

Dimorphism of Flowers of *Cymbidium tigrinum*. By the Rev. C. PARISH. (Communicated by Dr. HOOKER.)

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WHEN on Moolee (Moalmayne) Island a few days ago, I noticed two very different flowers on the same plant of *C. tigrinum*, in hundreds of cases; for the plant is found there in great quantity. On the same stem there would be two or three flowers of the ordinary colour, *i. e.* of the colour and appearance originally known to me, and as represented in the 'Botanical Magazine,' and one or two (always the lowest on the stem) presenting a different appearance. These last are of a different colour, and so strike the eye at once. They are of a rich red colour throughout, and are rather blotched than striped. The effect of the contrast of colour on the same plant is very effective, and has raised the plant much in my estimation. I thought it rather

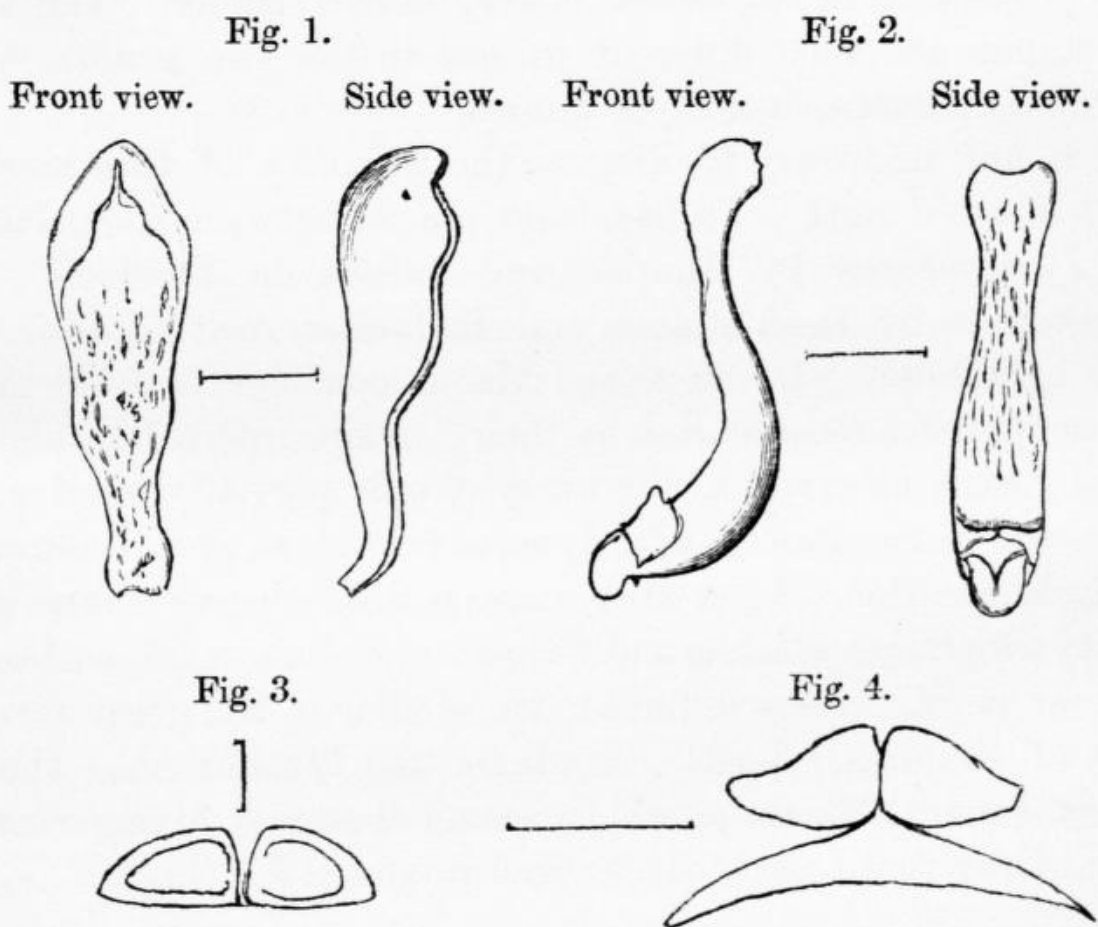


Fig. 1. Column of barren flowers. Natural size.

Fig. 2. Column of perfect flowers. Natural size.

Fig. 3. Pollen-masses without gland, in intermediate flower. Magnified.

Fig. 4. Pollen-masses with gland, of perfect flower. Magnified.

a poor thing at first; but as then seen by me in profusion (five and six flowers on one stem, and many stems on one plant, the flower,

too, being in two different colours) I thought it was a very handsome plant. On examining the flowers, I found that they were differently formed. The terminal flowers were, in colour and form, normal and perfect in all their parts (see fig. 2). The darker-coloured flowers (being, as I said, when present, always the lowest on the stem) were all imperfect. The column was much thickened, both dorsally and laterally, and less curved. There was no anther, and there were no pollinia; but the upper edges of the column were turned over as represented in fig. 1; and underneath these edges was seen a small quantity of a yellow waxy substance in an amorphous state, being all that existed to represent the pollinia. I must mention that on many stems there were flowers (always, be it remarked, intermediate on the stem) of an intermediate character, with no anther, having the column only a little smaller; and in these were found perfect pollinia, but no triangular gland.