



*R. purpurea* Luer & R. Escobar

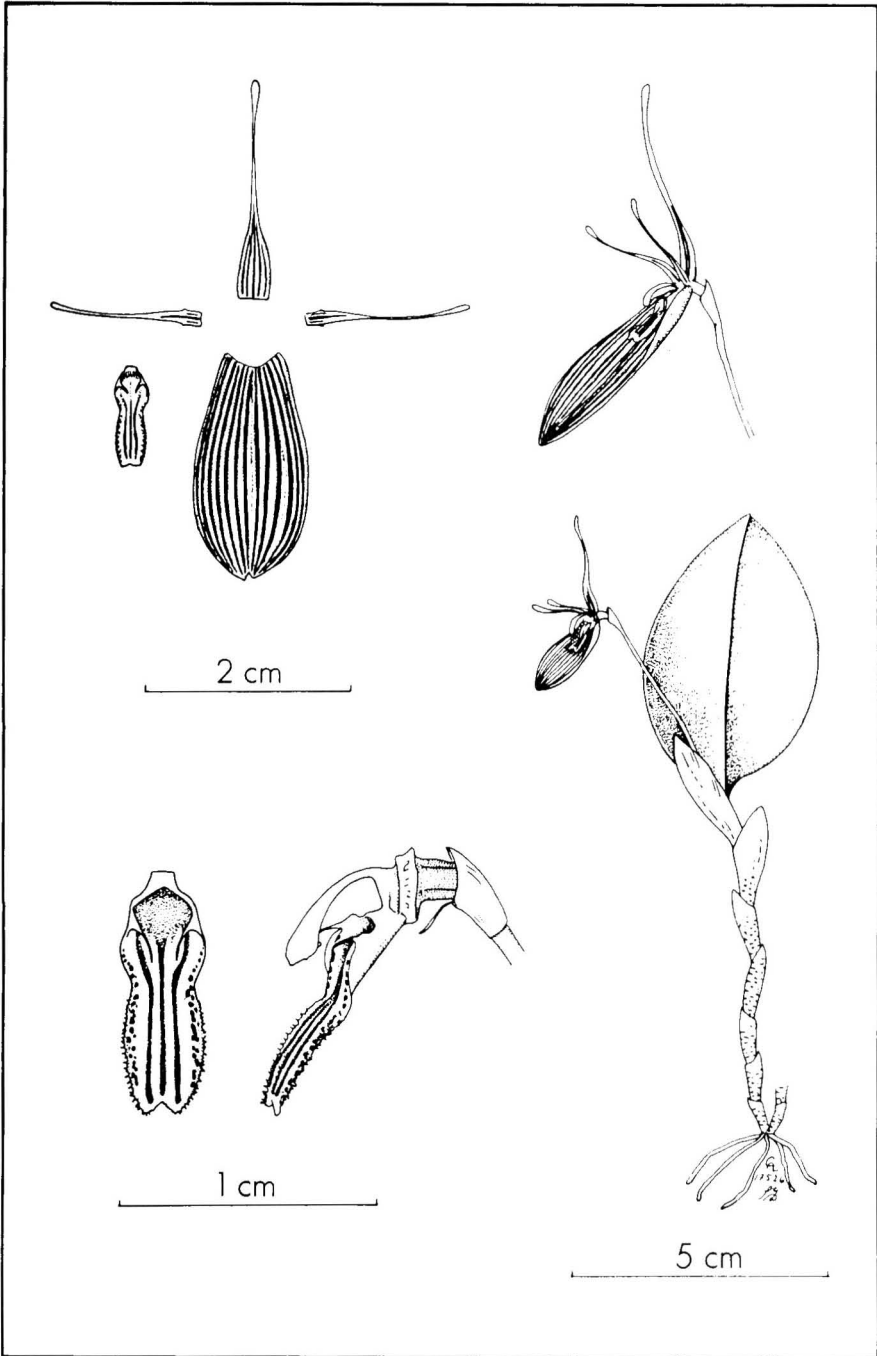
15. **RESTREPIA PURPUREA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del latín *purpurea*, “morada”, en alusión al sinsépalo intensamente rayado de morado.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *purpurea*, “purple,” referring to the intensely purple-striped synsepal.

