



(2955)

MAXILLARIA SQUALENS. DINGY-FLOWERED
MAXILLARIA.

Class and Order.

GYNANDRIA MONANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord. — ORCHIDÆ.)

Generic Character.

Perianthium patens, resupinatum. *Labellum* ecalcaratum. *Labellum* cum processu unguiformi columnæ articulatum, trilobum. *Foliola* lateralia exteriora basibus cum processu columnæ connata. *Pollinia* 4, basibus (vel dorso) connata, glandulosa.—*Herbæ parasiticæ, bulbosæ, Americæ meridionalis*: Racemi (vel scapi uniflori) radicales. Lindl.

Specific Character and Synonyms.

MAXILLARIA * *squalens*; racemo multifloro, labello trilobolobis lateralibus incurvis, terminali late ovali incrassato.

XYLOBIUM *squalens*. Lindl. in Bot. Reg. (sub MAXILLARIA *Harrisoniæ*.) t. 897.

DENDROBIUM *squalens*. Lindl. Bot. Reg. t. 732.

DESCR. Parasitic. *Bulbs* several, oblong, dark green, in part sheathed with brown lacerated scales. *Leaves*, two from the summit of each bulb, eight to ten inches to a foot long, tapering below into a footstalk, strongly five-ribbed, with many parallel veins, ribs very prominent beneath. *Scape* from the base of the bulbs four to six inches high, clothed with ovate, concave, brown scales, and terminated by

* From a fancied resemblance to the *maxillæ*, or jaws of an insect.

by a dense, thyrsiform raceme of many pale, dingy, yellowish, flesh-coloured flowers. These flowers are resupinate. The three outer segments ovato-oblong, nearly equal, the two lower ones decurrent: two inner ones lanceolate, within streaked with purple. *Lip* three lobed; faintly streaked with purple: side-lobes incurved, terminal one slightly deflexed, thick, fleshy, deep purple. *Column* semicylindrical, dotted with purple. *Anther* two-celled. *Pollen Masses* four, united at their back, yellow: *Gland* semilunate. *Germen* clavate, twisted, shorter than the lanceolate bractea.

A native of Brazil: communicated to the Glasgow Botanic Garden, where it flowered in the stove in the autumn of 1828, by the Horticultural Society. The flowers are much greener in the specimen figured in the Bot. Register. It is there first referred to *DENDROBIUM*; afterwards Mr. LINDLEY constituted a new Genus of it: but as it appears to me no way differing from *MAXILLARIA*, except in a slight difference in the place of union of the *Pollen Masses*; at the back in *XYLOBIUM*, at the base in *MAXILLARIA*.

Fig. 1. Single Flower: side view. 2. Lip. 3. Front view of a Flower, the Lip forced open. 4. 5. Back and front view of the Pollen Mass.—*Magnified.*