



R. cuprea Luer & R. Escobar
(Forma típica)

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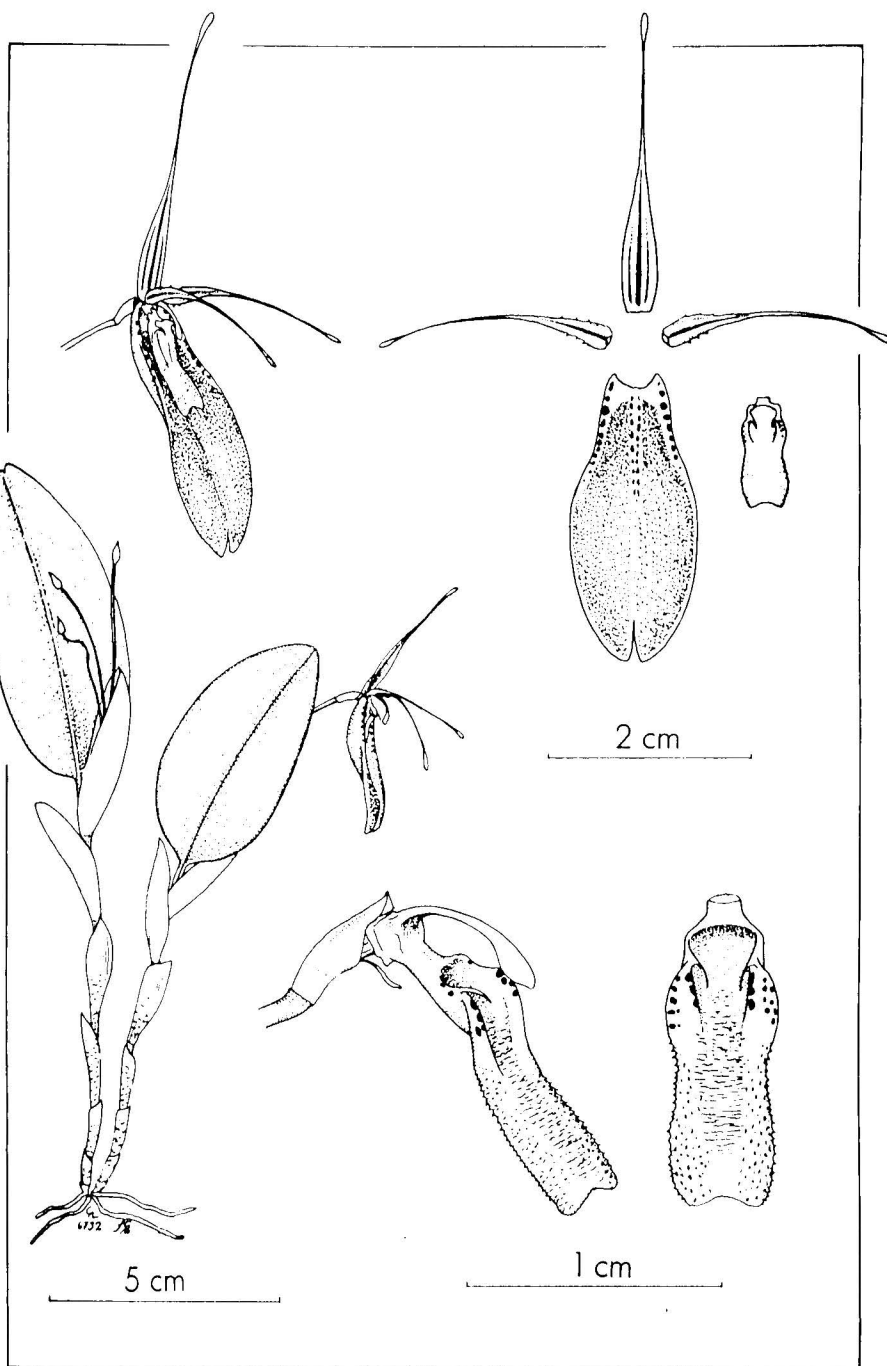
6. **RESTREPIA CUPREA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *cupreus*, “color de cobre”, en alusión al color del sinsépalo.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *cupreus*, “copper-colored,” referring to the color of the synsepal.

