

FIGURE 51. The Librarian's Nightmare. Vignette by G. Cruickshank from J. Bateman, *The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala*, 1837-43

Encouraged and assisted by his father in his botanical proclivities, Bateman sent out to Demerara at the end of 1833 a botanical collector named Colley, chiefly to search for orchids. About sixty species reached this country alive, of which a third were new. One of these was given the name *Batemannia Colleyi* by Dr. Lindley, thus commemorating at once both employer and collector. Bateman contributed an account of the expedition, based on Colley's report, to Loudon's *Gardeners' Magazine* for 1835. In 1834 he became acquainted with G. Ure Skinner, a merchant living in Guatemala, who sent him many living orchids. In less than ten years the finest orchids of Guatemala were in cultivation in England, having first flowered at Knypersley.

His *Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala*, perhaps the greatest botanical book in point of size ever published, was issued in parts from 1837 to 1843. It consists of forty elephant folio plates, with descriptions and cultural hints, besides numerous sketches by Cruickshank. One of these represents the opening of a box supposed to contain orchids, from which issue a pair of gigantic cockroaches, grown fat on the original contents, and which are chased by the gardener's family and assistants. The edition was limited to 125 copies at twenty guineas each.

Curtis's Botanical Magazine Dedications 1827-1927. 1931:43-4

Bateman (J.) *The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala*. pp. VIII, 4, 12, 40. with 40 fine hand-colored plates. large folio. (1837-1843). £165

A good copy of the most imposing of Orchid books.....As usual, the text and some of the plates are rather spotted. This occurs in all copies and appears to be due to a defect in the paper. The work has become extremely scarce, which is hardly surprising as only 125 copies were issued.

[From Wheldon & Wesley's Catalogue No. 86. 1957]

29" x 22"



THE
ORCHIDACEÆ
OF
MEXICO & GUATEMALA
BY

JAS. BATEMAN, ESQ.^{RE}

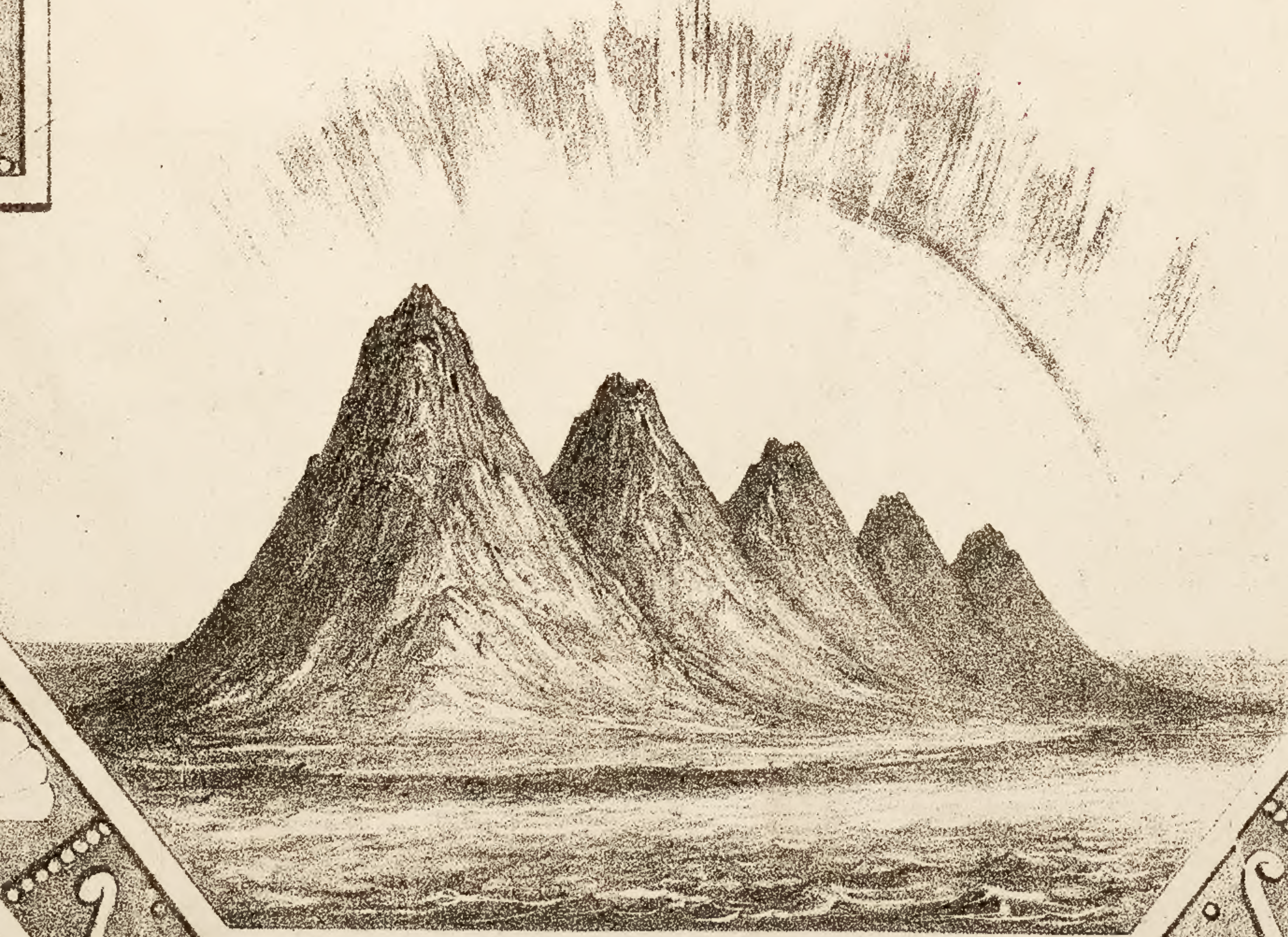
F.R.S. L.S. R.C.S. H.S. & C.

