

SOBRALIA

Sobralia purpurea Dressler, sp. nov. TYPE: Costa Rica. San José: Carretera Interamericana Sur, km 39, Casa Mata, entrada a San Cristóbal, 800 m, junio 1990, floreció en cultivo 19 Abril 1993, *Dora E. Mora & Carlos Quirós s.n.* (holotype, USJ). Figure 4.

Herba epiphytica vel terrestris, folia disticha, lanceolata, acuminata, flos terminalis, singulis vel successiva, sepalum dorsale oblanceolatum, sepala lateralia elliptico-lanceolata, labellum in basi convolutum, lamina expansa subquadrato-oblonga, retusa differt.

Plant ca. 1 m or more in height; leaves distichous, lanceolate, caudate-acuminate, $15\text{--}18 \times 1.1\text{--}2.5$ cm, sparsely lepidote beneath, texture papery, with 9 major veins (including marginal veins), sheaths striate, glabrous; inflorescence terminal, bract cluster ellipsoid, 5.5–6 cm long, bracts striate, sparsely lepidote distally; sepals oblanceolate, subobtuse, dorsal $7.5\text{--}8 \times 2.1$ cm, laterals $8.5\text{--}8.9 \times 2\text{--}2.3$ cm; petals narrowly ovate, subacute, $7\text{--}7.9 \times 2.3\text{--}3$ cm; lip subquadrate oblong, $8.5\text{--}9.5 \times 4.5\text{--}4.9$, apparently without keels; midlobe 3.3×4.2 cm, deeply retuse, somewhat crisped; column 3.3 cm, clavate.

This new species is distinctive in its narrow, caudate leaves of rather thin texture, in the nearly smooth inflorescence bracts, and especially in the narrow, suboblong lip, which is described as being intensely purple, or “casi nazareno.” There is some uncertainty about the exact origin of the plant. One of the collectors remembers the plant as being found near Casa Mata, as recorded on the label, while the other remembers the plant as collected on the road between Empalme and Santa María de

Dota. So far, we have been unable to re-collect the plant in either area, but the plants should stand out when in flower.

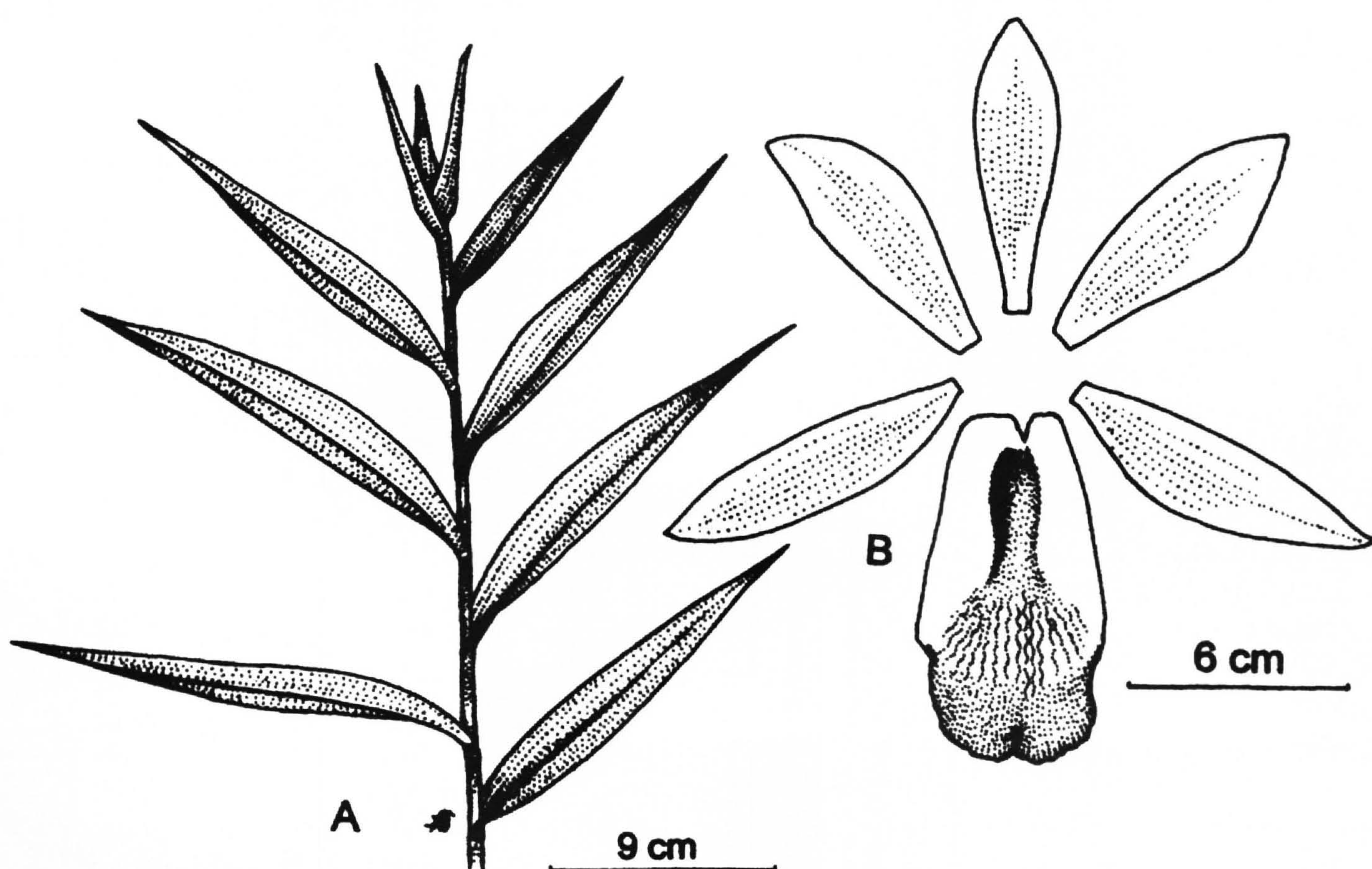


Figure 4. *Sobralia purpurea* Dressler (*Mora & Quirós s.n.*). —A. Part of stem with leaves and inflorescence bracts. —B. Perianth parts, flattened.