



R. echinata Luer & R. Escobar.

8. **RESTREPIA ECHINATA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *echinatus*, “equinado”, en alusión al erizado epiquilo del labelo.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *echinatus*, “echinate,” referring to the bristly epichile of the lip.

Species haec *R. eleganti* H.Karst. similis, sed floribus minoribus, synsepalo flavo infra medium intense maculato, labelli hypochilio marginibus conspicue angulatis et epichilio latiore valde echinato fimbriatoque distinguitur.

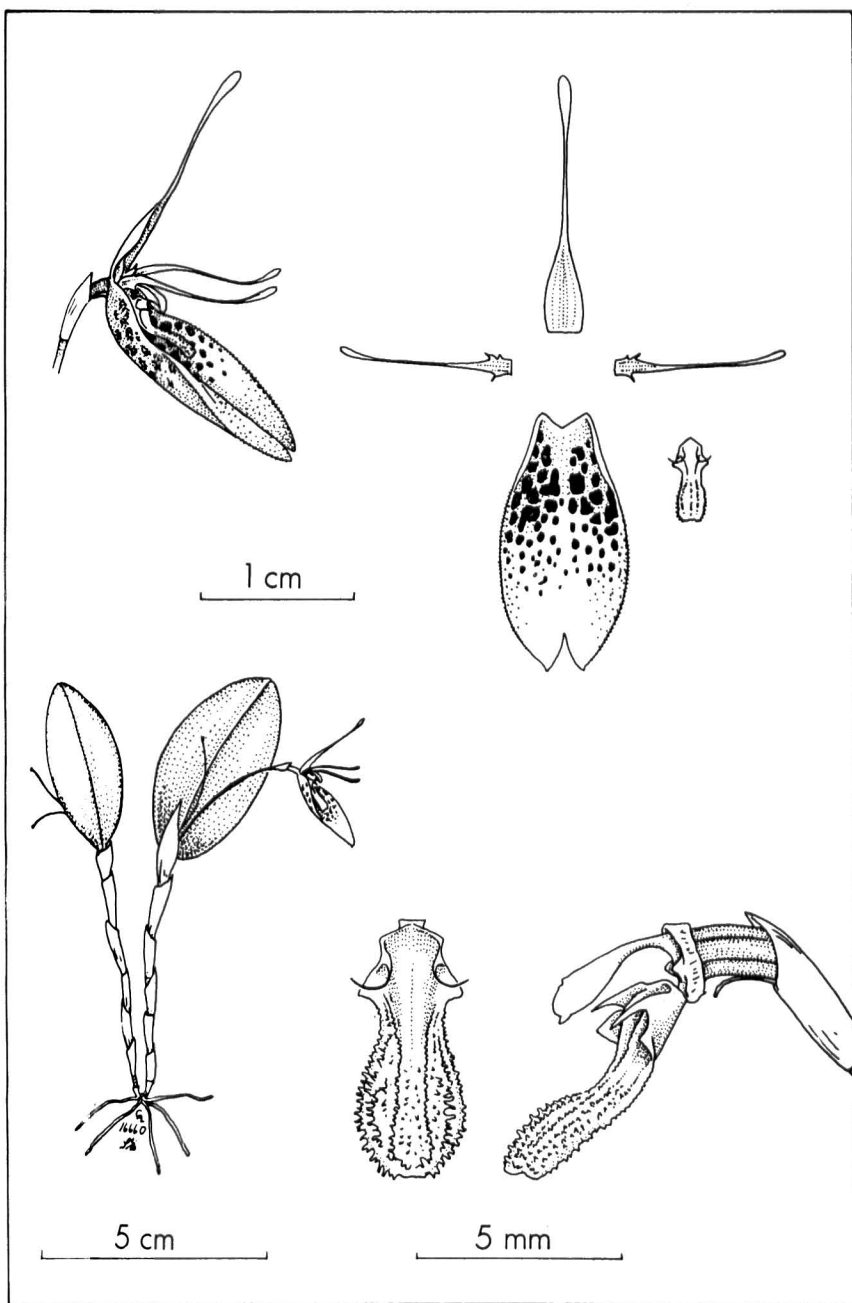
Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 3-5 cm long, enclosed by 3-6 loose, compressed, more or less spotted, more or less imbricating sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute to obtuse, 3.5-4 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate, contracted