— LIKE RESTLESS SERPENTS, CLOTHED
IN RAINBOW AND IN FIRE, THE PARASITES,
STARRED WITH TEN THOUSAND BLOSSOMS FLOW AROUND
THE GREY TRUNKS. —

SHELLEY.

Mo. Bot. Garden,
1895.

1843



B. 104.25



Mrs Drake del^d

M. Oakes, lith

SCHOMBURGKIA TIBICINIS.

Pub^d by Auden & Sons 169 Broad St. Dec^r 1846

Plate 3. 7. 1846

SCHOMBURGKIA* TIBICINIS:

TRUMPETER'S SCHOMBURGKIA.

TRIBUS: EPIDENDREÆ.—LINDLEY.

SCHOMBURGKIA. *Lindl. Sert. Orch. sub Tab. x.*

SEPALA et **petala** conformia, patentia, omnino libera, basi æqualia. **Labellum** difforme, membranaceum, trilobum, cucullatum, basi cum margine columnæ con-natum, supra basin tumidum (intrusum): venis lamellatis. **Columna** marginata. **Pollinia** octo. **Rhizoma** repens, annulatum, pseudo-bulbigerum. **Folia** coriacea. **Scapi** terminales vaginati, longissimi. **Bracteæ** spathaceæ.—**Herbæ** epiphytæ **Americæ** æquinoctialis, floribus speciosis, racemosis, congestis.

SCHOMBURGKIA tibicinis; pseudo-bulbis conicis corniformibus annulatis sulcatis 3-phyllis, foliis oblongis coriaceis patentibus, scapo longissimo tereti distanter squamato apice paniculato, paniculâ pyra-midali laxiflorâ, sepalis petalisque undulatis crispis, labello oblongo venis per medium 5 elevatis approxi-matis: laciniis lateralibus apice rotundatis intermediâ subrhombeâ emarginatâ, antherâ emarginatâ. *Lindl. Bot. Reg. Misc. 119. 1841.*

Epidendrum tibicinis, BATEMAN in *Bot. Reg. Misc. 12. 1838.*

Habitat in *Honduras, passim.*—SKINNER.

Description.

STEMS tapering, hollow, deeply furrowed, from a foot to a foot and a half, or even two feet long, bearing three or four broad, oblong, leathery **LEAVES**, six inches long. **FLOWER-STEM** terminal, upright, terete, very long, occasionally reaching the height of ten feet, at its extremity producing a **SPIKE** of about twenty flowers; usually it is simple, but occasionally, as is represented in the figure, slightly branched. **FLOWERS** two inches and a half across, opening in succession. **SEPALS** and **PETALS** nearly equal, very much curled, upwards of an inch long, dark chesnut brown inside, and dirty purple without. **LIP** three-lobed, the lateral divisions rounded at their extremities, the middle one much smaller, somewhat of a rhomboideal form, emarginate; the whole of the inside of the lip is white, with the exception of the edges, which are beautifully pencilled with crimson, and five elevated yellow ridges, that pass along its centre. **COLUMN** whitish brown, tipped with an emarginate **ANTHER**.

THIS striking plant is a native of Honduras, where it exists in great abundance; it is also found, though more rarely, in Oaxaca and Caraccas. Mr. SKINNER was the first to discover it; his attention having been attracted, at a considerable distance, by a cluster of its lofty flower-spikes, which, when in full blow, and in the dense masses that the plant produces in its wild state, must be very conspicuous. On the occasion in question, its original discoverer was not permitted to obtain quiet possession of his prize, as swarms of fiery ants, to which the hollow stems of the species afford a snug retreat, issued forth in thousands to repel the spoiler, and inflicted pangs which none but the most ardent naturalist would have braved.

* So called in honour of M. Schomburgk, the celebrated traveller in Guiana.

The original specimen reached Knypersley as early as 1836, but made no attempt to flower until the spring of 1840, when the spike, after attaining the length of several feet, was unluckily broken off. Sir THOMAS ACLAND was more fortunate, and in the ensuing summer had the satisfaction of flowering the species in high perfection in his garden at Killerton. The spike then produced was exhibited at a meeting of the Horticultural Society, from whence it passed into the hands of the artist, who has furnished a most characteristic representation. The species is less bright in its colouring than was expected, but no doubt many varieties exist, and perhaps some of these may as far surpass the subject of the plate as others certainly fall short of it; among the latter may be ranked one that flowered at Knypersley last year (1841), the blossoms of which were much paler, and in all respects inferior to those of the figure.

In cultivation this is the most manageable species of the untractable genus to which it belongs. Suspension on a block of wood, in a hot and damp situation, appears to be the condition most congenial to its growth, but a season of rest is necessary to induce it to flower. Yet even in the collections where it succeeds the best, it lacks the vigour exhibited in imported specimens.

The ants of Honduras, as it has been already shown, turn to good account the long hollow stems of this singular plant; another purpose to which they are applied may be gathered from the Vignette, where an Indian child is seen sounding with all his might "an echoing horn," formed by merely cutting off the extremities. His companions emulate his musical ardour, but in their attempts to possess the *matériel* are interrupted by a catastrophe.

In such request are these vegetable trumpets among the wild urchins of Honduras, that the plant yielding them is called "the trumpet-plant,"—an epithet that has suggested its specific name.



"MAGNIS TAMEN EXCIDIT AUSIS."