



# S.F.V.B.S.

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

### JULY 2017

P.O. BOX 16561, ENCINO, CA 91416-6561

sfvbromeliad.homestead.com

sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

#### Elected OFFICERS & Volunteers

Pres: **Bryan Chan and Carole Scott** V.P.: **John Martinez** Secretary: **Leni Koska** Treasurer: **Mary Chan** Membership: **Joyce Schumann** Advisors/Directors: **Steve Ball, Bryan Chan, Richard Kaz –fp, Mike Wisnev** Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz**, Refreshments: **vacant** Web: **Mike Wisnev**, Editors: **Mike Wisnev & Mary K.**, Snail Mail: **Nancy P-Hapke**

next meeting: **Saturday July 1, 2017 @ 10:00 am**

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

#### AGENDA

**9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE**

**10:00 - Door Prize – one member who arrives before 10:00 gets a Bromeliad**

**10:05 - Welcome Visitors and New Members. Make announcements and Introduce Speaker**

**10:15 –Speaker: *Robert Kopfstein***  
**“Puerto Vallarta Botanic Garden”**

Mr. Kopfstein became involved with bromeliads in the 1960’s when he was given a “rescue” plant (*Aechmea fasciata*) which had originally been a Mothers’ Day gift to a friend. Bit by bit, over the years he acquired more and more of the plants—his collection now consists of several hundred species and hybrids. His specialty in bromeliads is the terrestrials.

Professionally he was an English professor and a reading specialist at the community college level for 47 years.

He is a member of the San Diego Bromeliad Society, where he was president, the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), where he is publications chairperson, and he is a master judge as well as an instructor of BSI judging classes. Robert also is a member of the San Diego Horticultural Society and the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. At the San Diego Botanic Garden he was on the board of

directors for nine years and now he is a docent who takes care of the bromeliad and the cycad collections.

In February 2017 Mr. Kopfstein took a car trip to the Puerto Vallarta Botanic Garden with George Long; a member of the Saddleback Bromeliad Society. This program will take us on a pictorial visit to the PV Botanic Garden which began as a cattle rancho and is now 13 years old. The rancho was purchased by Robert Price, a restaurateur from Florida. In the 13 years Mr. Price has managed to create a botanical gem, with tropical plants and a first class restaurant. There is now a bromeliad house, an orchid house, a chapel modeled after the great stone church in San Juan Capistrano, and a tropical rhododendron house.

**Don’t miss this meeting!** <>

**11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:**

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: *Tom Lucero, John Martinez, Michael & Terral Matsumoto, Kathleen Misko, Gisela Miller, Gretchen Moore, Bill & Susan Novickas, and anyone else who has a snack they would like to share.* If you can’t contribute this month don’t stay away.... just bring a snack next time you come.

***Feed The Kitty***

If you don’t contribute to the refreshment table, please make a small donation to (**feed the kitty jar**) on the table; this helps fund the coffee breaks.

**11:30 - Show and Tell is our educational part of the meeting** – Members are encouraged to please **bring one or more plants**. You may not have a pristine plant but you certainly have one that needs a name or is sick and you have a question.

**11:45 – Mini Auction:** members can donate plants for auction, or can get 75% of proceeds, with the remainder to the Club

**12:00 – Raffle:** Please bring plants to donate and/or buy tickets. Almost everyone comes home with new treasures!

**12:15 - Pick Up around your area**

**12:30 –/ Meeting is over—**Drive safely <>

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### *Mary K taking a look back at last month.....*

The June 2017 show was a success. The sales did well and the inside display was great again. Leni and Peter did a great job educating customers about our Bromeliad display. Bryan always adds great plants to our display and Nancy was a welcomed new contributor. Others who contributed to the display were Leni, Steve, Mary K, Joyce, Richard and Mike. Also thanks to Natalia at Live Art Nursery for the beautiful bromeliads she placed in the display. Hope I didn't miss anyone, many apologies if I did tell me, I need to know.

### *Announcements*

***Robert (Bob) Friedman*** August 5, 1922 – June 10, 2017

Mr. Friedman retired from Lockheed after 34 years. A friend at Lockheed introduced Bob to the hobby of growing Bromeliads. Our club was formed in 1967 and he joined around 1970. Each year at our annual shows he would spend 2 days educating prospective members about the different Bromeliads. He was so proud of his personal bromeliad collection where he grew several hundred varieties. Our club sent a beautiful floral wreath to the funeral. At the memorial service, the Rabi from Temple Beth Hillel mentioned the nice flowers but said he half way expected to see the place filled with Bromeliads. Bob was a lifetime member of our group. Some of our new members may remember him as the older guy who sat up front and walked bent over but most of us will remember him as being one of the kindest people you will ever meet.



