

## 65. COLAX.

Several years ago I proposed the establishment, under this name, of a genus which eventually proved the same as *Maxillaria*; and which was therefore abandoned. I would now propose to apply it to a small set of plants of the Maxillaridous division of *Vandææ*, at present included in the genus *Maxillaria* itself. These species, consisting of my *M. viridis* and *jugosa*, and the *M. placanthera* of Sir W. Hooker, have the closed, scarcely ringent, flower of *Promenæa* and *Warrea*, but they have a caudicula quite unlike any thing at present known among their race. It has no distinct gland, but consists entirely of a thin wavy membrane, strengthened by an elevated line in the middle, and gradually narrowing to the point, where the gland is usually found. It has also a thick fleshy crested anther, whose cells are planted on its lower side. I cannot but regard these circumstances as sufficient to justify the separation of the plants in which they are found as a distinct genus. The following characters will indicate the limits of the genus and its species.

**COLAX.** Flores subglobosi, vix ringentes, in mentum breve producti. Sepala et petala subæqualia. Labellum unguiculatum, trilobum, inappendiculatum, planiusculum (vix cucullatum). Columna paulò elongata semiteres, clinandrio marginato. Anthera carnosæ, cristata. Pollinia 4, in paribus globosis colligata, caudiculæ obovatæ membranaceæ adnata; glandulâ nulla; rostello fisso.—Herbæ pseudobulbosæ; folia terminalia et radicalia, plicata. Pedunculi radicales, erecti, uniflori, vaginati. Flores virentes.

1. *C. viridis* (*Maxillaria viridis*, *Lindl. in Bot. Reg. t. 1510.*); sepalis petalisque conniventibus oblongo-subrotundis obtusis subæqualibus, labelli brevis trilobi lobo medio transversè rhomboideo unguiculato plano.—*Brazil*.—Flowers green, with a dingy violet lip. That it differs from *C. placanthera*, in the manner stated under that species, I know from having preserved the specimen from which the figure in the Botanical Register was taken; which figure well represents the peculiar rounded form of the sepals. I believe it is no longer in our gardens; for *C. placanthera* is usually cultivated under its name.
2. *C. placanthera* (*Maxillaria placanthera*, *Hooker in Bot. Mag. t. 3173. Lindl. in Bot. Reg. 1841. misc. 103.*); sepalis lineari-oblongis obtusis intus secus medium seriatim maculatis, petalis angustioribus omninò conformibus maculatis, labelli angusti trilobi minutè pubescentis lævis laciniis lateralibus acutis nanis intermediâ dilatâtâ rotundatâ cuneatâ, columnâ apice lobatâ versus basin bisulcâ pubescente.—*Brazil*.—

I was certainly wrong in referring this plant to *C. viridis*, from which it differs in its sepals and petals being much narrower, the flowers less green, the lip larger, and of a different form in its upper lobe.

3. *C. jugosus* (*Maxillaria jugosa*, *Lindl. in Bot. Reg. 1841. misc. 104.*); sepalis oblongis incurvis obtusis, petalis conformibus concavis basi angustatis, labelli sigmoidei oblongi unguiculati pilosi jugosi lobis lateralibus nanis obtusis, intermedio semi-circulari, columnâ apice lobatâ bisulcâ villosissimâ.—*Brazil*.—Near *C. placanthera*, from which it differs in having the flower of a globose figure, with much less linear sepals and concave oblong petals narrowed to the base. These parts are of a rich cream colour, speckled with crimson. The lip has quite a different form, being semicircular at the tip, deeply furrowed and closely covered with short hair. The column has two deep furrows in front almost buried in hairs.