



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

sfvbromeliad.homestead.com

[sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com)

Elected OFFICERS & Volunteers

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

next meeting: Saturday September 2, 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.

10:15 - Make announcements and Introduce Speaker



Cristy Brenner

"Return to the Lost World: Bromeliads of Roraima Tepui and the Gran Sabana"

The Venezuelan Tepuis are "islands in the sky" that provide unique environments for many Bromeliads and other plants. Cristy first visited Auyan Tepui (famous for Angel Falls) in 2007, when expedition members helicoptered to the top to explore its unusual landscape. Tepuis are very addictive, and in 2013, she returned to Venezuela to hike up Roraima Tepui (over 9,000') to see its bizarre landscapes and unique Bromeliads. These include plants such as Brocchinias, Connellias, Lindmanias, Puyas, and Tillandsias. On the second part of the trip, she visited the lower elevation region of Canaima Lagoon and the base of Angel Falls. This area has more tropical Bromeliads such as Guzmanias, Navias, Vrieseas, and Pitcairnia.

Cristy is the President of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society in Mission Viejo. She has presented several talks at BSI conferences and is also a BSI judge. As a recently retired Community College Geography professor, she has visited all of the continents, but in recent years has concentrated on regions with Bromeliads. She has observed and photographed Bromeliads in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela.

Don't miss this meeting! <>

Happy Labor Day

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:
Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: *Gloria Vargas, Ray Van Veen, Andrea Wareham, Mike & Ana Wisnev, Bob Wright, Barbara Wynn, Colleen Baida, Steve Ball, Donna Baker, Wesley Bartera 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 KittyJar - If you don't contribute to the refreshment table, help fund the coffee breaks with a small donation in the jar.

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 you have a question about it.
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 <>



Maryk is taking a look back at last month..... everything was great. The program, the raffle, show-n-tell, mini-auction, food and especially the speaker's program. *Dave Bassini* gave a spectacular will organized presentation on his landscaping techniques. He had a great demonstration of materials and showed photos from some of his projects. *Dave's wife, Sue* was there to operate the projector. Some great **refreshments** were contributed by *Gretchen Moore, Teresa Campbell, Chris Rogers, Nancy P. Hapke, Steve Ball, MaryK and Joyce Schumann.* *Joyce and Rose* made those delicious chicken enchiladas. **Raffle Plants** were donated by *Peter Speziale, Gretchen Moore, Teresa, Chris, Nancy, Duke & Kaz Benadom, Steve, Maryk, Georgia Roiz.* Unfortunately Georgia was in car accident the day before the meeting so she sent the plants by maryk. Georgia is much better now and expects to attend the September meeting. We had four visitors who enjoyed the Show-n-Tell which they stated was very educational. Show-n-Tell plants were brought in by *Peter, Leni Koska, Nels Christianson, Steve and Maryk.* I saw several of our members at the So. Bay Bromeliad Show which was on the same weekend of our meeting. The mini-auction featured plants donated by Georgia from Bob Friedman's collection. A big Thank You to all those who helped to make it a nice meeting.

Announcements

Karen Ostler's Nontoxic Pesticide Spray – 1 gal. Empty container / 1 qt. rubbing Alcohol / 1 qt. Vinegar / 1/3 qt. Dawn kitchen soap / fill the container with Water / Spray plant and let it dry / repeat in 3 days.

Mini-Auction – The Sept meeting will have more of Bob's plants in the auction.

Tillandsia For Sale - at the next meeting

Member Name Badges - "Since some members leave their badges at the Garden Center and some don't, we would like to confirm who has badges. If you have misplaced your badge, now would be a good time to order a replacement. **When you check in at the September meeting, please note YES or NO if you have a badge.** Thanks for your cooperation in this matter." See me to reorder – Joyce

Member Dues Increase – 2018 will be our first dues increase in about 30 years but it is necessary. Those who receive newsletters thru the **US mail will pay \$15.00 per household.** Annual Email news is \$10.00.

Participation Rewards System – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for participation. Bring a Show-N- 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

Speakers – The end of this year will feature some outstanding speaker presentations. Hope you plan to attend each meeting.

