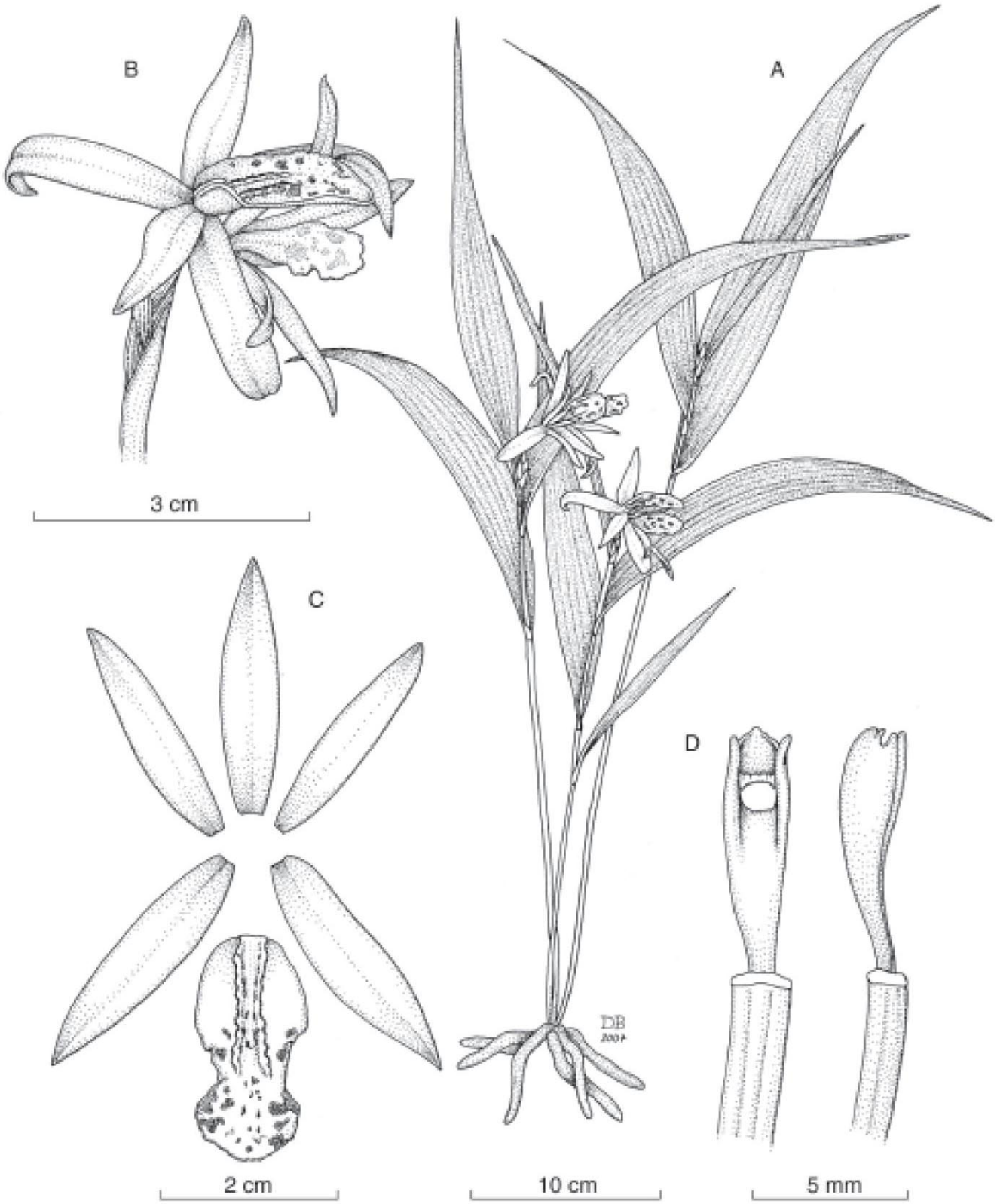
Sobralia fuzukiae **Dressler & Bogarín,** ***sp. nov.***

HOLOTYPE: Panamá, Bocas del Toro, Culebra; pressed from cult. 9 Jan. 2007. *R. L. Dressler 6810* (PMA, Isotype J.B.L. spirit.)

Differt a Sobralia quinata Dressler inflorescentiis multo brevioribus non valde recurvis, floribus non valde tortilibus, labelli tribus carinis interioribus per totam longitudinis quam exteriorum humilioribus lobulis elatioribus destitutis.