into a twisted petiole ca. 0.5 cm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced successively in a fascicle behind the leaf; peduncle slender, 2.5-3.5 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 4-5 mm long; pedicel stout, 3-5 mm long, with a short filament; ovary lightly sulcate, 3 mm long; **sepals** membranous, the dorsal sepal free, erect, translucent white with the midvein purple-brown, narrowly ovate in the lower third, attenuated above with the apex clavate-thickened, 11-17 mm long, 2-2.5 mm wide above the base, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into a shallowly concave, obovate, shortly bifid lamina, yellow, spotted with brown or purple, the spots large and coalescing below the middle, disappearing toward the apex, 11-17 mm long, 6-9 mm wide, multiple-veined, the apices obtuse; **petals** membranous, suffused with purple, narrowly linear-ovate, the margins with 1-2 capillary appendages above the base, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 7.5-11 mm long, 1 mm wide above the base; **lip** yellow or rose, spotted with purple, subpandurate, 4.5-6 mm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, the epichile elliptical, truncate, coarsely echinate, fimbriate, the hypochile subquadrate, with abrupt, subacute, marginal angles just below the isthmus, concave with thin, erect margins toward the base, each side with a thin, uncinat process, the disc with a pair of carinae extending forward from the sides of the hypochile onto the epichile, the base subtruncate, connected to the column-foot by a short, thick neck; **column** greenish white, slender, clavate, 3 mm long, the base pedestal-like with a pair of small, obtuse calli.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Norte de Santander: Sardinata, alt. 1730 m, collected by C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & D. Portillo, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas as #6, 9 May 1993, *C. Luer 16660* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO).

PERU: Without locality, obtained by A. Hirtz from M. Arias, flowered in cultivation in Quito, 1995, by *A. Hirtz 6221* (MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 17745.

Este taxon está cercanamente relacionado con el variable concepto tratado como *Restrepia elegans*. Vegetativa y floralmente los dos taxones son similares, las flores de *R. echinata* por lo general más pequeñas. La morfología del labelo fácilmente distingue a *R. echinata*. En contorno, el labelo de *R. echinata* es subpandurado con el istmo comparativamente ancho. Inmediatamente debajo del istmo las márgenes del hipoquilo están abruptamente dilatadas en ángulos subagudos los cuales son mas notorios en la *R. elegans* corriente. Las márgenes del hipoquilo debajo de los ángulos están provistas de un proceso uncinado, corto. Más extraordinario es el ancho, ovado y orlado epiquilo, el cual es equinado más o menos en tres surcos longitudinales. La lámina de *R. elegans* es apenas diminutamente denticulado-verrucosa, con frecuencia lisa a simple vista.



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Aunque separadas geográficamente en grado sumo, se reconocen dos poblaciones que encajan en la anterior descripción. La población colombiana fue considerada una forma aberrante de *R. elegans* hasta que plantas casi idénticas fueron identificadas del Perú.

This taxon is closely related to the variable concept treated as *Restrepia elegans*. Vegetatively and florally the two taxa are similar, the flowers of *R. echinata* usually being smaller. The morphology of the lip easily distinguishes *R. echinata*. In outline, the lip of *R. echinata* is subpandurate with the isthmus comparatively broad. Immediately below the isthmus the margins of the hypochile are abruptly dilated into subacute angles that are more conspicuous in the usual *R. elegans*. The margins of the hypochile below the angles are provided with short, uncinat processes. Most remarkable is the broad, ovate, fringed epichile that is echinate, more or less in three longitudinal rows. The blade of *R. elegans* is only minutely denticulate-verrucose, often smooth to the naked eye.

Although vastly separated geographically, two populations that fit the above description are recognized. The Colombian population was considered an aberrant form of *R. elegans* until nearly identical plants were identified from Peru.