Up until last year he attended every meeting and when he could no longer drive himself, Georgia drove him. Georgia VanDegrift-Roiz knew him since she was a kid; Bob and her father were best friends. Bob had no children of his own; he loved Georgia as if she was his child and she returned that love by looking after him until his death. His death is a great loss for Georgia and all of us. There was a big celebration for Bob's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Temple; Georgia wrote a nice tribute to him. If you have email you can read that tribute later in this newsletter. RIP

- ***Participation Rewards System*** – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for participation. Bring a Show-and- Tell plant, raffle plants, and Refreshments and you will be rewarded with a Raffle ticket for each category. We realize not everyone has pristine show plants but each of us certainly have unidentified plants that can be brought in. Each member, please bring one plant

## Announcements continued

- **Directions to South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale** on **Sat & Sun August 5 & 6** at Rainforest Flora Inc., (RFI) 19121 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance. Directions from Sepulveda Garden Center: (approx. 25.5 miles & 30 min.) East on 101 Fwy. / South on 405 Fwy. towards Santa Monica / Exit # 42A at Hawthorne Blvd. It is a very nice, Judged show. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rainforest-Flora-Inc>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTLOMjRS3FE>
- **Bryan and Mary Chan** have invited us to their home later this year; the date will be announced soon.
- **Live Art Nursery** in Northridge is in the process of moving but they still have plenty of stock at that location. Natalia has invited our club for a field trip at the new location. A date will be announced for early 2018.
- **Happy July Birthday to: Duke Benadom 1st - Mike Wisnev 3rd - Carole Scott 7th - Georgia Roiz 11 th Wesley Batera 23 rd and Ana Wisnev 30th**  
Tell Joyce your birthday so we can say Happy Birthday to you when the time comes.
- **Time for the annual Mosquito warning** – At 80 degrees water becomes stagnant in about 4 days. Stagnant water means Mosquitos are breeding. They live in the same tropical environments as the outdoor growth of bromeliads and die odd when temperatures drop below 50. Flush bromeliads or add fresh water every 3 or 4 days.

**-- Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July --**

## Please pay your 2017 Membership Dues

### **NEED TO RENEW ?.....**

Pay at the meeting to: **Membership Chair – Joyce Schumann or Treasurer - Mary Chan**  
or Mail to: **SFVBS membership, P.O. Box 16561 - Encino, CA 91416-6561**  
**Yearly Membership Dues \$10.00** for a single or couple

### **Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar**

Here is our 2017 Calendar. As our schedule is always subject to change due to ....., please review our website and email notices before making your plans for these dates.

Saturday July 1	Robert Kopfstein - "Puerto Vallarta Botanic Garden"
Saturday August 5	Dave Bassani - "Landscaping w/ Bromeliads"
Saturday & Sunday August 5 & 6	So. Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday September 2	Cristy Brenner (tentative)
Saturday October 7	Pam Koide
Saturday November 4	Nels Christianson
Saturday December 2	Holiday Party
Saturday January 6, 2018	STBA

### **STBA = Speaker To Be Announced**

**Speakers** Let us know if you have any ideas for Speakers about Bromeliads or any similar topics? We are always looking for an interesting speaker. If you hear of someone, please notify

John Martinez [johnwm6425@gmail.com](mailto:johnwm6425@gmail.com) <>

# Happy Birthday to *Bob Friedman* Celebrating 90 Years of Life



Bob Friedman  
Oct. 2010

Bob grew up in the Midwest town of Racine, Wisconsin. One of three boys in the family, from an early age he had many interests, from raising tropical fish to taking photography. In fact, he was soon developing his own film, waiting until the family went to bed so that he could turn the kitchen into a darkroom. He has great memories of summer vacations with family to the wilderness. And great memories also of fishing with his brothers and watching his Father paint. While fishing their father would tie them to a bridge so they wouldn't fall in! Other times they would take a canoe down the rapids.

