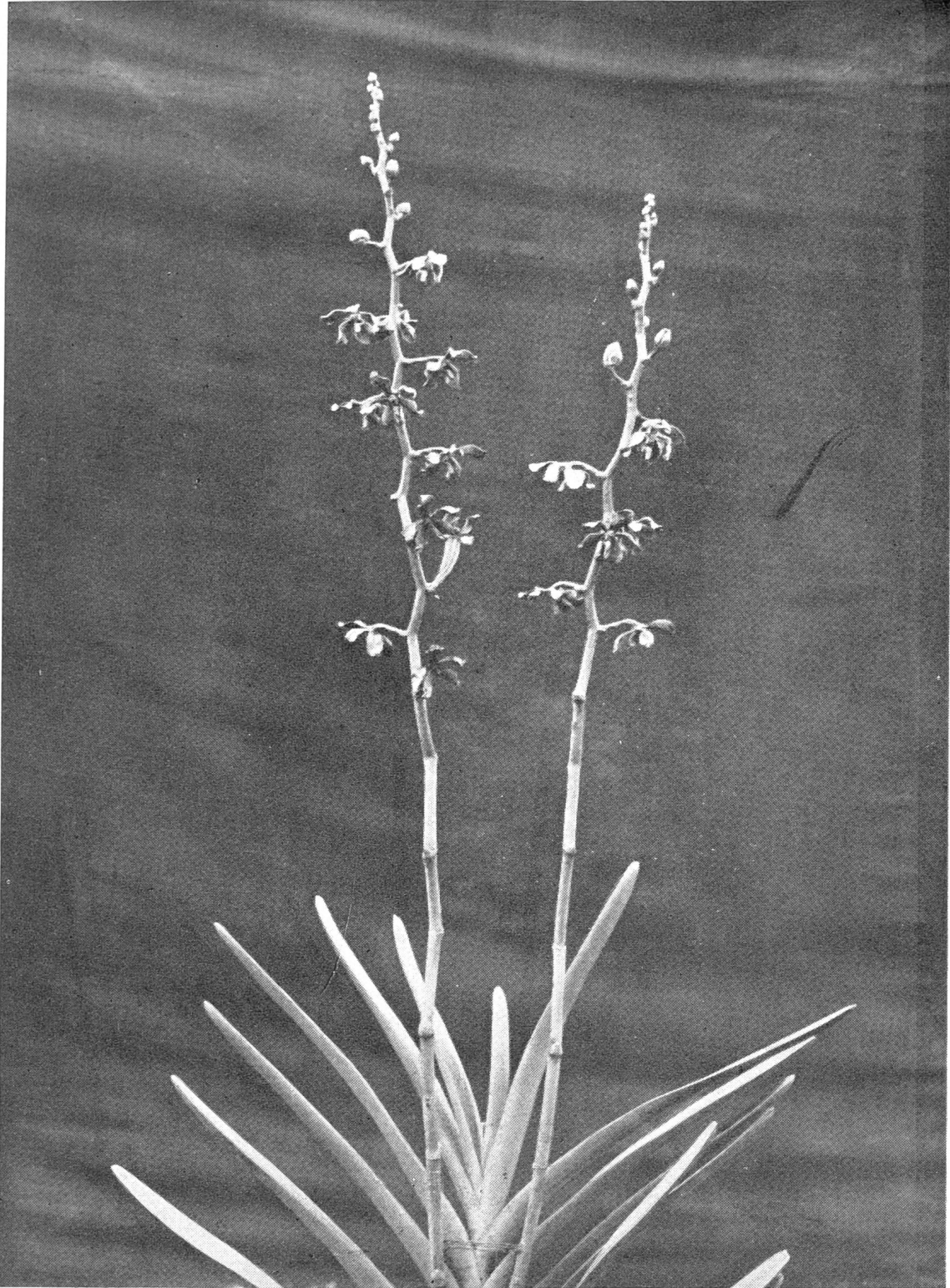
The tall flowering raceme, which often reaches six feet or more is sub-erect and carries a number of flowers fairly distantly placed along the rachis on twisted stalks which are six-grooved.

The flower is yellow, about two-and-a-half to three inches in diameter, densely spotted with rosy-purple, and is purplish-crimson beneath, the margins becoming reflexed as they advance in age. The long purplish lip resembles the bill of a pelican and has two rotund or orbicular-oblong side lobes of a buff-yellow shade. The column is pinkish and very short and thick, with a touch of yellow above. The first flower opens about June and the last flower fades about October.

Syn: *Vanda Batemanni* Lindl., *V. lissochiloides* Lindl., and *Fieldia lissochiloides* Gaudich.

Culture.—The plant is hardy, with thick and fleshy roots of a deep penetrating habit. It requires fairly large receptacles and absorbent materials for successful cultivation.

A mature plant will throw out a number of basal and stem suckers which should occasionally be removed for increasing the stock. Suckers, if allowed to remain long after completing their growth, will necessarily retard the development of the parent plant and thus effect the production of flowers.



Stauropsis Lissochiloides Pfitzer.

All good-sized suckers with at least a couple of roots should therefore be carefully removed and potted in smaller pots and eventually transferred into bigger ones as these become necessary.

A well-grown plant two or three feet in height may be grown in an eighteen-inch tub filled with chips of hard wood, seasoned husk and a light sprinkling of bits of charcoal and brick.

On account of its upright and stately growing habit with closely set leaves, the plant is ornamental even when it is not in bloom. Plants of larger size may be successfully cultivated even in the ground in specially prepared positions. In such cases the hole should be at least two feet deep and two feet in diameter. A good layer of brick bats, about one foot thick should be laid at the bottom of the hole to provide sound drainage, and the remaining space filled with the same compost as for pots, finished to a small mound about six inches above the level of the ground. A border may be built of bricks or cobble around the hole to keep the compost in position and the plant tied to a stout stake till it is well established.

Stauroopsis lissochiloides needs an open situation with ample light and sun, though a little shelter from the noonday sun is best for newly-potted plants.