

## NOTES ON ORCHIDS CULTIVATED IN CEYLON

### VANDA SUAVIS LINDL.

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**T**HIS *Vanda* is endemic to Java where it is not very commonly found. It grows on trees, in the forests under the shade of other lofty trees.

The plant appears to have been in cultivation for over forty years in Ceylon and has made itself one of the oldest and most popular subjects in our collections.

Though the plant has a very close resemblance to *Vanda tricolor* Lindl., it is distinguished from it by the colour of the flowers, the former having a white ground, whilst the latter has a yellow ground. It is erect in habit, attains a height of four to five feet, and is clothed with two rows of thick, green recurved, coriaceous leaves often a foot long and about an inch or more wide.

A plant in normal health will produce blooms regularly and remain in flower for about six weeks. The individual flower is about three inches across, sepals and petals are spoon-shaped, waxy-white, thickly streaked and spotted with crimson-purple. The labellum is three-lobed, the two-side lobes of a bright rosy-purple, while the central one is paler and notched at the apex.

*Cultivation.*—A well-established plant is best not disturbed, no matter how old the compost is, unless it has overgrown its receptacle or is root-bound in its pot. In such cases it is wisest to break the pot away without damage to the plant and insert the whole in a larger receptacle adding fresh compost. An adult plant will ordinarily have a few basal or axillary shoots which are also capable of producing flowers simultaneously with the parent; these shoots should therefore not be severed unless they destroy the symmetry of the mother plant. A mature sucker with a few healthy roots may be carefully removed and potted in a compost made up of sterilised or weathered bits of coconut husk, chips of old jak wood and crocks, to which a small quantity of charcoal and flaky leaves are added in the process of potting.

Newly-potted plants need heavy shade until new growth appears when they may be hardened by gradually exposing them to bright daylight. Thereafter they should be permanently placed under the shade of fairly tall growing trees.