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 October 7	Pam Koide
Saturday November 4	Nels Christianson
Saturday December 2	Holiday Party
Saturday January 6, 2018	STBA
Saturday February 3, 2018	STBA
Saturday March 3, 2018	STBA
Saturday April 7, 2018	STBA
Saturday May 5, 2018	STBA
Sat & Sun May 5 & 6, 2018	La Ballona Bromeliad Show & Sale
June 9 & 10, 2018	SFVBS Show & Sale
August 9 & 10, 2018	So. Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale

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 <>

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

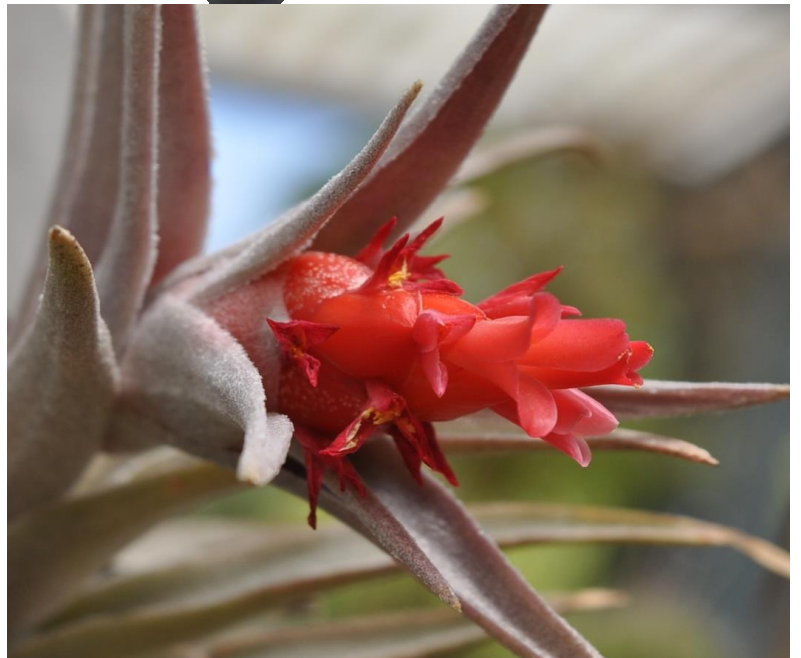
Yearly Membership Dues \$10.00 for a single or couple

