

19. **RESTREPIA SCHIZOSEPALA** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del griego *schizosepalum*, “un sépalo partido”, en alusión al sinsépalo bifurcado.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *schizosepalum*, “a split sepal,” referring to the forked synsepalum.

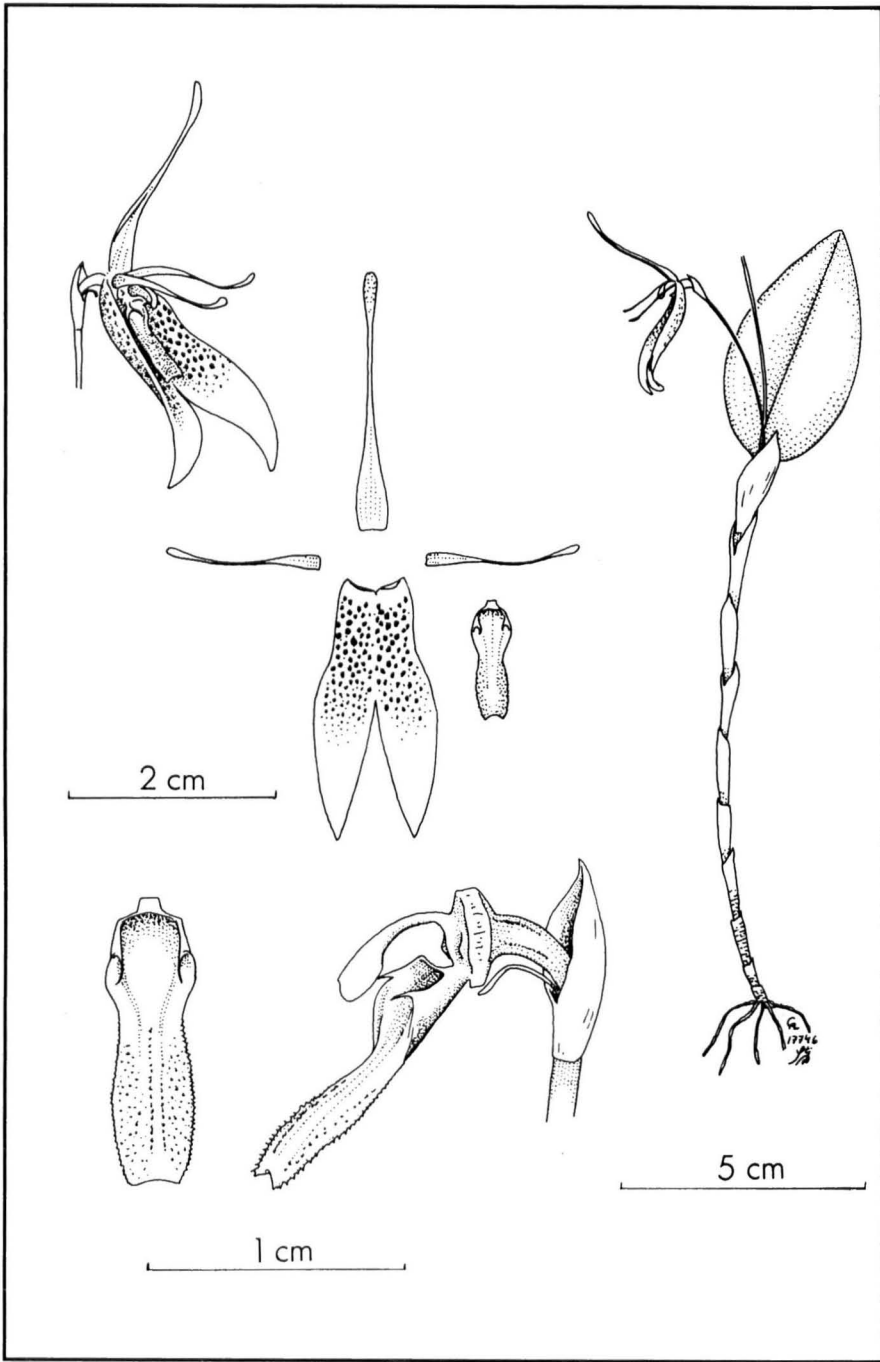
Species haec *R. maculatae* Lindl., *R. guttulatae* Lindl. et affinitatis similis, sed synsepalo aurantiaco infra medium guttulis profunde fisso, et labello oblongo proportionem majorem distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** erect, 8-11 cm long, enclosed by 8-9 thin, whitish, loose, compressed, more or less imbricating sheaths, the lowermost sheaths with black dots in bars. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, ovate, subacute, 4-5 cm long, 2.5-3 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, contracted into a petiole of negligible length. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced successively in a fascicle up the back of the leaf; peduncle slender, 4 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 7 mm long; pedicel stout, 3 mm long, with a filament equally long; ovary lightly sulcate, 4-5 mm long; **sepals** membranous, the dorsal sepal free, erect, translucent, with the midvein red-purple, narrowly ovate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate, 25 mm long, 3.5 mm wide above the base, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate 10 mm into a bifid lamina, shallowly concave toward the base, dark orange, dotted with red-purple below the middle, each sepal narrowly elliptical, oblique, acute, 25 mm long, 6 mm wide, free for 15 mm, the apices acute; **petals** membranous, translucent, with the midvein and margins suffused with purple, narrowly linear-ovate, the margins entire, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 15 mm long, 1.6 mm wide above the base; **lip** orange, darker centrally with a few spots, oblong, minimally pandurate, 11 mm long, 3-3.5 mm wide, the epichile oblong, minutely verrucose and minutely denticulate, the apex subtruncate-retuse, the hypochile subquadrate, concave with thin, erect margins, each side with a short, capillary, uncinat processes, the disc with a pair of low carinae extending forward from the bases of the processes onto the epichile, the base truncate, 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 yellow, obtuse calli.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Sucumbios: near La Bonita, collected by J. Del Hierro, flowered in cultivation in Quito by *A. Hirtz* 6230 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17746.

Esta especie parece ser endémica en una región muy norteña del noreste del Ecuador en donde fue descubierta recientemente. No se conoce otro miembro del género de esta región. Aunque es muy similar al grupo de especies relacionadas con *R. maculata*, *R. schizosepala* se distingue inmediatamente por el sinsépalo hendido. El sinsépalo de otras pocas especies puede ocasionalmente hendirse espontáneamente cerca del ápice a medida que la flor envejece, pero en ninguna otra especie es la hendidura constante y tan profunda.

Los sépalos son de color naranja con pequeñas manchas rojo-moradas por debajo de la mitad. Las porciones libres no presentan manchas. Las



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márgenes de los pétalos son enteras. El oblongo labelo es proporcionalmente grande, similar al de *R. guttulata*.

This species is apparently endemic in northeasternmost Ecuador where it has been recently discovered. No other member of the genus is known from this area. Although very similar to the group of taxa related to *R. maculata*, *R. schizosepala* is immediately distinguished by the split synsepal. The synsepal of a few other species may occasionally split spontaneously near the tip as the flower ages, but in no other species is the split constant and so deep.

The sepals are orange in color with small, red-purple spots below the middle. The free portions are unmarked. The margins of the petals are entire. The oblong lip is proportionately large, similar to that of *R. guttulata*.