



**S.F.V.B.S.**

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

**DECEMBER 2017**

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

[sfvbromeliad.homestead.com](http://sfvbromeliad.homestead.com)

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

**Elected OFFICERS & Volunteers**

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

**next meeting: Saturday December 2, 2017 @ 10:00 am**

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH**

*Saturday December 2d*

*9:00 – Set-Up and Deliver all food dishes (Coffee & Donuts)*

*10:00 – meeting starts with drawing*

*10:15-11:15 – 'Show-N-Tell' and Social hour*

*11:30 – Pot Luck Brunch served*

*12:30 – Member Gift Exchange and Club Holiday Plant drawing*

**(Normal \$1.00 plant raffle will resume in January)**

*1:00 – 2:00 – Clean up; we will need all hands*

*Mardy Graves has graciously agreed to be Decorations chair. If you would like to help out on Friday at 11:00am, please contact her at [mardyjg@gmail.com](mailto:mardyjg@gmail.com) or (818) 415-2816 or just show up.*

- **Holiday Plant Gift Exchange** – Please bring a wrapped plant (a bag will be okay) or plant related item to the party. Please give something nice that you might like to receive. If you prefer, you don't have to participate in the gift exchange.
- **Participation Rewards System** – (Normal \$1.00 plant raffle will resume in January)  
*No participation raffle tickets this month; there will be no \$1.00 raffle plants.*

**Please pay your 2018 Membership Dues**

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 monthly e-mail newsletters or \$15 for snail mail

***We wish you and your family a  
Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday season***

## 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 January 6, 2018	<i>STBA</i>
Saturday February 3, 2018	<i>STBA</i>
<b>June 9 &amp; 10, 2018</b>	<i>Bromeliad Show and Sale</i>

## Menu Suggestions for 2017 Holiday Brunch

Call MaryK. with your contribution. Listed below are some suggestions of dishes we had in past years. Call if you need a suggestion. We have suggestions for the non-cooks. We are a small group so we don't need 10 desserts. You are welcome to bring your favorite beverages. **Contact MaryK at [818-705-4728](tel:818-705-4728) or [rango676@aol.com](mailto:rango676@aol.com).**

### Appetizers 9:30 – 10:30

Asst. Cheeses -

Asst. Fruit - *Wendie*

Scones -

1 dz. Donuts –

1 dz. mini-Muffins –

### Main Course 11:30 – 12:30

Ham – *Joyce & Rose*

Turkey – *Bryan*

Stuffing – *Jeanette*

Gravy – *Maryk*

Chicken Enchiladas –

### Salad

Green Salad - *Patty Colville*

### Side Dishes

Quiche –

Misc. Vegetable – *Barbara, Nancy, Nels*

Green Bean – *Tom Lucero*

Macaroni & Cheese – *Georgia*

Broccoli –

Mashed Potatoes – *Steve*

Sweet Potato –

Squash –

Cranberry Sauce Jelly (2 cans) *Maryk*

Cran. Sauce w/ Berries (2 - *Maryk*)

