LECTOTYPIFICATION OF MAXILLARIA HETEROCLITA (ORCHIDACEAE)

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Frequently there are problems with early botanical works that involve mixed collections of more than one element. Sometimes this is caused by specimens getting physically mixed and sometimes this is caused by combining unrelated elements when producing illustrations. Examination of the type illustration of Maxillaria heteroclita Poepp. & Endl., now accepted as a species of Chaubardia, shows it to be a combination of two quite different genera requiring lectotypification.


Tabula 63 comprises a plant bearing two unifoliate pseudobulbs, a scape with an open flower, a scape with a bud, a separate view of the ovary, column and lip in profile, and a separate view of the undersurface of the column. The scapes and the separate views represent Chaubardia heteroclita. The vegetative parts shown in t. 63 are of an unknowable species of Maxillaria Ruiz & Pav. In Chaubardia there are no pseudobulbs and the plants produce fan-shaped growths of several leaves.

I am unaware of any authentic specimen with the name Maxillaria heteroclita conserved at W. The original drawings are unambiguously identifiable to the species level and thus serve as lectotype. The lectotype is one of six separate elements mounted as Herb. Reichenbach 51473. In the upper left corner is a drawing of a Maxillaria from 1866. On the upper right is a packet without provenance. On the lower right is a drawing of a Maxillaria from Mexico collected by Schiede. On the lower left is a drawing of a Maxillaria lip and column with an illegible annotation.

The lectotype itself is one of two pieces of paper mounted together on a slightly larger piece of paper at left center. These comprise part of the Endlicher Herbarium. The lefthand drawing is a small sketch of a plant that became the basis for the Maxillaria element of t. 63. The righthand set of drawings is the lectotype and was faithfully reproduced in part as t. 63.

Lectotypification in this manner maintains the well established use of this name (Brako & Zarucchi 1993; Dodson & Bennett, 1989) for an attractive species that has been widespread in cultivation for several decades (e.g., Teuscher 1966).

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REFERENCES


Fig. 1. The type illustration of *Maxillaria heteroclitae* Poepp. & Endl. showing a plant of true *Maxillaria* and floral details (= lectotype) now referred to *Chaubardia*. 