Planta mediocris grandisve, pedunculo folio dimidiolongo, flore mediocri, synsepalis intense cupreo, labello brunneo oblongo truncato microscopice verrucoso-denticulato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 5-8 cm long, enclosed by 6-7 thin, whitish, loose, compressed, more or less imbricating sheaths, the lower sheaths dotted with black. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, often suffused with purple beneath, elliptical-ovate, subacute, 5-7 cm long, 2-3.5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, contracted into a twisted petiole 0.5-1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced



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successively in a fascicle up the back side of the leaf; peduncle slender, 4-5 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 5-6 mm long; pedicel stout, 1.5 mm long, with a filament 3 mm long; ovary purple, lightly ribbed, 3 mm long; **sepals** membranous, the dorsal sepal free, erect, translucent yellow-white with the midvein purple-brown, narrowly ovate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 29-30 mm long, 3.75 mm wide above the base, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into a shallowly concave, elliptical lamina, diffusely suffused with orange-brown (coppery), yellow at the base, with purple spots along the margins below the middle, purple, 28-30 mm long, 13 mm wide expanded, multiple-veined, the apex subacute to obtuse, minutely bifid; **petals** membranous, translucent white, with the midvein and margins purple, narrowly linear-triangular, the margins minutely and sparsely denticulate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 23 mm long, 2 mm wide above the base; **lip** brown, lightly dotted with darker brown lateral to the carinae below the middle, oblong, 11 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the epichile broadly oblong, microscopically cellular-pubescent or cellular echinate, with microscopically serrulate margins, the apex truncate-retuse, the hypochile subquadrate, concave with thin, erect margins, each side with a small, capillary, 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 with a dark purple spot at the base, slender, clavate, 6 mm long, the base yellow, pedestal-like, with a pair of obtuse calli.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Cocorná, Quebrada La Hundida, alt. 1700 m, collected by L. C. Vieira, 1981, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 9 May 1993, *C. Luer* 16677 (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO); same collection, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 2 Aug. 1984, *R. Escobar* 3348 (JAUM); same collection, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 22 Nov. 1981, *C. Luer* 6732 (SEL). Rio Cocorná, alt. 1600 m, 24 Apr. 1983, *C. Luer*, *J. Luer*, *R. Escobar*, *M. Webb*, *A. Pridgeon* & *L. Vieira* 8797 (SEL).

Restrepia cuprea se conoce de solamente un valle en los declives de la Cordillera Central de Colombia en donde fue descubierta por Luis Carlos Vieira. Está muy cercanamente relacionada con *R. guttulata* y podría ser tratada como simplemente otra forma de color de esta especie, pero las plantas que se encuentran en esta localidad pueden reconocerse por un hábito más corto y macizo, pedúnculos más cortos y flores característicamente coloridas. A excepción de unas pocas manchas moradas a lo largo de las márgenes abajo de la mitad y amarillo en la base, el sinsépalo es de un rico y sólido color cobre como no se ve otro en el género. El ancho y oblongo labelo tampoco es manchado a excepción de unas pecas a

los lados debajo de la mitad. La lámina es diminutamente escabrosa y denticulada. La especie aparece ilustrada en *Orquídeas Nativas de Colombia* (Escobar, 1992). Otras formas de color de *R. guttulata*, como *R. robledorum*, son indiferenciables a no ser por el tamaño y color de las manchas.

Restrepia cuprea is known from only one valley on the eastern slopes of the Central Cordillera of Colombia where it was discovered by Luis Carlos Vieira. It is most closely related to *R. guttulata*, and could conceivably be treated as just another color-form, but the plants found in this locality appear distinct with a shorter, stouter habit, shorter peduncles, and distinctively colored flowers. Except for a few purple spots along the margin below the middle and yellow at the base, the synsepal is a solid, rich, coppery color, like no other seen in the genus. The broad, oblong lip is also unspotted except for a few dots on the sides below the middle. The blade is minutely scabrous and denticulate. It is pictured in *Native Colombian Orchids* (Escobar, 1992). Other color-forms of *R. guttulata*, such as *R. robledorum*, are indistinguishable except for the size and color of the spots.