



R. chameleon Luer & R. Escobar
(Forma rayada)



R. chameleon Luer & R. Escobar
(Forma con manchas grandes)



R. chameleon Luer & R. Escobar
(Forma con puntos diminutos)

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R. chameleon Luer & R. Escobar
(Forma amarillosa)

2. *RESTREPIA CHAMELEON* Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada por el camaleón, un lagartijo que cambia de color.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for a *chameleon*, the lizard that changes color.

Species haec *R. antenniferae* H.B.K. similis, sed synsepalis eburneis roseo punctatis vel roseo striatis et labello elliptico cum hypochilio brevi indistincto differt.

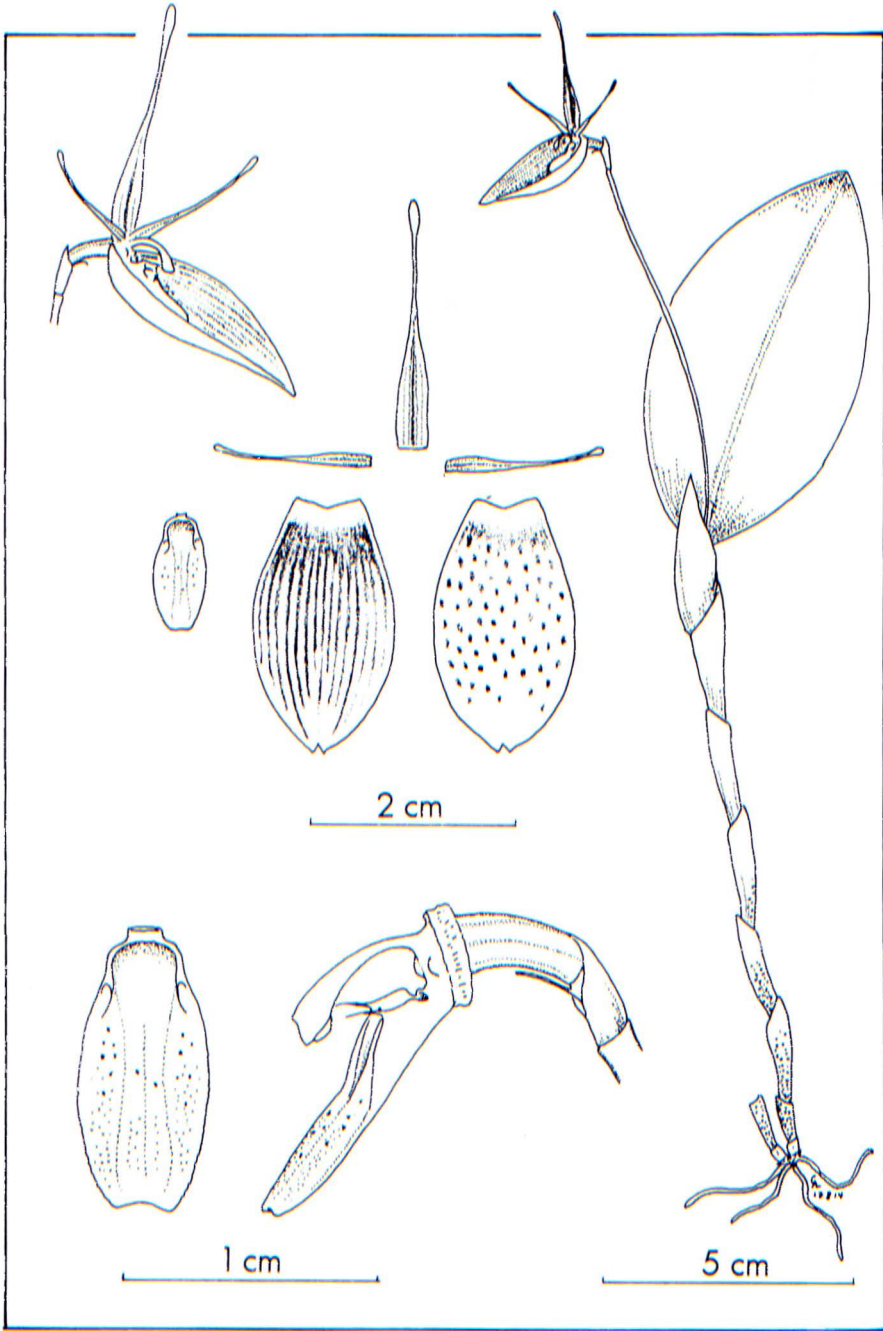
Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 8-18 cm long, enclosed by 5-10 thin, whitish, loose, compressed, more or less imbricating sheaths, the lowermost spotted or marked transversely with black. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute, 5-9 cm long,