Member photos - submitted by Mike Wisnev

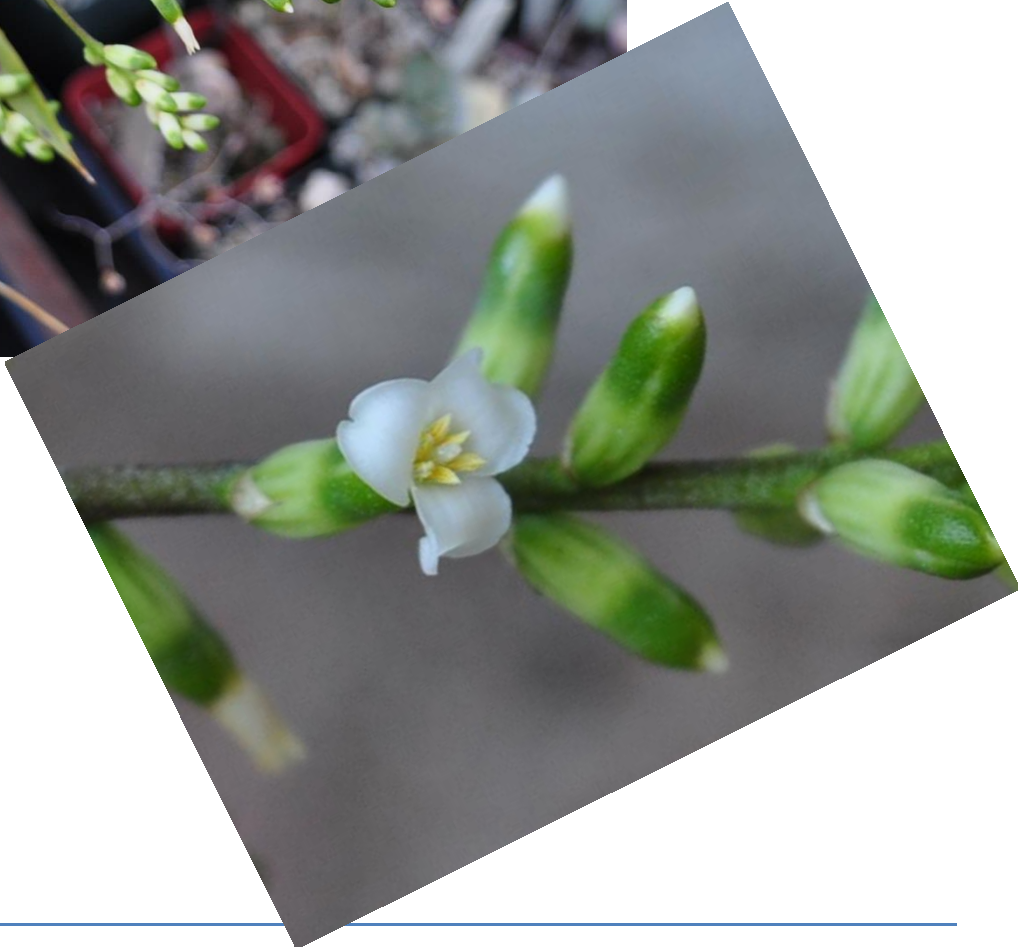
It is always a joy to see a new plant bloom for the first time. Even better when an old one blooms for the first time. One of our first *Tillandsia* was *T. diaquitensis*, reputedly a shy bloomer. It had never bloomed until now. The best part was the smell – we bring them inside to enjoy.



Here is another of my favorites –
T. edithiae



And a less common species, *T. Lymania spiculata*.



Aechmea fasciata (Lindley) Baker

by Derek Butcher June 2017



This plant has been in demand since it was first named in 1828 and was a great interest to botanists in the 1800s as shown by the number of synonyms below:

Aechmea fasciata* var. *fasciata

Billbergia fasciata Lindley, Bot. Reg. 13: pl. 1130. 1828.

Hohenbergia fasciata (Lindley) Schultes filius in Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 7(2): 1253. 1830.

Billbergia rhodocyanea Lemaire, Fl. Serres 3: pl. 207. 1847. Type. *Van Houtte Hortus ex Van der Maelen Hortus* (no known specimen, so the original plate).

Hoplophytum fasciatum (Lindley) Beer, Bromel. 129. 1856.

Billbergia glaziovii Regel, Gartenflora 34:260, pl. 1203. 1885. Type. *Glaziou in Petrograd Hortus s n* (holotype, LE n v).

Aechmea leopoldii hortus ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 58. 1889; nomen.

Aechmea hamata Mez, Mart. Fl. Bras. 3(3): 347. 1892. Type. *Berlin Hortus s n* (holotype. B: photo F 11314).

Aechmea rhodocyanea Wawra ex Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:255. 1896; nomen

Quesnelia rhodocyanea Wawra ex Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:255.1896; nomen

***Aechmea fasciata* var. *purpurea* (Guillon) Mez, Pflanzenreich IV. 32:152. 1934.**

Billbergia rhodocyanea [var.] *purpurea* Guillon, Rev. Hortic. 55:453. 1883.

What is interesting to me is that there are no herbarium specimens in REFLOA but 28 of var. *fasciata*.

As Adda Abendroth says, see below, this variety is probably more common than the Type but then how do you discern leaf colour in a herbarium specimen.



