



MAXILLARIA STEELII. MR. STEELE'S
MAXILLARIA.

Class and Order.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord.—ORCHIDÆ.)

Generic Character.

Perianthium connivens, raro patens. *Sepala* lateralialia cum basi producta columnæ connata. *Petala* subconformia. *Labellum* trilobum, cucullatum, sessile, cum basi producta columnæ articulatam. *Columna* semiteres, aptera. *Anthera* subbilocularis. *Pollinia* 2, bipartibilia v. integra, caudicula brevi, glandula transversa.—Epiphytæ (*Americanæ*) *pseudo-bulbosæ, acaules, v. caulescentes*. *Folia* *placata, v. coriacea*. *Pedunculi* *radicales, axillares, v. terminales, uni- v. multiflori*. Lindl.

Specific Name and Character.

MAXILLARIA *Steelii*; pseudo-bulbis oblongis annulatis monophyllis, folio longissimo tereti hinc canaliculato, scapo radicali brevi unifloro, perianthio connivente, labello trilobo basi intus glandula oblonga, lateribus inflexis, lobo intermedio obtusissimo bifido.

This highly interesting Orchideous plant was obligingly communicated from the stove of JOHN MOSS, Esq., Otterspool, near Liverpool, together with a drawing by Miss Moss, from which the accompanying figure was made. It was introduced in July of last year (1836) by MATTHEW STEELE, Esq., from Demerara. With the flower of MAXILLARIA, it has a foliage quite at variance with any described species of that Genus, attaining a height of two and even three feet, and proves a most valuable addition to our Epiphytes.

DESCR.

DESCR. *Pseudo-bulbs* numerous, clustered, small, oblong, terete, brownish-green, marked with transverse, jagged, membranous rings; from the top of this arises a single *leaf*, which suddenly bends almost at an angle, and then hangs down over the sides of the pot, to the length of two or three feet, it is cylindrical, as thick as a swan's quill, with a narrow groove on the upper side which is chiefly seen near the base. The *scape* is short and single-flowered; the *blossom* rather large, fragrant, of a dingy reddish-yellow colour; the *perianth* connivent, blotched with deep purple; *sepals* oval, acute; *petals* oblongo-obovate; *Lip* very broad, streaked with purple, three-lobed, the sides much incurved, the middle lobe very obtuse: at the base of the lip within is a large depressed, oblong, bright yellow *gland*, streaked with red and crenate at the truncated apex. *Column* semi-cylindrical, decurrent below with the two lower *sepals*, so as to form a blunt spur. *Anther* hemispherical. *Pollen-masses* two, bipartite, fixed to a large transverse gland, by two short *caudiculæ*.

Fig. 1. Front view of a Flower. 2. Side view of the Lip. 3. Inner view of ditto to show the Gland, the sides being laid open. 4. Column, the Perianth being removed. 5. Pollen-masses:—all but fig. 1. *magnified*.