2-5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, contracted into a twisted petiole 0.5-1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced successively in a fascicle up the back side of the leaf; peduncle slender, 5-9 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 4 mm long; pedicel stout, 3 mm long, with a shorter filament; ovary 5 mm long; **sepals** membranous, the dorsal sepal free, erect, translucent white with the midvein red-purple, narrowly ovate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 24-42 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide above the base, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into a shallowly concave, elliptical lamina, white or pale yellow, spotted or striped in light purple, 25-43 mm long, 14-15 mm wide expanded, multiple-veined, the apex subacute to obtuse, minutely bifid; **petals** membranous, translucent white with the midvein and marginal veins purple, narrowly linear-triangular, the margins with or without capillary processes near the base, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 16-20 mm long, 1.75-2 mm wide at the base; **lip** pale rose to pale orange, lightly spotted with orange-brown, elliptical oblong, 10-11 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, the epichile indistinct from the hypochile, microscopically subverrucose with smooth margins, the apex truncate, the hypochile suborbicular, concave with erect margins, each side with a thin, attenuated, uncinat process, the disc with a pair of low carinae extending forward from the base of each process onto the epichile, the base subtruncate, connected to the column-foot by a rigid, cylindrical neck; **column** greenish white, slender, clavate, 6 mm long, the base pedestal-like with a pair of yellow, obtuse calli.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Norte de Santander: Páramo de Jurisdicciones, epiphytic in forested, subparamo valley, alt. 2700 m, collected by E. Valencia, 1984, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 10 Apr. 1988, *C. Luer 13130* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO);

Esta especie está muy cercanamente relacionada con *R. antennifera*, de la que se diferencia principalmente en el color de las flores y la morfología del labelo. Aparentemente se conoce únicamente de un valle boscoso de subpáramo, abajo del Páramo de Jurisdicciones, en la Cordillera Oriental de Colombia, muy cerca de otro valle en el que se encuentra *R. citrina*.

Restrepia chameleon se caracteriza por el hábito grande y las flores relativamente grandes, que presentan el carácter único de exhibir puntos o rayas. La mayoría de los sinsépalos son blancos o rosado-blancuecinos, pero un significativo porcentaje es de color amarillo pálido. En cualquiera de los casos, la pigmentación adicional consiste de pequeñas manchas dispersas, pequeñas manchas en surcos, o en rayas, bien sea parciales o bien definidas. Más característico es el labelo ampliamente oblongo-elíptico, el cual es microscópicamente celular-verrucoso, con el hipoquilo proporcionalmente corto y poco notorio.



Restrepia chameleon Luer & R. Escobar

This species is very closely allied to *R. antennifera*, differing principally in the color of the flowers and morphology of the lip. Apparently the former is known from only a single, forested, subparamo valley below the Páramo de Jurisdicciones in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia, very near another valley in which *R. citrina* occurs.

Restrepia chameleon is characterized by the large habit, and relatively large flowers that exhibit the unique quality of bearing either spots or stripes. Most synsepals are white or pinkish white, but a significant percentage are pale yellow. In either case, the additional pigmentation consists of small dispersed spots, small spots in rows, or stripes either partial or well-defined. Most distinguishing is the broadly elliptical-oblong, microscopically cellular-verrucose lip with the hypochile proportionately short and indistinct.