

ADDITIONS TO THE ORCHIDACEAE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

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[Read 31st March, 1943.]

PTEROSTYLIS LONGIPETALA, n. sp.

Planta gracillima, 8-16 cm. alta. Bracteae 2-5, superiores majores. Flos solitarius, viridis notationibus fuscis. Perianthi segmenta longissima. Sepalum dorsale 2-3½ cm. longum, filiforme. Sepala lateralía 2-3½ cm. longa, erecta, angustissime filiformia. Petala sepalo dorsale paulum breviora, filiformia. Labellum angustissimum, recurvum, 10-14 mm. longum, ad apicem emarginatum. Columna labello longior, incurva, alis ciliatis; stigma anguste oblongum.

A very slender plant 8-16 cm. high. Basal leaves not seen. Stem-leaves or bracts 2-5, the lower very short, the upper progressively longer. Flower, in all specimens seen, solitary, green with darker shadings or markings. Perianth-segments all very long, ending in filiform caudae. Dorsal sepal 2-3½ cm. long, greatly curved, the anterior third filiform. Lateral sepals erect, the broad basal united portions only about one-fourth of the total length, suddenly constricted into long very finely filiform caudae reaching high above the galea. Petals narrow, not much shorter than the dorsal sepal, finely filiform for their anterior third. Labellum very narrow, 10-14 mm. long, gently recurved so as to form almost a semicircle; tip emarginate. Column slightly longer than the labellum, slightly curved for all its length; wings with ciliate margins inside; stigma narrowly oblong.

Bateman's Bay (the type), vi.1931, E. Nubling. Near Huskisson, Jervis Bay, viii.1942, F. A. Rodway.

Nubling's solitary specimen was sent to me when collected. A careful dissection revealed details irreconcilable with any known species, but as only one plant was obtained, it was thought wise to hold it back for further material, and this specimen has remained in my herbarium ever since. In August, 1942, Dr. F. A. Rodway of Nowra sent a specimen obtained near Huskisson. It was prematurely withered, but responded well to treatment, and the details were revealed in complete accord with those of the Bateman's Bay flower; subsequently two other specimens were sent for comparison. The position of the new species appears to me to be somewhere between *P. reflexa* R.Br. and *P. decurva* Rogers; but it could not be placed in either of these species. Relatively to the other floral segments, the petals are narrower and longer than in any other species of *Pterostylis* known to me.

THELYMITRA RUBRA Fitzg. var. MAGNANTHERA, n. var.

Folium 12-18 cm. longum. Flores 2-5, extra virides, intus carnei. Sepalum dorsale petalaeque circiter 10 mm. × 7 mm.; sepala lateralía paulum angustiora. Labellum circiter 9 mm. × 5 mm. Columna infra carnea, aliquando maculis rubris; alae flavae; lobus medius paulum cucullatus, bifidus; lobi laterales longiores, tuberculati. Anthera flava, magna, conspicue protrudens; rostellum parvum; stigma ovato-oblongum.

As *T. rubra* has not previously been recorded in this State, the English description is here given in fuller detail than is usual for a variety: A slender plant 15-30 cm. high, with a rather dark and often slightly flexuous stem. Leaf linear, channelled, 12-18 cm. long. Flowers 2-5, greenish outside, pink inside. Dorsal sepal and petals equal, about 10 × 7 mm.; lateral sepals a little narrower. Labellum a little shorter.

Column pink below, yellowish above, sometimes with red blotches; mid-lobe almost cucullate, bifid; lateral lobes much longer, yellow, tuberculate or bristly, without hair-tufts. Anther yellow, very large, conspicuously protruding between the lateral wing-lobes. Rostellum small, circular; stigma ovate-oblong.

Janalli, near Como (type of the variety), M. Moodie and H. M. R. Rupp, viii.1942. Same locality, P. A. Gilbert, A. M. Olsen, Mrs. C. A. Messmer, and H. M. R. Rupp, ix.1942.

It seems best to include this form in Fitzgerald's *T. rubra*. Except for the relatively larger anther, and the predominance of yellow all over the upper portions of the column-structure, the details agree fairly well with those of Fitzgerald's plate in *Aust. Orch.*, ii, 1; and still more closely with those of Hooker's plate in *Fl. Tasm.*, Vol. ii (under the name *T. carnea* R.Br.). For many years this species, which is not uncommon in all the southern States and in Western Australia, was confused with Brown's *T. carnea*. Fitzgerald described it as *T. rubra* from South Australian specimens, which were apparently darker in colour than is usual. The Victorian, Tasmanian and Western Australian forms were later recognized as belonging to Fitzgerald's species, not to Brown's. Mueller described a smaller Victorian species as *T. Elizabethae*; but it is quite certain that this is really the true *T. carnea* of Brown. Brown's type was from "Port Jackson", and the species is very common in many areas of the coastal belt in New South Wales.

The New South Wales form of *T. rubra*, though now placed on record for the first time, appears to have been discovered by G. V. Scammell on the Hawkesbury River some years ago; for in a series of admirable orchid drawings at present in my care, he has depicted an un-named *Thelymitra* which is undoubtedly identical with the Jannali plant.



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