

111. **SOBRALIA LUERORUM** Dodson, sp. nov.

Similis *Sobraliae roseae* Poeppig & Endl., a qua distinguitur floribus majoribus, tenuioribus, albis, labello albo ornato maculis rubro-purpureis in lamina et in gurgite, et labello elliptico-retuso sine binis callis crassis in basi.

Orig. Coll: Ecuador: Azuay: Cuenca to Guarumales, between dam & casa de Maquinas, 1500 m, 9 March 1985, C. & P. Dodson & C. & J. Luer 15782 (Holotype RPSC; Isotypes QCNE, QCA, AMES).

ETIMOLOGÍA: Nombrado en honor del Dr. Carlyle A. Luer y Sra, quienes participaron en la recolección de la planta y han contribuido inmensamente al conocimiento de las orquídeas de la subtribu pleurothallidinae.

ETYMOLOGY: Named to honor Dr. and Mrs. Carlyle Luer who participated in the collection of the plant and have contributed immensely to an understanding of the pleurothallid orchids.

OTHER SPECIMENS SEEN: Ecuador: Azuay: Cuenca to Guarumales, between dam & casa de Maquinas, 1525 m, 16 February 1977, *Boeke & Loyola* 1040 (SEL); same locality, 1700 m, 3 February 1988, *Molau et al.* 2882 (QCNE, GB). Morona-Santiago: Guarumales to Río Bombaiza, Cuenca del Río Paute, 1600 m, *Cerón* 13806 (QCNE). Napo: Quito to Tena, km 117, 1900 m, 17 January 1990, *Dodson & Neudecker* 18193A (MO); Baeza to Tena, Cord. Huacamayo, 1800 m, March 1991, *Hirtz et al.* 5342 (QCNE). Tungurahua: Baños to Puyo, km 70, 1300 m, 18 February 1963, *Dodson & Thien* 2270 (SEL, QCA); Baños, Volcan Tungurahua on lava flow, 2500 m, 7 January 1962, *Dodson & Thien* 1831 (SEL); Baños to Puyo, Río Negro, 1200 m, 24 April 1983, *Gentry & Bonifaz* 28740 (MO, SEL).

Plant epiphytic or terrestrial on road cuts and embankments. Plant caespitose, rhizome short, stems cane-like, to 2 m tall, surrounded for the basal portion with clasping sheaths. Leaves elliptic, coriaceous, acuminate at the apex, distichous, heavily veined on the underside, clasping the stem at the base, articulated to the leaf-sheath surrounding the stem, to 35 x 10 cm. Inflorescence apical, elongate, to 20 cm long, fractiflex with a large, spathe-like bract at each node, the flowers produced singly in succession over prolonged periods with flowering concurrent throughout the population. Sepals and petals white, the lip white heavily splashed with red-purple on the lamina and in the throat, veins in the lip yellow; dorsal sepal narrowly oblong, acute, to 7.5 x 2 cm; lateral sepals obliquely elliptic, acute, to 7 x 2.2 cm; petals oblong-obovate,

obtuse, to 7 x 2.2 cm; lip elliptic, retuse at the apex, with a pair of shallow lamellae in the throat, to 7 x 4 cm; column slender at the base, expanded on each side toward the apex to form wings with a falcate horn like projection from their apices on each side of the column; pollinia soft, meally, white.

NOTAS: Se parece a *Sobralia gloriosa* Rchb. f., con la diferencia de que las flores son más grandes y de consistencia más tenue; los sépalos y pétalos son blancos (en *S. gloriosa* los sépalos varían de amarillo apagado a marrón, los pétalos de blanco a amarillo); y el labelo tiene manchas rojo-púrpuras en la lámina y garganta, es elíptico-retuso (no ancho-elíptico con ápice bilobulado), y el par de callos que lleva en la garganta son poco visibles (no grandes y llamativos).

NOTES: Similar to *Sobralia gloriosa* Rchb. f but distinguished by the larger flowers of thinner substance, the white sepals and petals, the lip with red-purple splashing on the lamina and throat rather than tawny yellow to brown sepals, white to yellow petals, the elliptic-retuse lip rather than broadly elliptic and bilobed at the apex, the pair of calli in the throat of the lip inconspicuous rather than large and conspicuous, as in *S. gloriosa*.

This species was confused by Garay with *S. gloriosa* Rchb. f in his treatment of the genus for the Flora of Ecuador. That species only occurs on the western slopes while *S. luerorum* is restricted to the eastern slope of the Andes in Ecuador.