In high school, Bob got a job at the local pharmacy that also developed film. The boss became Bob's mentor, teaching Bob many of the nuances in developing film. His photographic skills were recognized when he joined the Army during World War II. He became the one everyone depended on to process the photos and moving pictures, because of his energy and enthusiasm, and willingness to do much more than was required of him. On Iwo Jima, he spent his nights developing film taken by the gunnery during shooting and bombing missions.



After his military service, Bob moved to Los Angeles in 1946 where he took advantage of the GI education grant and attended the Art Center School of Photography. However, he soon found that it was difficult to earn a living as a full-time photographer, and he chose an even more unlikely profession-farmer-when he bought five acres in Canoga Park and raised blackberries.

During this time, he became a Boy Scout master and he still hears from some of his former scouts! It goes to show how someone can have a lasting impact on boys' lives. In 1950 Bob went to work at Lockheed, where he stayed for 34 years. During his free time he attended Landscaping School at Pierce College, and learned from some of the best landscapers in the field. Later he did a few professional landscape jobs and has helped many friends and neighbors design their yards.

A friend at Lockheed introduced Bob to the hobby of growing Bromeliads. He joined the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society around 1970, is still active and has been honored with a Life Membership in the club.



Bromeliad Collection at a recent club meeting

Continued ...

He takes great pleasure in teaching prospective members about the different Bromeliad species and their care. In his personal collection he grows a couple hundred of many different varieties of these gorgeous plants.



Bob married twice. His second wife, Queenie, was president of the Sisterhood at Temple Beth Hillel, and held other leadership roles there as well. Bob and Queenie traveled the world together and he said they never had an angry word between them, and that I'm sure, was at least partly due to Bob's pleasant, accommodating personality.

Bob has always loved to travel. Between his marriages, he took many trips by motor home with his friend, George VanDegrift, whom he met at Lockheed. Bob was a friend to the entire family. In the past few years, his travels continue with George's daughter, Georgia. They have traveled and

photographed most of the western states, as well as to the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica.

He also loves classical music, and attends many concerts, including the weekly concerts at the Los Angeles County Museum. He also attends about a dozen concerts a year at Cal Tech, as well as being a member of the Music Guild, which holds about ten concerts a year, and supports music programs in the school system.

Bob continues to live an active life. He works out at the YMCA three times a week, and walks almost every day. He still insists on cleaning his house himself, does repairs on his own and his rental house, and takes care of his garden. He also continues to hang out his wash on the clothesline and let the sunshine dry it!

In the 1990's, Bob took on the huge task of helping Russian immigrants start new lives here. He assisted in furnishing many apartments; collecting, storing, and moving dozens of pieces of heavy furniture. He also taught some of the immigrants how to drive and helped them find jobs. Until a few years ago, Bob went to two Ralph's stores at 6 AM in the morning to collect day old bakery goods, and delivered them, along with other bags of food, to each family. Today, these people consider Bob a member of their family.



Bob still goes out of his way to help friends and family.

He is truly an example of how a person should live—generous, kind, and giving. It is an honor to know Bob, to be inspired by him, and to enjoy all that he still has to offer the world. Happy Birthday, Bob!

By Georgia VanDegrift-Roiz

# Taxonomic Tidbits – *The Ronnbergia Alliance* – *Aechmea, Hohenbergia and Wittmackia* – Part 1

By Mike Wisnev ([mwisnev@gmail.com](mailto:mwisnev@gmail.com))

San

Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – July 2017

We have seen a lot of new changes in genera lately, major ones re *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea* and then *Orthophytum*. Another group in the *Ronnbergia* alliance, plants that are rarely if ever seen in cultivation around here. Given that, this article is a bit of a case study in how genera are defined and changed over time.

Julian Aguirre – Santoro has done most of the recent work in this area. One of his first articles was Contributions to the Resolution of the Core Bromelioideae: The Case of *Ronnbergia* E. Morren & Andre (Bromelioideae: Bromeliaceae) in J Brom Soc 61(5): 210-215. He started out by stating:

In 1874, E. Morren and Andre described the genus *Ronnbergia* based on the discovery of *Ronnbergia morreniana*, a species with a unique appearance that did not resemble the other Bromeliaceae genera known at that time. In one of the first taxonomical treatments of Bromeliaceae, Mez (1936) proposed the combined presence of simple and lax inflorescences, asymmetrical sepals, and the absence of epipetal appendages as the diagnostic characters to differentiate the genus *Ronnbergia* from other genera within the subfamily Bromelioideae. Id at 210.