Not only were botanists interested in this species but the nurserymen in Europe started to cross and back cross seeking plants with larger inflorescences. I quote from a letter from Adda Abendroth in Brazil to Olwen Ferris in Australia on June 17th 1968 "Years ago Dr. Oeser sent me some *Ae. fasciata* seed from Germany. Several plants raised from it flowered and put their wild sisters to shame. Mature plants are about twice as big, clad in a real snow-dress in winter, and have a larger and richer spike and more simultaneous flowers. The flower bracts are slightly curled. It is our light-green variety plus a successful beauty treatment. Our light-green form is faithful as to shape and size and habits. It blooms in early Spring, or a little later, sparingly. The plants grow on tree trunks or branches in virgin forest. The colonies are not large, to 3-5 shoots. Another variety has dark green leaves, sometimes tinged with red. Size about the same as the light-green form but not so even, colonies somewhat larger. Habitat the same.

The third form appears growing on nearly naked branches of old trees, mostly single rosettes 20-30cm in diameter. The colour is rosy, shape nice and even. This form, when planted in shade (tied to a branch or a trunk) has darker and longer leaves. The rosy pink seems to develop only high up in the trees, exposed to sun and wind.

The fourth is the variety *purpurea* which has wine-red leaves. Habit like the dark-green form. In deep shade the leaves get very long and fall over. The red is almost black making a striking contrast with the white bands. This is more common than the total of the other three.”

It was not until 1981 that we see Adda involved in a new variety:

Aechmea fasciata* var. *pruinosa Reitz, Sellowia 33: 55. 1981

Leaves, scape bracts, and flowers white farinose; densely covered in scales forming a white skin.

Type: Brasil, Santa Catarina: Ipanema plant cultivated in the State of Rio de Janeiro, collected *Adda Abendroth s.n.* 14 Feb. 1981. Holotype HBR.

In ‘Bromeliaceas’ by Reitz 393-397, 1983 we read:

“Variety, so far, is only known by the type, from the interior of the forests of the State of Rio de Janeiro and possibly very rare; collected in State of cultivation, in Itapema, Santa Catarina by R. Reitz.” This indicates it is rare in the wild but actively cultivated in Brazil and it seems strange that a plant with this name has not been quoted outside Brazil. According to REFLOA no further herbarium specimens have been lodged. However, it does seem to link to the cultivar ‘Silver King’ which is shrouded in mystery but emerged in this period.



Variegations have been reported in Seidel’s Catalogue in 1976 but nothing has been described botanically other than the following:

Aechmea fasciata* var. *flavi-vittata Reitz, Sellowia 33:55. 1981.



Leaves with longitudinal lines alternately green and yellow.

Type: Brasil, Santa Catarina: Brusque, cultivated in the State of Rio de Janeiro, leg *J. Pehnk s. n.* (15.2. 1981), Holotype HBR.

Again we read in ‘Bromeliaceas’ by Reitz 393-397, 1983: “The variety, so far, is only known by the type, from the interior of the forests of the State of Rio de Janeiro; collected in State of cultivation, in Brusque, Santa Catarina, by R. Reitz.” This indicates it is rare in the wild but actively cultivated in Brazil and it seems strange that a plant with this name has been rarely quoted outside Brazil. According to

REFLORA no further herbarium specimens have been lodged. In any event, variegated plants do not reproduce from seed and should be treated as cultivars. As such I will be adding *Aechmea* 'Flavi-vittata' to the BCR. Most variegations in cultivation have white stripes not yellow and we find reference to this in Seidel's Catalogue in 1976. Interestingly, they are not mentioned in DeLeon's article on variegates in *Journal Brom Soc* 35(1): 34-37, 1985. In fact nobody seems to have given them a proper cultivar name.



For want of a term I will use *Aechmea* 'Albo-vittata'. Variegation is most likely to occur in cultivation via 'sporting' or mutation in seed raising so it's highly possible that this happened to one of the many infra-specific cultivars rather than a 'wild' species.

The list and photos below are infra-specific *Aechmea fasciata* cultivars:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 'Aton' | 'DeLeon' | 'Mackerel' | 'Smoothie' |
| 'Auslese' | 'Frost' | 'Morgana' | 'Snaakse Ding' |
| 'Big Mama Fasciata' | 'Ghost' | 'Primera' | 'Stalker' |
| 'Canvey Pink Surprise' | 'Ivory' | 'Sangria' | 'Supernova' |
| 'Checkers' | 'Leucadia' | 'Silver King' | 'White Head' |



'Clara'



'Kiwi'



'Sangria Blanco'



'Silver Queen'



◀ 'Supreme'

'Supernova' ▶



Photos supplied by:
Derek Butcher and the BCR

Taxonomic Tidbits –

Neoregelia simulans – do you have it?