Species haec *R. brachypus* Rchb.f. similis, sed statura florequae minoribus, pedunculis folio purpureo late ovato obtuso dimidiolongis, synsepalo intense purpureo-striatis, labello striato oblongo non pandutato differt.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 3.5-8 cm long, enclosed by 5-7 thin, whitish, loose, compressed, more or less imbricating sheaths, the lower sheath spotted with black. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple, ovate, obtuse, 4-5.5 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, contracted into a twisted petiole 5-7 mm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced successively in a fascicle up the back surface of the leaf; peduncle slender, 3-4 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 4 mm long; pedicel stout, 2 mm long, with a filament 2-3 mm long; ovary purple, lightly sulcate, 3 mm long; **sepals** membranous, the dorsal sepal free, erect, translucent, veined in purple, narrowly ovate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 22 mm long, 3 mm wide above the base, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into a shallowly concave, elliptical-obovate lamina, white, intensely striped with bright purple, confluent toward the base, 22 mm long, 11 mm wide expanded, 12-veined, the apex obtuse, minutely bifid; **petals** membranous, translucent white, veined in purple, narrowly linear-ovate, the margins microscopically cellular-erose near the base, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 16 mm long, 1.75 mm wide at the base; **lip** orange-brown with 3 purple stripes, oblong, 9 mm long, 3 mm wide, the epichile oblong, retuse, with denticulate-fimbriate very slightly constricted below the middle, the hypochile suborbicular, concave with thin, erect margins, each side with a capillary, uncinuate process, the disc with a pair of low carinae extending forward from the base of each



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process onto the epichile, the base subtruncate, connected to the column-foot by a rigid, cylindrical neck; **column** white, slender, clavate, 5 mm long, the base pedestal-like with a pair of obtuse calli.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Nariño: Sotomayor, collected by J. Aguirre, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 23 May 1995, *C. Luer 17545* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO); Sotomayor, alt. 1650, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 6 Apr. 1988, *C. Luer 13060* (MO); same collection, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 9 May 1993, *C. Luer 16666* (MO).

Esta especie está muy cercanamente relacionada con la frecuente y variable *R. brachypus* Rchb.f., y ha sido considerada una forma rara de esta especie, limitada a una región muy al sur de Colombia, pero completamente dentro de la distribución de *R. brachypus*. Sin embargo, *R. purpurea* puede identificarse fácilmente entre plantas de ésta última. *Restrepia purpurea* se distingue por el hábito más pequeño, macizo, con hojas ampliamente ovadas, obtusas, de color morado oscuro. Los pedúnculos son apenas de aproximadamente la mitad de la longitud de la hoja, mientras que los de *R. brachypus* son frecuentemente tan largos o más largos que la hoja. Las flores de *R. purpurea* son más pequeñas que la flor promedio de *R. brachypus*, y el sinsépalo es blanco en vez de amarillo, y prominentemente rayado con rayas mucho más anchas de color morado brillante. El labelo es oblongo, más ancho que el de la corriente *R. brachypus*, y apenas ligeramente angostado cerca de la mitad en vez de pandurado. Las láminas de ambas especies son fimbriado-denticuladas.

This species is very closely allied to the frequent and variable *R. brachypus* Rchb.f., and has been considered to be an unusual form limited to an area of southernmost Colombia, completely within the distribution of *R. brachypus*. However, *R. purpurea* is easily identified among plants of the former. *Restrepia purpurea* is distinguished by the smaller, stouter habit with broadly ovate, obtuse, dark purple leaves. The peduncles are only about half as long as the leaf, while those of *R. brachypus* are often as long as or longer than the leaf. The flowers of *R. purpurea* are smaller than the average flower of *R. brachypus*, and the synsepal is white instead of yellow, and prominently striped with much broader, bright purple stripes. The lip is oblong, broader than that of the usual *R. brachypus*, and barely narrowed near the middle instead of pandurate. The blades of both species are denticulate-fimbriate.