Sobralia fragrans
Lindl.
Gard. Chron. 598. 1853

Type: Native country of the plant unknown, flowered in the collection of Robert Hanbury, Esq., at Poles near Ware [England], 07 September 1853, Hanbury s.n. (holotype, K).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Juan de Dios, Bahía Mála-ga-Buenaventura (Choco Biogeographic Region). Tropical rain forest. 0 m, on red mangrove branches (Rizophora mangle L.). Jan 2018. YAA 214 (HALLE, LCDP voucher).

Epiphytic, caespitose herb, up to 25 cm tall. Roots ca. 5 mm wide. Stems 120–150 × 3–4 mm, 1-foliate; covered by a basal, acute, glumaceous sheath. Leaves elliptic, acute, plicate, 16.5–23.5 × 4.0–5.5 cm. Inflorescence terminal, covered by a ovate foliar bract, with a single ephemeral and membranous flower; floral bracts concealed by a infundibuliform sheath, 1.2–2.0 × 0.6–1.8 cm; peduncle ancipitose, 16–26 cm long. Ovary terete to clavate, ca. 20 mm long, 1.8 mm wide. Flowers cream yellow, the lip white with yellow trichomes and keels. Sepals lanceolate, obtuse, with a prominent middle vein on the abaxial surface, minutely apiculate, dorsal sepal 37–40 × 7.7–8.0 mm, lateral sepals 33–36 × 7.4–7.5 mm. Petals cream yellow, transluscent, lanceolate, acute, minutely apiculate, 40 × 8 mm. Lip obovate, emarginate, 3-lobed, fimbriate; midlobe markedly undulate, 9-keeled, the keels covered with trichomes on the apical half; callus basal, ca. 5 × 3 mm. Column subclavate, ca. 2 cm long, 1.7 mm wide, the apex with two upcurved arms, 6 × 2 mm. Stigma ca. 3.0 × 2.5 mm. Anther cap ovate, cucullate, two-celled, 2.5 × 2.8 mm. Pollinia 8, pale yellow, soft, granulose, in two pairs of different size. Sobralia fragrans is distinguished by its 1-leaved stem and its ancipitose and long peduncle. The species occurs from Mexico to Ecuador and Venezuela, can be found growing from sea level up to 1200 m elevation. The epithet 'fragrans' refers to the pleasant smell emitted by the flowers.

References: