

No. VI. A Night-scented Orchid.

The orchid *Platanthera Susanae*, locally called "Uang tin kop" (เอื้องตีนกบ) in allusion to the likeness of the deeply jagged side lobes of the lip to the feet of a frog, is to be found flowering in the rainy season among coarse grass in open deciduous jungle in Mondhon Payap, N. Siam. It is a tuberous terrestrial orchid with a stem 3 feet in height bearing 5-7 pure white, thick flowers, each measuring about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The striking thing about it is its sweet scent which is given off only at night time. A cut flowering shoot kept for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days without water showed no sign of withering and each night omitted its scent.

This species is described in Hooker's Flora of British India, vol. vi p. 137 under the name of *Habenaria Susanae*. The specimen collected differs only in the slightly smaller size of the flower, none being more than 3 inches across, while Hooker describes it as being 3-4 inches, and in the dorsal sepal being orbicular not rhomboid. The smaller size of flower is also given for the Burmese plant in Grant's "Orchids of Burma".

It would be well worth while cultivating this orchid both for its beauty and its scent.

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