By Mike Wisnev (mwisnev@gmail.com)

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –September 2017

A lot of you may have this species, or so you think. I got it from the club raffle one time, and have seen more of them there – it seems pretty prolific, but not very attractive.



N. simulans, says label, with *Canis lupus familiaris* (Boss) to the right

But I was happy to get it, since I have a fondness for species, primarily since there are relatively few. As of 7/31/17, the Bromeliad Cultivar Register lists some 6766 *Neoregelia* cultivars! <http://registry.bsi.org/>? Many have suggested that for every registered one, there may 2 more that aren't registered or perhaps even named. If correct, that means there are over 20,000 Neo hybrids and cultivars.



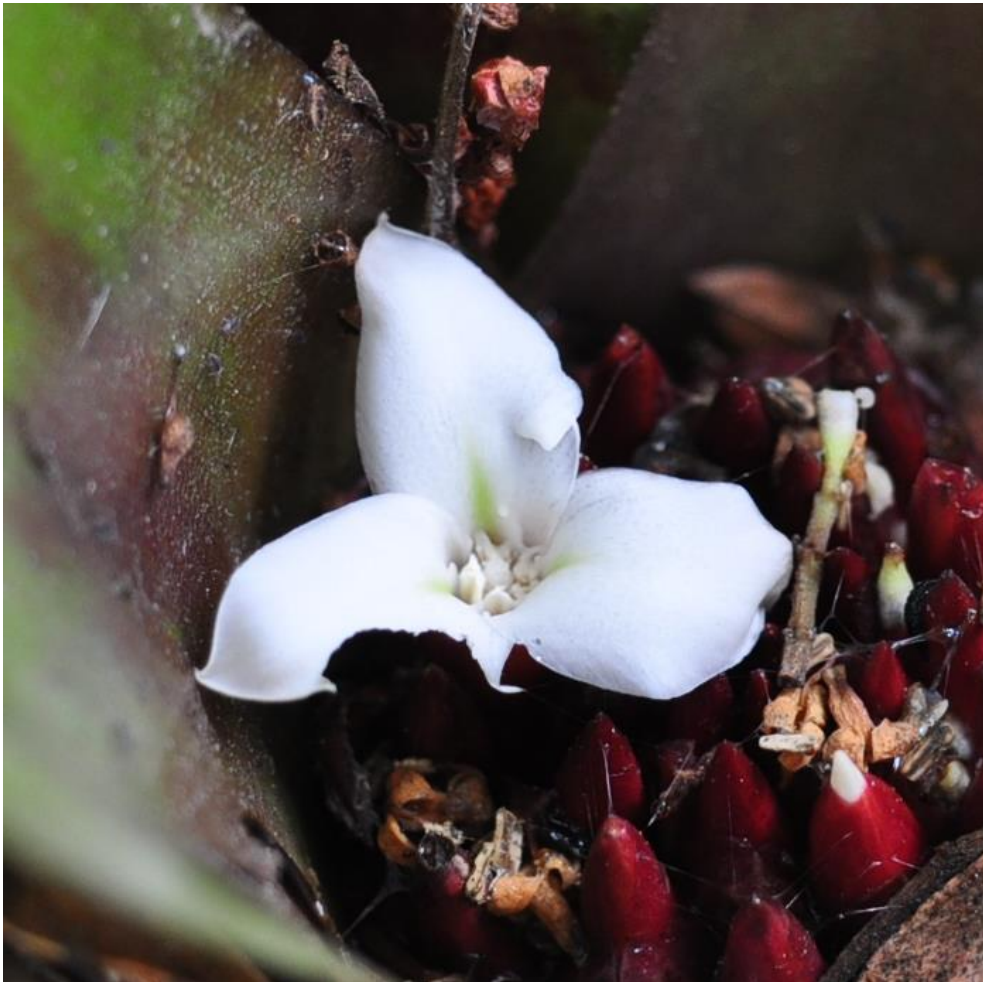
So you might think there must be tons of species as well. As of this date, the new Bromeliad Taxon List shows all of 92 Neo species.

