



Fig. 3. *Sobralia kruskayae*. A. *Sobralia kruskayae*, in field, north of El Valle de Antón. Photograph: K. Dressler. B. Type plant, lateral view of flower, in cultivation, Chiriqui, Panama. Photograph: K. Dressler.

***Sobralia kruskayae* Dressler, sp. nov.**

HOLOTYPE: Panamá. Coclé: El Valle de Antón, flowered in cultivation July–Aug. 2003; flowers white, with yellow in throat, some brown or purple in base, *Dressler 6383*, MO, Isotype: PMA.

Species *Sobraliae leucoxanthae* Rchb.f. similis, labello ecarinato columna remuliformis recedit.

Roots 3–6 mm in diameter; stem 1–1.5 m tall; leaves 17–35 × 2.8–5.6 cm, elliptic, long-acuminate, subpetiolate (to about 6 mm), sheathes slightly striate, scurfy-punctate; bract cluster 3–4 × 0.6–0.8 cm, striate, scurfy-punctate, the outer bracts long-acuminate; ovary and pedicel 2.5–3 cm; flowers white, with yellow in throat, some brown or purple within near base; dorsal sepal 4.8–5–1.2 cm, lance-oblong, apiculate; lateral sepals 5–5.2 × 1–1.3 cm, lance-oblong, apiculate; petals 4.8–5.7 × 1.3–1.5 cm, oblong; lip 5.5–5.7 × 3.2–3.7 cm, oblong-obovate, basal ridges ca. 7 mm, papillose, without keels; column ca. 25 mm, very narrow for ca. 18 mm, then abruptly ca. 5 mm wide, arms ca. 3.5 mm, curved upward and reaching dorsal edge of column or apices in contact above column, column with low, thick ridge below.

This is another white-flowered species (Fig. 3) that is distinct from all of the other would-be “*S. leucoxantha*” so far known from Panama. It is distinct in the relatively narrow, long-acuminate leaves, in the rather porrect lip without keels, and in the slender, oar-shaped column. Also, the base of the lip is distinctly concave in front of (and somewhat beneath) the basal ridges. Part of the plant is cultivated in Florida and produced flowers in 2003. Though the plant was yet small and the leaves scarcely half their normal size, the flowers were almost exactly the same size as those collected in Finca Dracula the previous year.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet of this species honors Licenciada Kruskaya de Melgarejo, who was for several years head of the Departamento de Manejo de Vida Silvestre of A.N.A.M. (Autoridad Nacional de Ambiente, Panama). Kruskaya is a pleasant person and very competent in her work. She recognizes the need to study the orchids (and other plants and animals) of Panama and does everything she can to facilitate permits for the collecting and exchange of materials for scientific study. I’m told that she has been promoted and is now in charge of the Departamento de Areas Protejidas y Vida Silvestre. The last few years has seen the description of many new species from Panama, with vouchers or type specimens deposited in the Herbarium of the University of Panama. This was made possible by Kruskaya’s enthusiastic collaboration.

SPECIMENS: Other specimens seen from same area: 28 Apr. 1982, *Dressler 6040* (MO); pressed from cult., 11 Sept. 2002, *Maduro y Olmos 292* (FLAS, PMA).