First illustration

of *Ronnbergia morreniana* .

Linden & Andre, Ill. Hort. (1874) 120. pl. 177. Note the narrowing of the leaf at its base. Most, but not all, *Ronnbergia* have this feature, sometimes called a pseudopetiole leaf.



Aguirre-Santoro grouped the 14 species of *Ronnbergia* in two ways – geographical and morphological. Ten of the species are in interconnected areas of Central America and northwestern South America, while the other four are in Bahia, Brazil.

Morphologically, he found the Brazilian species fell into one group, while the others fell into two different groups, as follows. Rather than paraphrase, I'll quote directly from the article.

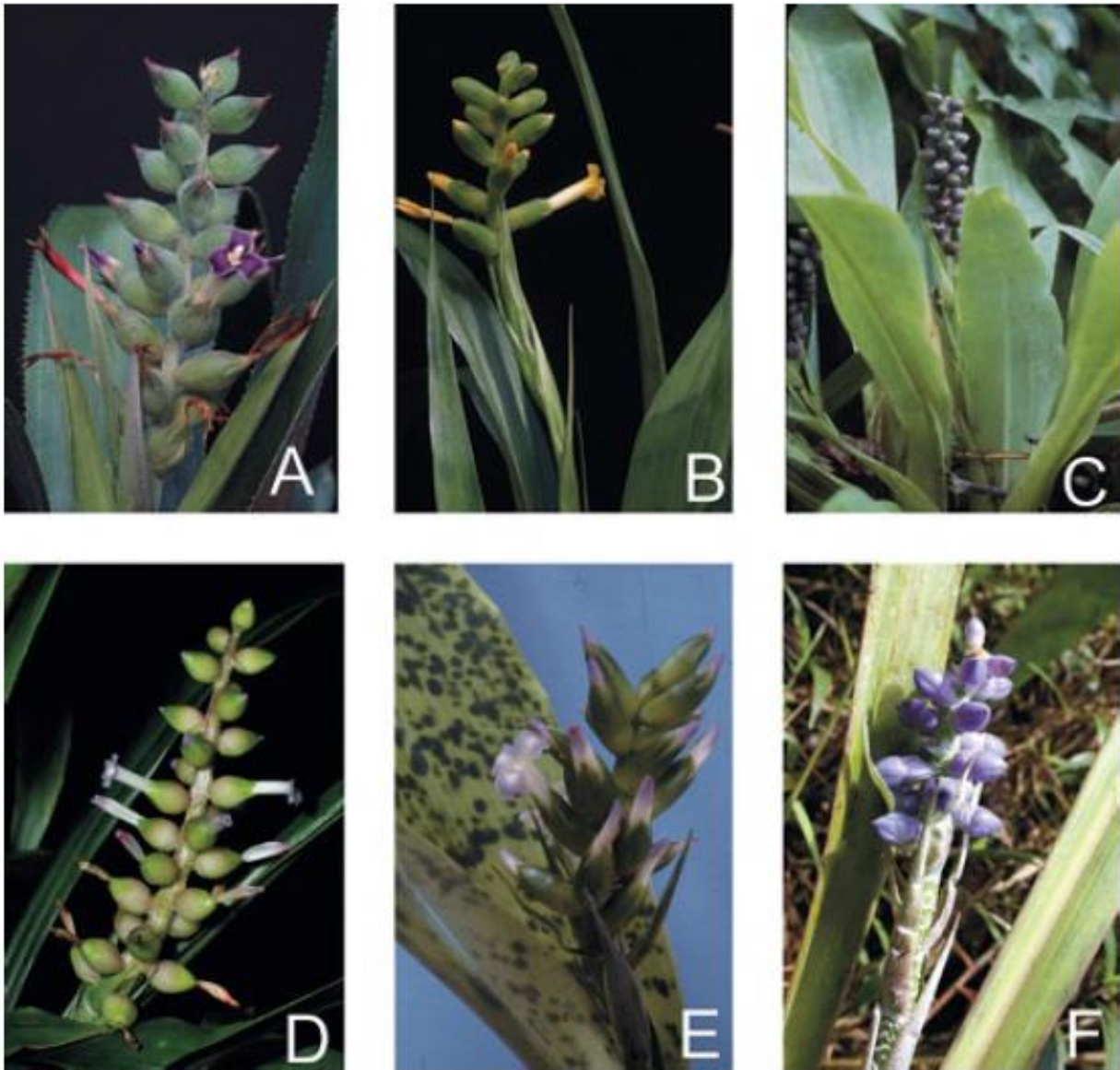


Figure 2. Species of the subgroup 1 of *Ronnbergia*. A. *Ronnbergia columbiana* (Vern Sawyer); B. *R. killipiana* (Vern Sawyer); C. *R. explodens* (T. Croat); D. *R. hathewayi* (Phil Nelson); E. *R. morreniana* (Vern Sawyer); F. *R. maidifolia* (J. Betancur).

Picture – id at 211.

”Subgroup 1 is represented by species from Central America and northwestern South America with visible scape, slightly inclined and lax inflorescences, fleshy sepals when the fruit is ripe, and dark blue fruits ...

Subgroup 2 includes four species from Central America and northwestern South America with concealed scape, involucrate scape bracts, subcapitate and erect inflorescences, scape and floral bracts serrate, and generally yellow fruits ... ” Id at 213. Most of the subgroup 1 also have the pseudopetiole leaves.

