

***Sobralia theobromina* Dressler, sp. nov.**

HOLOTYPE: Panamá, prov. Coclé: El Valle de Antón, 800–1000 m, Cult. en Finca Drácula, floreció 12 Sept. 2002 “la chocolata,” A. Maduro y E. Olmos 293, MO, Isotype: PMA.

Sobraliae chrysostomae Dressler similis, sed labelli lamina brevior obtusiter contracta coloris badio-castaneis differt.

Caespitose, epiphytic or terrestrial, roots ca. 6 mm in diameter; stems 1–1.5 m, ca. 5–6 mm in diameter; leaves 13–19 × 4–7.3 cm, ovate, short-acuminate, blades furfuraceous beneath, with hispid veins, sheaths striate, rugulose; bract cluster 4–5 × 1–1.2 cm, striate, hispid-furfuraceous; ovary and pedicel 3.5–4 cm; flowers white, blade of lip pale reddish brown; dorsal sepal 6–7 × 1.8–2.5 cm, elliptic or narrowly obovate, acute-apiculate;

lateral sepals 6–7 × 2–2.4 cm, elliptic or narrowly obovate, acute-apiculate; petals 24 × 4 mm, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, apiculate; lip 6.2 × 3.3 cm, cuneate-obovate, obtuse; lip 6.3–7.2 × 4.7–4.9 cm, cuneate, obovate, blade distinctly narrowed, basal ridges 7–8 mm, well separated, verruculose between ridges, with 7–8 low keels, margin somewhat ruffled; column 4–4.2 cm, arms ca. 3.5 × 2 mm, upcurved, column trigonous, below with 2 raised keels and between them a raised plate with 3 furrows.

ETYMOLOGY: This is the species known as “la chocolata” in El Valle de Antón, though the color seems to me closer to *café con leche* than to chocolate (Fig. 5). Since the people of El Valle have chosen chocolate, I use the epithet *theobromina*, referring, of course, to *Theobroma cacao*, the source of chocolate. This is certainly the same species that I illustrated in 2001 as being a variant of *S. chrysostoma*, and in its details, *S. theobromina* resembles *S. chrysostoma* much more than it does *S. citrea*. *Sobralia theobromina* differs from both *S. chrysostoma* and *S. citrea* in lip color, in the smaller, abruptly tapering blade of the lip, and in the leaves that are more furfuraceous beneath and with veins that are distinctly hispid. If one spreads the lips, all three species are about 5 cm wide at the widest point, but in *S. theobromina* the blade (the colored



Fig. 5. *Sobralia theobromina*. Type plant, in cultivation, Chiriqui, Panama. Photograph: K. Dressler.

portion) is about 2.5 cm wide at the midpoint, while the lips of other yellow-lipped species are about 4 cm wide at the midpoint.

As implied by the name, the lip of this species is more brown than yellow. I would describe the lip as pale reddish brown or “old gold.” The various meanings of “brown” are difficult enough in English. In Spanish, “castaño,” “moreno,” “pardo,” “café” and “chocolate,” are all used but not necessarily for different colors. Rather these are the preferred terms in different areas or cultures.

SPECIMENS: Other specimens seen from the same area: 6 Nov. 2001, *Maduro y Olmos* 232 (FLAS, PMA); 20 Nov. 2003, *Maduro y Olmos* 317 (PMA, SEL); Aug.–Sep. 2003, *Dressler* 6401, (MO, PMA).