Roots to ca. 6 mm in diameter; stems 14–31 cm (the shorter stems sometimes leafless), ca. 2.5 mm wide basally; Leaves 0–4 per stem, 13.5–24.5 × 1.8–3 cm, elliptic, long-acuminate;



inflorescence terminal, ellipsoid, 20–22 × 4 mm; ovary and pedicel ca. 15 mm; sepals and petals pale yellow or yellow-tan, lip white, the two outer, crenate keels with purple margins, other keels and mid-lobe spotted with red-purple; sepals and petals lance-elliptic, acute, dorsal sepal 24–30 × 5.5–6 mm; lateral sepals 23-30 x 5.5-6 mm; petals 22-26 x 5-5.5

Fig. 2. *Sobralia fuzukiae*. A. Habit. B. Flowers in natural position. C. Sepals, petals and lip, flattened. D. Column, ventral and lateral views. Illustration by Diego Bogarin.

Fig 3. *Sobralia fuzukiae*. The first flowering of the type plant in the Jardín Botánico Lankester. The species is floriferous and attractive. Photograph by Franco Pupulin.

Fig. 4. *Sobralia quinata*, a close relative of *S. fuzukiae*, showing the flowers in the usual unattractive position, and the long curved inflorescence. Photograph by Kerry Dressler.

mm; lip 21–27 × 11–14; base of lip rounded, ovate, 12–14 mm wide, isthmus 7–8 mm wide; midlobe obovate, 10–16 × 10–11 mm; lip with 2 prominent outer undulate-crenate keels 12–14 mm long from near base, and 3 much lower keels 12–14 mm long that usually decrease in height to disappear on the midlobe; in some flowers, these inner keels rise a bit near the middle of the lip and then decrease in height; basal callus U-shaped, 1.5 mm, 1 mm tall; column 9.5 × 10 mm, 2.5 mm tall, lobule (arm) ca. 2 mm, porrect.

Sobralia fuzukiae (Figs. 2 [page 697], 3) is closely allied to *S. quinata* Dressler, a species widely distributed in Costa Rica. In *S. quinata* (Fig. 4), the flowers twist around during development, so that the lip usually faces the stem of the plant. In other words, it seems determined to hide its face. Further, *S. quinata* has three prominent keels between the outer keels and these are tallest at or near their apices, with some erect lobules. The flowers of *S. fuzukiae* twist a bit to one side, but not so much as to hide the lip. Further, the inner keels of *S. fuzukiae* start much lower than the outer keels at their bases and then (usually) decrease until they can scarcely be distinguished on the mid-lobe. It is noteworthy that the shortest of the flowering stems at hand is quite leafless, as often occurs in *S. leucoxantha* and some of its close allies; and the remaining stems each have only one to four leaves. The inflorescences of *S. quinata*, and most of its close allies, are markedly curved, and grow up to 3.5 cm (1.5 inches) in length, with the flowers being produced from the outer edge of the curved inflorescence. In the case of *S. fuzukiae*, the inflorescences are only 20 to 22 mm long (less than 1 inch), and only slightly curved. The vein pattern beneath the leaf of *S. fuzukiae* is also unusual, though similar to the patterns of *S. nutans* and *S. quinata*. Each leaf is corrugated, with about nine longitudinal folds or ridges, as seen from beneath (each "ridge" is, of course, a shallow groove as seen from above). In each of the two outer ridges on each side, there is a single vein running the length of the leaf; in the next two on each side, there are two closely spaced veins on each ridge, and in the less prominent central ridge, there are three longitudinal veins. Although unusual, this pattern is not terribly obvious without a lens.

ETYMOLOGY: This species is named in honor of Julia Fuzuki Miura, who worked as a volunteer at La Yeguada in Panama for two years in 1995–1997. She became a member of COSPA (Conservación de Orquideas Silvestres de Panamá) in February 2003, stayed in Panama until May in El Valle de Antón, where she worked with APROVACA (Asociación de Productores de Orquídeas de El Valle y Cabuya), visited Panama for several months in 2004 and returned in 2005. Then, she took a job as secretary to the president of Panasonic Central America, so that she could remain in Panama, where she visited her friends in El Valle every weekend. Her activities in Panama ended with her

death in January 2007. Friends describe her as "more Panamanian than the Panamanians." She is deeply missed by her many Panamanian friends, who wish to honor her with the name of one of the Panamanian orchids that she so loved.