

***Restrepia royi* K.W. Holcomb & W. Driessen, sp. nov.**

Plant small in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender.

Ramicauls suberect to 6 cm long, enclosed by 5 thin, loose, compressed, slightly imbricating sheaths, the last of which extends beyond the base of the underside of the leaf.

Leaf 60 mm long, 40 mm wide, erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute.

Inflorescence a solitary flower, 34.5 mm long, produced successively in a fascicle along the backside of the leaf, peduncle slender, 43 mm long, floral bract thin, tubular.

Labellum (Lip) 8 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, oblong, yellow mottled with red, the hypochile convex, each side with an acute, uncinat process, the disc with a pair of low carinae extending forward from the bases of each process onto the epichile, slightly constricted in the middle, the epichile acutely concave with minutely papillose margins, the apex retuse.

Dorsal Sepal 19 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, membranous, erect, translucent white, 3-veined, the veins red, narrowly ovate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened.

Synsepal 15.5 mm long, 10.5 mm wide, lightly concave, elliptical lamina, orange, heavily mottled with red, the heaviest mottling from the middle to the base resembles the reticulated pattern of a giraffe, the apex obtuse, shortly bifid.

Petals 13 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, membranous, translucent white with a red midvein and margins, narrowly linear-ovate, attenuated above the middle with the apex slightly clavate-thickened.

Column 4 mm long, 1 mm wide, white, slender, clavate, 5 mm long, the base pedestal-like.

Eponymy: Named for Roy Driessen, the late son of Renie Beurskens and Wiel Driessen.

PERU: Without collection data. *K. W. Holcomb (Holotype: GEO 18284)*

Diagnosis: *Restrepia royi* has been circulating in the horticultural trade for more than a decade under the incorrect name *Restrepia elegans*, but it is more similar to the Bolivian species, *Restrepia vasquezii* (Luer 1996). However, there are significant differences in the morphology of the two species:

- *Restrepia royi* has a much smaller growth habit with a maximum ramicaul length of 6 cm compared to 12 cm in *R. vasquezii*.
- The flowers of *Restrepia royi* are 25-percent smaller, 34.5 mm in *R. royi* compared to 46 mm in *R. vasquezii*.
- The orange synsepal of *Restrepia royi* is heavily mottled with red. From the middle to the base, the mottling is so heavy that it resembles the reticulated pattern of a giraffe, whereas the yellow synsepal of *R. vasquezii* is diffusely and evenly spotted with purple.
- Finally, *Restrepia royi* is most easily distinguished by the lip, which has a convex epichile. The lip of this species has been compared to a buggy seat (child seat) or a chaise lounge chair. It also resembles a fun slide typically found at an amusement park or county fair.



Restrepia royi
Photos courtesy of Wiel Driessen