

## MAXILLĀRIĀ tenuifolia.

*Slender-leaved Maxillaria.*

## GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

*Nat. ord.* ORCHIDACEÆ, § VANDEÆ.*MAXILLARIA.* *Bot. Register*, fol. 897.

*M. tenuifolia*; caulescens, pseudobulbis ovato-oblongis compressis monophyllis squamis longioribus, foliis lineari-lanceolatis acutis recurvis, pedunculis axillaribus solitariis basi squamatis, ovario denudato arcuato, floribus cernuis, sepalis ovato-lanceolatis margine revolutis subæqualibus reflexis lateralibus basi subæqualibus, petalis ovatis obtusis conniventibus, labello oblongo indiviso apice ovato reflexo infra apicem utrinque contracto, callo disci oblongo integerrimo. *Bot. Reg. sub folio*, 1986.

A native of Mexico, in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, where it was found by Mr. Theodore Hartweg, an excellent naturalist, employed by the Horticultural Society of London, in Mexico, upon a mission which would have already produced most important additions to our gardens, had not his collections been unfortunately detained at Tampico in consequence of the French blockade of that port.

The species inhabits trees in Mexico, and probably is local, as it does not appear in any of the collections brought from the interior of the country. It belongs to the first or axillifloral section of the genus, the distinctive character of which is to have caulescent stems, covered with pseudo-bulbs, and having the flowers appearing from the axils of scales covering the stem. These, which are the most genuine form of *Maxillaria*, are the least beautiful part of the genus, and constitute a perfectly natural group, at first sight very different from the kinds which, like *M. aromatica*, have naked pseudo-bulbs rising immediately from the surface of the earth. But, upon comparing the two sections with each other, it will be found that the only essential difference between them consists in the one having erect and the other prostrate rhizomata; the scales, or imperfect leaves, of the

axilliflorous section being more developed than in the scapigerous species, in consequence of their being more exposed to light. Perhaps the genus should be limited to the species which form the two sections now mentioned, the spathaceous species being excluded, and such as *M. Warreana* and *costata* being either formed into a new genus or referred to *Peristeria*, whose character would then require to be modified; perhaps also such genera as *Bifrenaria* and *Dicrypta* would be better reduced to *Maxillaria*, with which, if newly limited, they would agree in habit. But these are points upon which it will be more easy to decide when a larger number of species shall have been correctly studied.

The present species is very pretty when in flower, and, from its freshness and greenness when in leaf only, is well worth cultivation, especially as it is one of the easiest to manage. It succeeds in a warm damp stove, in a pot with a block of wood thrust into the soil, and the long branching rhizoma tied to it. It grows almost equally well when tied to a wooden block, and suspended from the rafters of the stove. It bears without injury a quantity of water at its roots, and must also be freely syringed overhead. Amongst orchidaceous plants, none are more easily multiplied, as it throws out numerous pseudo-bulbs and roots, which, if taken carefully off, and subjected to the above treatment, will soon become vigorous growing plants.