

SOBRALIA DECORA Batem. var. **aerata** Allen & Williams, var. nov. (pl. 31). E specie planta parviore et floribus aeratis differt.—COCLÉ: bad lands south of El Valle de Antón, alt. ca. 500 m., Sept. 18, 1941, (flowered in collection of A. M. Bouché, Pedro Miguel, C. Z.), *Allen 2755* (Herb. Ames, TYPE); ravines in bad lands south of El Valle de Antón, alt. ca. 600 m., (flowered in collection of Mr. and Mrs. Barrett, Bas Obispo, C. Z.), *Allen 2846*.

In the field this plant appears to be amply distinct from *Sobralia decora* Batem., but herbarium study indicates that it is perhaps only a variety. The plants average about 5 dm. tall while *S. decora* is commonly 2–2.5 m. tall. The flower color is quite distinctive: sepals greenish on the outer surfaces, very near Brick Red within; petals a washed Brick-Red with lighter margins and median line dorsally; lip Brick Red dorsally with a white median line and white margins,—the inner surface is very nearly Acajou Red with upper margins white and with an Amber Brown median stripe; the column is pure white. [Ridgeway colors]. The local name for this variety is “Bronze Sobralia,” hence the varietal name, meaning “ornamented with bronze.”