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Curtis's botanical magazine.

London ; New York [etc.] :Academic Press [etc.]

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OUVIRANDRA BERNIERIANA.

Bernier's Lattice-leaf.

Nat. Ord. JUNCAGINEÆ.—HEXANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Char. (Vide supra, TAB. 4894.)

OUVIRANDRA *Bernieriana*; foliis submersis anguste oblongo-ligulatis planis vel plerumque pertuso-fenestratis (parenchymate seriatim porosis poris quadratis), scapo superne inflato, spicis 3-5 fasciculatis gracilibus, floribus laxis roseis.

OUVIRANDRA *Bernieriana*. *Decaisne in Delessert Icones, v. 3. p. 62. t. 100.*

Gratifying as it was to us to publish a figure, from a living plant, of the rare *Ouvirandra fenestralis* from the lakes of Madagascar, it is no less so that we now publish a second species of the genus, collected during a subsequent visit to the same island, and by the same gentleman that introduced the former, the Rev. Henry Ellis. Messrs. Jackson and Son, of the Nursery, Kingston, have favoured us with the flowering plant here figured. We refer it with little hesitation to the *O. Bernieriana* of Professor Decaisne, notwithstanding he describes the leaves as made up wholly of parenchyme (not fenestrate). We have shown, in our account of the former species, that the leaves, especially while young, are not pertuse, the openings being closed with parenchyme: so in our present plant we have seen leaves which had the openings entirely filled up; but our most perfect state of the plant shows the parenchyme to be rather copious, so that the areoles formed by the longitudinal and transverse veins are perforated as it were with small square or four-angled openings, the largest next the costa, those next the margin almost obsolete. But this structure, so different from what is seen in the perfect foliage of *O. fenestralis*, is not the only difference, the leaves are longer and much narrower in proportion, almost ligulate, the reticulation smaller, the scape is inflated upwards; the spikes are four or five in number, fascicled, slender, and the flowers are lax and distant on the rachis, and pale rose-colour. Both kinds,

Mr. Ellis observes, in his letter to us, grow in the same waters, and he did not fail to note, on his last visit to Madagascar, that "one of the two had longer and narrower and less fenestrate leaves than the *O. fenestralis*," though, not seeing this in flower, he did not at once recognize it as distinct.

DESCR. *Leaves* all radical, tufted, submerged, from one and a half to two feet long, including the *petiole* (from four to six inches), oblong-ligulate, very slightly tapering at the base, obtuse at the point, formed of longitudinal and transverse fibres, which constitute a beautiful network on each side the costa; the *areoles* sometimes closed with parenchyme, more generally partially closed, leaving four-angled *openings* in the centre, of which the larger are next the midrib, and square, becoming smaller and forming transverse lines only near the margin. The colour is a brighter green than is exhibited by *Ouvirandra fenestralis*. *Petioles* subtriangular, channelled. *Peduncle*, or rather, *scape*, radical, swollen above the middle, and contracted again just below the inflorescence. *Spikes* three to five, forming a kind of umbel or fascicle of slender rachises, rather sparingly beset with flowers. *Bracts* two, sometimes three, oblong-spathulate, subtending each flower. *Perianth* proper, none. *Stamens* six; *filaments* stout, subulate. *Anthers* subglobose, two-celled. *Ovaries* three, apparently connected at the base, tapering into short, thick *styles*; *stigma* a depressed point.

Fig. 1. Portion of a leaf in its usual state. 2. Portion of a spike of flowers, with bracts. 3. Pistil:—*magnified*.