<http://www.bsi.org/new/the-new-bromeliad-taxon-list/>

I am always intrigued when a species blooms – besides the excitement of seeing it, it provides an opportunity to confirm the plant is named correctly. Perhaps more accurately, it can confirm the name is wrong since it is pretty hard to be absolutely positive the name is correct.

Of course, *Neoregelia* flowers are about the least exciting in the bromeliad world. Over time, I have become a bit more interested in them, as I see a bit more variation than at first where most seem to be light blue to purplish and relatively indistinguishable.

So I was very interested to see my *N. simulans* bloom in June this year. Not only were the petals white, but there was a green stripe down the middle at the base. I don't recall ever seeing a stripe like that on a Neo flower. Also, the sepals were red for a nice contrast. The description of *N. simulans* says it has a lilac flower. When I checked Derek Butcher's files, I found only one picture – also with a lilac flower.





Neoregelia simulans – photo by Singapore Botanical Garden

I was about to email Derek about this mystery until I saw the following article, printed in its entirety below.

““*Neoregelia simulans* that is really *Neoregelia laevis*”

by Derek Butcher Jan 2007.

I could have called this *Neoregelia* species revisited because I just fell over this in my review of this genus.

It was in 1990 when Australians first saw a plant called *Neoregelia simulans*. It had been collected in Brazil by Marg McNamara from NSW and I don't know who identified it. It could not have been Elton Leme because he knew what it should look like. In 1993 it was in Adelaide and by 1994 it was with John Catlan in Qld. It is a reliable pupper so would have spread to all parts of Australia. A comment at the time was that the flowers were scented. Whoever identified it must have gone from the meagre description in Smith and

Downs based on fragments!! In 1994 I did take the inflorescence to pieces but could find no real conflicting evidence to the data in Smith & Downs. Since then the plant has just grown and flowered without being butchered until now!

In my thirst for knowledge I found out that Pereira and Leme had in fact written an amended description of *N. simulans* in Rev Brasil Biol. in 1985. The hardest part was finding the publication but perseverance won out. The easy part was translating it from Latin! The article was headed 'Emenda Necessaria' which was the case because of the missing bits in Smith & Downs. Here I found amongst other things that the petals were lilac and narrow whereas our plant had white broad petals with a little green line near the centre. A photo showing what *N. simulans* looks like is on page 25 of Elton Leme's 'Bromeliads in the Brazilian wilderness' 1993.

This sent me on a wider search and I chanced upon Harry Luther's article on *Neoregelia laevis* forma *maculata* in Journ. Brom. Soc. 51(6): 269. 2001. Why had this not rung bells? Perhaps we get set in our ways as to what a species looks like and we knew that *N. laevis* never had spots on the leaves!

The problem now, will be to convince others that *N. simulans* is not in Australia unless it has crept in behind my back. The plant we have is *N. laevis* but I leave it to you to decide if the leaves are maculate enough to call it forma *maculata*."



Vern Sawyer

Figure 15. A typical green specimen of *N. laevis*; note the green stripe on each petal.



Vern Sawyer

Figure 17. *Neoregelia laevis* forma *maculata*, the clonotype flowering at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

Both photos by Vern Sawyer. *Neoregelia* Notes, 51(6) BSI 269 (2001).

So it appears the same confusion in Australia exists here – our *N. simulans* is probably *N. laevis*. The description seems to match well, including the white petals with green in the lower middle of the petal blade. It says the flowers are fragrant, which I can't say I know about our clone.

One interesting tidbit about *N laevis* is that it is the southernmost member of the genus occurring in the Brazilian states of Santa Catarina, Parana and Sao Paulo. There it grows in both restinga vegetation near the coast and in rain forests to 800 m elevation.” Luther, Harry. *Neoregelia* Notes, 51(6) BSI 269 (2001).