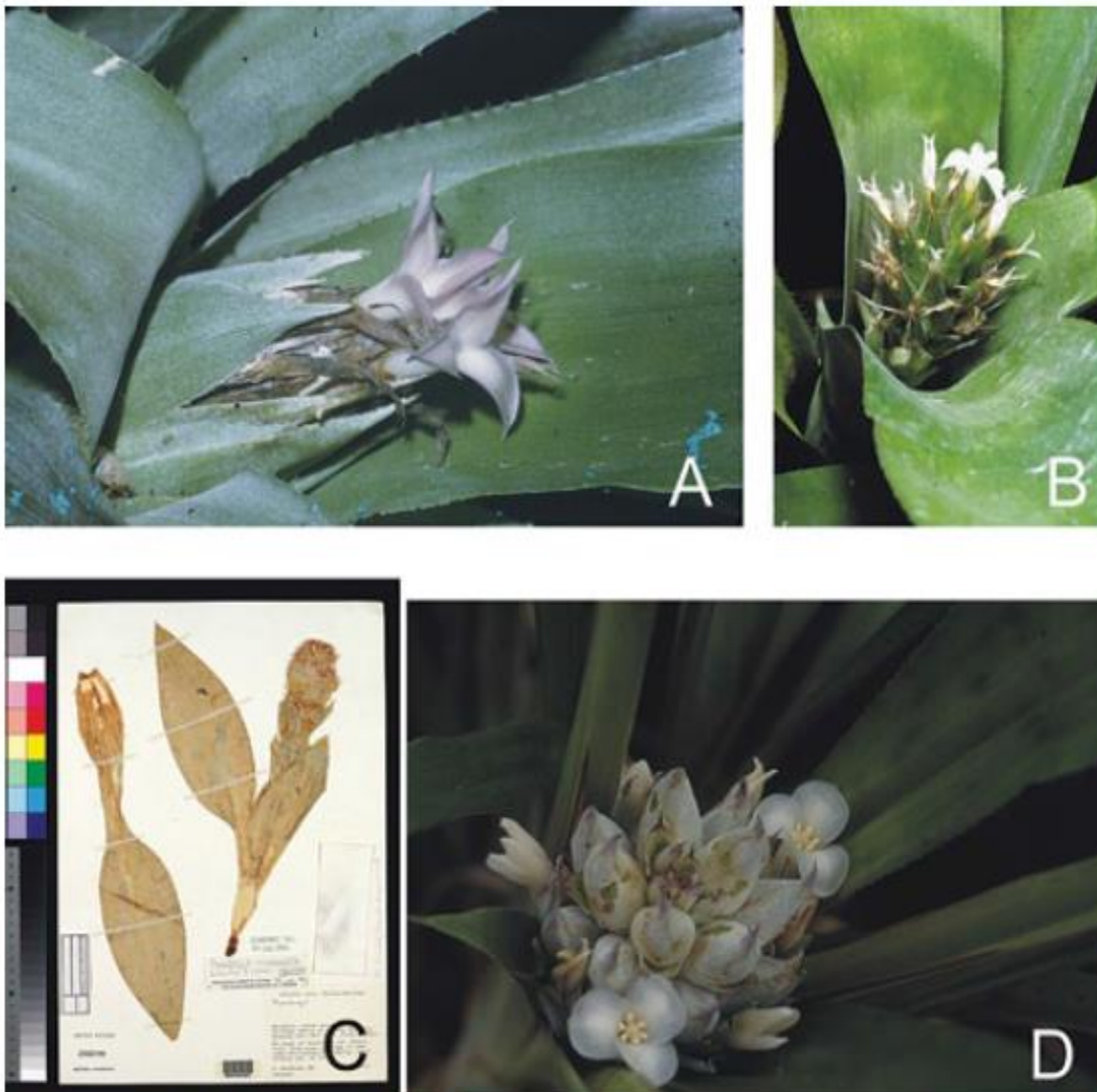


Figure 3. Species of the subgroup 2 of *Ronnbergia*. A. *Ronnbergia nidularioides* (Nat DeLeon); B. *R. petersii* (J. Aguirre-S.); C. *R. campanulata* (US herbarium), D. *R. deleonii* (Vern Sawyer).



Pictures – id at 212. The most obvious difference here is the short inflorescence, and long serrated bracts, as compared to the long and lax inflorescence in the previous figure on the prior page.

“Subgroup 3 includes the four Brazilian species of *Ronnbergia*, characterized by their entire and non-pseudopetioloated leaves, small and simple (rarely compound) subcapitate inflorescences (except *R. brasiliensis*), and small elliptic fruits.” Id at 213.



Figure 4. Species of the subgroup 3 of *Ronnbergia*. A. *Ronnbergia carvalhoi* (J. Aguirre-S.); B. *R. neoregelioides* (J. Aguirre-S.).

Pictures – id at 213.

Drawing in part on the work of others, such as Leme and Filho (who described the *Aechmea lingulata* complex), Aguirre-Santoro noted that some of the groupings above corresponded with this complex or certain members of *Aechmea* subg. *Pothuavia*, the primary distinction being that *Ronnbergia* had no epipetal appendages, while *Aechmea* do. These appendages are presumably the same as the ligules that distinguished *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea* on a traditional basis.

