

114. **SOBRALIA PIEDADAE** Dodson, sp. nov.

Similis *Sobraliae atropubescens* Ames & C. Schweinf., a qua distinguitur floribus albis et absentia pilorum rubro-brunneorum in caulibus.

Orig. Coll: Ecuador: Esmeraldas: Lita to San Lorenzo, km 6, 650 m, 29 December 1990, C.H. Dodson & P. M. Dodson 19095 (Holotype RPSC).

**ETIMOLOGÍA:** Nombrada en honor de mi esposa, Piedad Marmol de Dodson, quien ha demostrado una paciencia extraordinaria con mi profesión y quien recolectó el ejemplar tipo.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named in honor of my wife Piedad Marmol de Dodson who has shown infinite patience with my profession and who collected the type.

**OTHER SPECIMENS SEEN:** Ecuador: Esmeraldas: Lita to Alto Tambo, km 6, 650 m, 18 January 1987, Dodson et al. 16782A (RPSC).

Plant epiphytic or terrestrial on road cuts and embankments. Plant caespitose, rhizome short, stems cane-like, to 40 cm tall, surrounded for the basal portion with clasping, smooth sheaths. Leaves elliptic, coriaceous, acuminate at the apex, distichous, strongly veined on the underside, clasping the stem at the base, articulated to the leaf-sheath surrounding the stem, to 11 x 6 cm. Inflorescence an apical cone-like structure that produces flowers singly in succession over prolonged periods with flowering concurrent throughout the population. Flowers white with a yellow throat. Sepals free to the base, spreading; dorsal sepal oblong-elliptic, acute, slightly concave, to 4 x 0.8 cm; lateral sepals obliquely oblong-elliptic, acute, to 4 x 0.8 cm; petals elliptic-ovate, acute, spreading, lightly recurved, to 4.2 x 0.7 cm; lip obovate, deeply concave in the middle, the apex sub-flabellate, with a pair of parallel, fleshy lamellae at the base, to 5 x 3 cm; column slender, capitate towards the apex with the sides forming short, blunt horns on each side of the anther; pollinia soft, mealy, white.

**NOTAS:** Se parece a *Sobralia atropubescens* Ames & C. Schweinf., pero a diferencia de ella tiene las flores blancas y carece de pelos de color rojo-marrón en los tallos.

Aunque *Sobralia piedadae* y *S. atropubescens* fueron encontradas juntas en escarpados terraplenes de caminos, no se descubrieron híbridos.

**NOTES:** Similar to *Sobralia atropubescens* Ames & C. Schweinf. but distinguished by the white flowers and the lack of red-brown hairs on the stems.

*Sobralia piedadae* and *S. atropubescens* were found growing together on steep roadside embankments but no hybrids were evident.