

V. A DESCRIPTION OF CYPRIPEDIUM PASSERINUM

BY OTTO E. JENNINGS.

(PLATE LIX.)

Cypripedium passerinum was originally described by Richardson from specimens collected in northern Canada by the Sir John Franklin Expedition, 1819 to 1822. (Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea, in the Years 1819, 20, 21, and 22, by John Franklin, p. 762, second edition.)

A number of good herbarium specimens of this rare *Cypripedium* were collected in flower near Moose Factory, northwestern Ontario, July 2-3, 1908, by Mr. M. A. Carriker, Jr., and in view of the fact that this species is as yet but sparsely represented in American herbaria, and that the published descriptions and figures are somewhat at variance with respect to certain characters, it seems desirable to here present a detailed description, with figures. That our material is quite typical of the species as described by Richardson is evidenced by the closeness with which the original description applies to our specimens and it may be further mentioned that the Sir John Franklin Expedition made collections at Moose Factory, the locality at which our specimens were obtained.

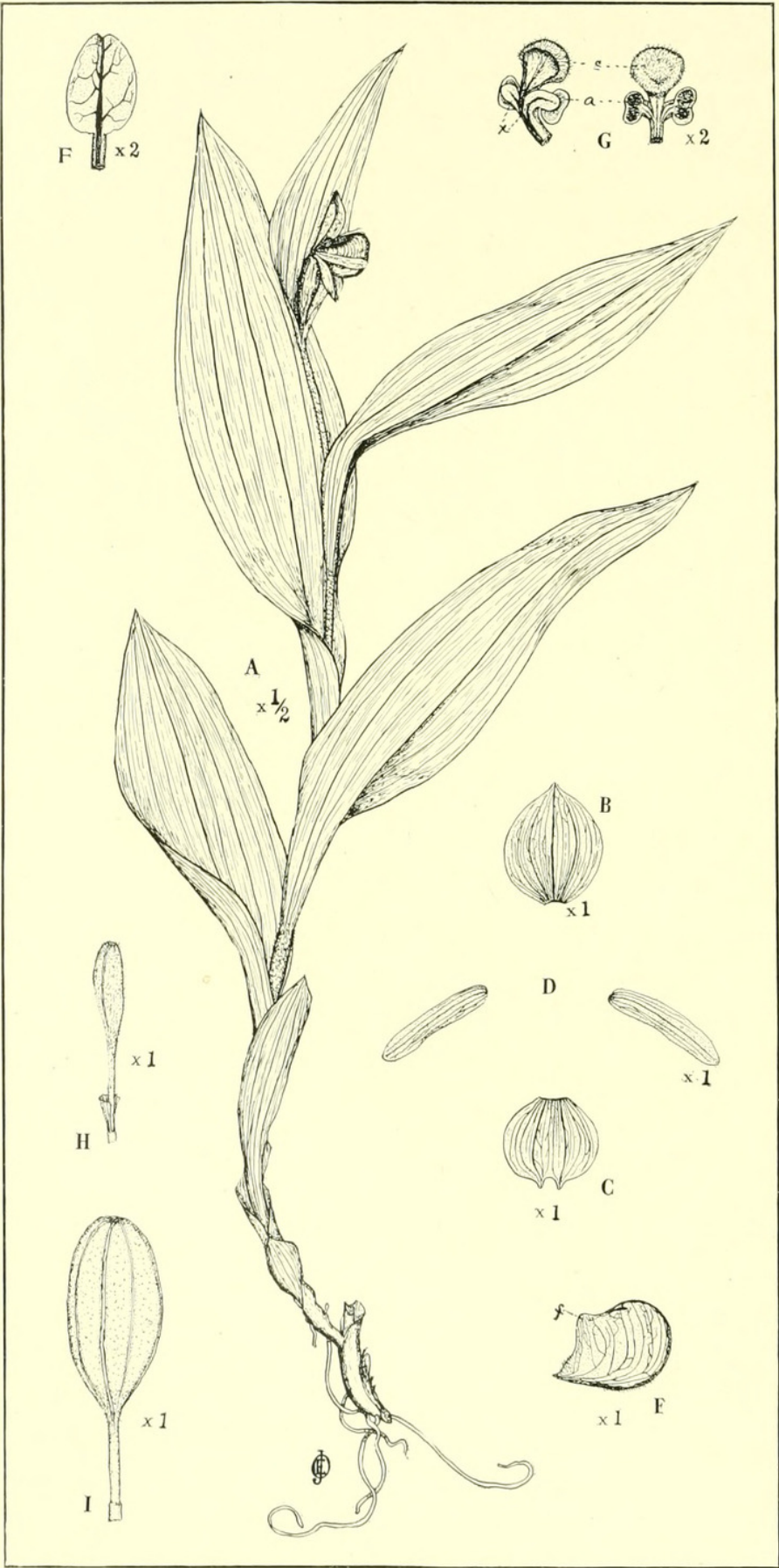
DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES.

Cypripedium passerinum Richardson. Plants 2-3.5 dm. high, erect from an ascending base, which often consists of the basal portion of the stems of the two previous years. Stems leafy, rather densely puberulent, bearing from 3 to 5 leaves and a leaf-like floral bract of variable size, the lower part of the stem being enveloped in from 2 to 4 sheathing, more or less bract-like, leaves. Leaves 7-15 cm. long, 2.5-4 cm. wide, lanceolate-ovate, with 5 to 7 prominent nerves, leaf-surfaces sparsely puberulent, apex acute, base gradually narrowed and completely sheathing the stem. Floral bract similar to the leaves, varying from 3-8 cm. long, lanceolate-ovate, acute to acuminate, narrowed to a sheathing base. Flower one, terminal, erect, general color pale yellow with the lip lined and spotted with violet-

purple. Upper sepal orbicular, apiculate, with 3 to 5 prominent veins, about 1.5 x 1.3 cm. Lateral sepals united into a doubly apiculate structure, the apiculations being about 2.5 mm. apart, each half of the double sepal having a prominent mid-vein with forking and often anastomosing lateral veins, the double sepal orbicular, about 1.2 cm. each diameter. Lateral petals slightly longer than the sepals, about 1.6 cm. long, 3 mm. wide, linear elliptic, rounded at the apex, the base rounded on the upper side. Lip 15 cm. long by 1 cm. vertical diameter, general profile obovate, veins variously forking and anastomosing, puberulent, and more or less glandular below, exteriorly, and also laterally at the base inside. Midway on each side of the orifice a flap about 3 mm. long and widely obtuse is folded into the cavity of the lip; the orifice is circular, about 1.1 cm. in diameter. The ovary is about 2.5 cm. long, elliptic, tapering to a peduncle below, obtusely angled, minutely glandular-puberulent. Stigma with an orbicular and somewhat concave disk about 3 mm. in diameter; staminodium expanded into a flat ovate structure about 6 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, arching or ascending over the stigma, obtuse or sub-cordate at the base and retuse or with a recurved tip at the apex. Stamens with flat, obtusely ovate appendages extending dorsally over the anthers, free from them, but of about the same length. Capsule erect, 2.5 cm. long, 1.5 cm. thick, obtuse at the apex, tapering into a slender peduncle 1.2 cm. in length, sometimes remaining at the apex of the defoliated stem during the next season.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM,

April 17, 1919.



Cypripedium passerinum.



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