

112. **SOBRALIA NEUDECKERI** Dodson, sp. nov.

Similis *Sobraliae validae* Dodson, a qua distinguitur caulibus brevibus, portantibus solum dua folia bene evoluta, crassa, carnosa, et structura calliformi in parte ventrali columnae.

Orig. Coll: Ecuador: Esmeraldas: Lita to San Lorenzo, km 6, 650 m, 29 December 1990, *C.H. Dodson, T. Neudecker & H. Herzum 18626* (Holotype RPSC; Isotypes QCNE, AMES).

ETIMOLOGÍA: Nombrada en honor del Dr. Tilman Neudecker quien participó en el descubrimiento de la especie.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dr. Tilman Neudecker who participated in the discovery of the species.

Plant epiphytic or terrestrial on road cuts and embankments. Plant caespitose, rhizome short, stems cane-like, to 45 cm tall, surrounded for the basal portion with clasping sheaths. Leaves 2, elliptic, coriaceous, acute at the apex, distichous, heavily veined on the underside, clasping the stem at the base, articulated to the leaf-sheath surrounding the stem, to 20 x 6.5 cm. Inflorescence an apical cone-like structure that produces flowers singly in succession over prolonged periods with flowering concurrent throughout the population. Sepals yellow-brown outside, dark brown inside, petals and lip yellowish white. Sepals free at the base, spreading; dorsal sepal oblong-elliptic, acute, recurved at the apex, to 6.2 x 2.2 cm; lateral sepals obliquely elliptic, acute, recurved from the midpoint, 6.6 x 2.4 cm; petals obliquely obovate, obtuse, to 6.6 x 3 cm; lip obovate, emarginate at the apex, reflexed above the middle, with a pair of parallel, fleshy lamellae in the throat and 3 parallel, low lamellae down the center of the lamina; column slender, capitate, flattened on the underside, with a thick lamellae down the underside toward the middle, the sides swollen to form wings becoming blunt ears on each side of the anther; pollinia soft, mealy, white.

NOTAS: Se parece a *Sobralia valida* Rolfe, pero se distingue por los tallos cortos, cada uno con sólo dos hojas plenamente desarrolladas, comparativamente gruesas y carnosas, y por la estructura como callo que se presenta en la cara inferior de la columna. La especie parece restringida a la región de Lita en el noroccidente del Ecuador.

NOTES: Similar to *Sobralia valida* Rolfe but distinguished by the short stems each with only two fully-developed leaves that are comparatively thick and fleshy, and the callus-like structure on the underside of the column. The species is apparently restricted to the Lita region of northwestern Ecuador.