



Fig. 2. *Sobralia exigua*. Type plant, in cultivation. Photograph: K. Dressler.

***Sobralia exigua* Dressler, sp. nov.**

HOLOTYPE: Panamá. Chiriquí: Cordillera, epiphytic, 800–1100 m., flowered in cult. 12 July 2003, *Dressler 6365B* (MO!), Clonotype: *Dressler 6365A* (PMA.)

Habitu *Sobraliae callosae* similis, ab illa flore alba cleistogama, labelli margine fimbriato calloque trichomatibus aurantiacis instructo distinguitur.

Caespitose, epiphytic, roots 4–6 mm in diameter; stems 14–21 × 0.1–0.15 cm; leaves 11.5–13 × 0.9–1 cm, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, sheaths striate, with dark scurfy spots; floral bracts few, 17–21 × 4–5 mm, narrowly lanceolate, striate, with dark scurfy spots; ovary and pedicel ca. 16 mm; flowers white with orange-yellow on disk, cleistogamous; sepals 26 × 2.6–3 mm, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, apiculate; petals 24 × 4 mm, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, apiculate; lip 22 × 10 mm, cuneate, oblong-obovate, shallowly 3-lobed, basal ridges ca. 4 mm, margins sparsely fimbriate laterally, distally fimbriate-crested, disk with long orange hairs; column 13.5 × 3 mm, ventrally concave, arms ca. 3 mm, curved upward.

This species (Fig. 2) is vegetatively very much like *S. callosa* (first described as *Lindsayella amabilis*). We found several plants in the area of Cordillera, and the largest of them has grown and flowered. The plant bore a capsule when found and the dried column was quite unlike that of *S. callosa*. When the first two buds appeared, they were closely watched, and I kept thinking “not yet, maybe tomorrow.” Finally, I realized that the flowers might be self-pollinating, or cleistogamous. At that point, one of the buds was yellowish and shriveling, but the other was near “flowering.” In its second year, the plant produced only one bud, but this one actually opened a bit, and made a better specimen. In 2004 the plant produced three inflorescences, each with one bud. Though the buds did not open, they remained in good condition for three days before withering and setting fruit. I removed two of the capsules, and the plant has produced several more buds. Crossing *S. exigua* with other small-flowered *Sobralias* might produce a nice dwarf plant with flowers that open, but so far, my attempts to cross *S. exigua* with *S. mariannae* or *S. allenii* have been quite fruitless.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet *exigua* means small or feeble. It is one of the smallest known Sobralias, and its flower production has, so far, been rather feeble. As with some other white-flowered species, including *S. leucoxantha*, the flowers quickly stain alcohol black. It is a measure of Ted Green's fanatic interest in *Sobralia* that he actually wanted a division of this plant.