

ERIOPSIS biloba.

Two-lobed Eriops.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

Nat. ord. Orchidaces. § Vandes — Maxillarids. (Orchids, Vegetable Kingdom, p. 181.)

ERIOPSIS, Linull.—Caules succulenti, apice tantum foliati. Racemus radicalis multiflorus. Bracteæ minimæ. Flores explanati: laciniis subsequalibus oblongis obtusis, mento brevi obtuso. Labellum anticum, concavum, trilobum, disco lamellatum, c. basi productâ columnæ articulatum. Columna semiteres, clavata, aptera; anthera oblonga, subunilocularis; pollinia 4, inæqualia, per paria filis 2 elasticis affixa; glandula submembranacea quadrata.—Lindl. in Bot. Reg. sub fol. 9. 1847.

ERIOPSIS biloba, Lindl. supra.

"This new genus belongs to the Maxillarids, among Vandeous Orchids, but has so much the habit of an Eria, when not in flower, that it may be mistaken for it. It has large plaited leaves placed two or three together, upon the summit of a fleshy oblong stem, and it throws up from the base a long spike of gay orange-coloured blossoms. The history of its introduction is unknown. It has been flowered by J. J. Blandy, Esq., of Reading, who, in September last, favoured us with a specimen; it had been acquired by him among the many rare species forming the late Mr. Barker's collection, which Mr. Blandy purchased, and is possibly some western plant. We do not, however, find any trace of it in books, or among our own unarranged collections."

It was thus we spoke of this beautiful plant in February last. The present figure will serve to complete what is known of its history. Its genus is perfectly distinct, whether we regard the short chin or the almost quadrangular gland, or the peculiar lamellæ of the lip. Its nearest affinity is with the racemose Maxillarias, readily distinguished however by their crescent-shaped gland, and tubercular (not lamellated) lip with a long chin.

Warrea has globose half-closed flowers, and a linear caudicle.

The plates found on the surface of the lip are peculiar to it. There is no middle plate, beyond a slightly elevated line; on each side of the middle line stands a short plate, truncated anteriorly; outside of these, on each side, is another much larger plate, rounded, with two teeth at the anterior base; and immediately before these stands another pair of fine teeth, just as is represented at fig. 1.

Fig. 2. represents the pollen-masses elevated above the gland by stretching their elastic threads forcibly. In a natural state, these pollen-masses are perfectly sessile on the gland.