Had Aguirre-Santoro been writing 20 years earlier, he may well have proposed new genera. But today, DNA studies are needed to reevaluate genera. His preliminary DNA studies supported to some degree his morphological conclusions, but the findings were not as strong enough to propose new genera. Aguirre-Santoro et al, *Phytotaxa* 219 (3): 261–275. 2015 Is *Ronnbergia* (Bromeliaceae, Bromelioideae) a geographically disjunct genus? Evidence from morphology and chloroplast DNA sequence data. In any case, the three subgroups are shown below.

SUBGROUP 1	SUBGROUP 2	SUBGROUP 3
<i>Ronnbergia columbiana</i>	<i>Ronnbergia campanulata</i>	<i>Ronnbergia carvalhoi</i>
<i>Ronnbergia explodens</i>	<i>Ronnbergia deleonii</i>	<i>Ronnbergia neoregelioides</i>
<i>Ronnbergia hathewayi</i>	<i>Ronnbergia nidularioides</i>	<i>Ronnbergia silvana</i>
<i>Ronnbergia killipiana</i>	<i>Ronnbergia petersii</i>	* <i>Ronnbergia brasiliensis</i>
<i>Ronnbergia maidifolia</i>	* <i>Aechmea allenii</i>	* <i>Aechmea amorimii</i>
<i>Ronnbergia morreniana</i>	* <i>A. drakeana</i>	* <i>A. andersoniana</i>
* <i>Aechmea tonduzii</i>	* <i>A. fraseri</i>	* <i>A. bicolor</i>
* <i>A. aciculosa</i>	* <i>A. involucrata</i>	* <i>A. canaliculata.</i>
	* <i>A. mariae-reginae</i>	
	* <i>A. subpetiolata</i>	
	* <i>A. weberbaueri</i>	
	* <i>A. welfinghoffii</i>	

Chart – id at 214.

I am curious if any one is familiar with any of these species, let alone owns one. I am not sure I have seen any of them other than *R. neoregelioides* which I briefly owned until it didn't survive one winter.

Not surprisingly, Aguirre-Santoro conducted more DNA studies, which led to new conclusions – to be covered next month.