### Bread & Butter

Fresh Baked Bread – *Mike & Ana*

Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls –

### Desserts

Chocolate Cake – *Bob Wright*

Lemon Cake -

Pumpkin Tart or Pie - *Mardy*

Apple Pie -

Pecan Pie –

Coconut Cream Pie – *Chris*

Pizzelle Waffle Cookie – *Richard K*

Misc. Dessert – *Peter*

### Beverages needed

1/2 gal. Reduced Fat Milk –

Orange Juice –

Cranberry Juice -

1 ea. 6 Pk. Soda –Reg & Diet –

Small Bottled Water -

1 qt. Eggnog –

Ice Cubes

## Member photos

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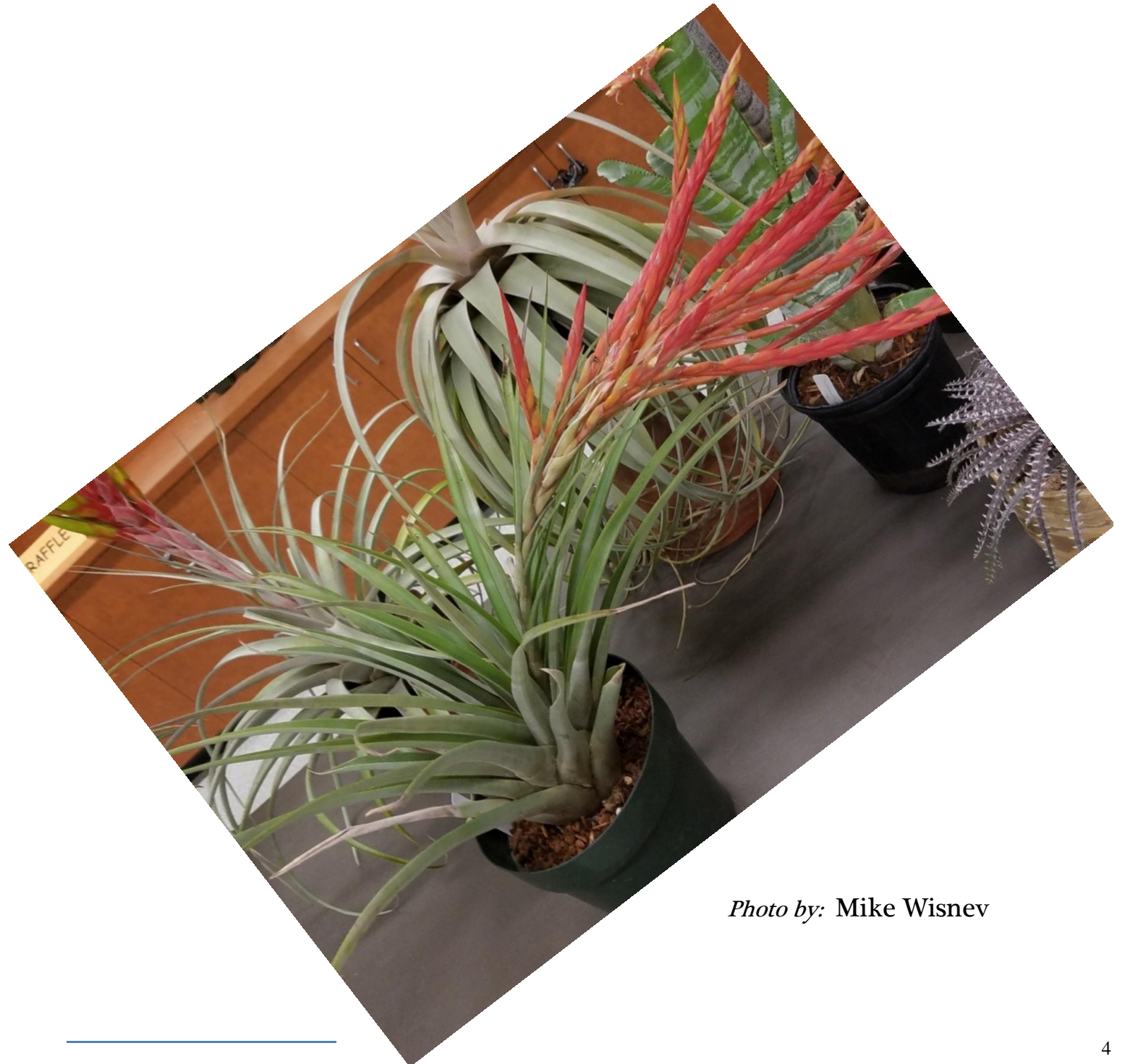
A lot of Newsletters feature plants shown at the last meeting. I have usually not shown them on the assumption that most of us were there and saw them. But last month Bryan brought in some fantastic *Tillandsia* hybrids.

The first was *T. Silver Queen*, a John Arden hybrid, which is a cross of *T. jalisco-montana* and *T. xerographica*. It's worth noting that this cross also exists as a natural hybrid. Also shown in the same picture are *Aechmea flaveorosea* and *Billbergia fosteriana*.



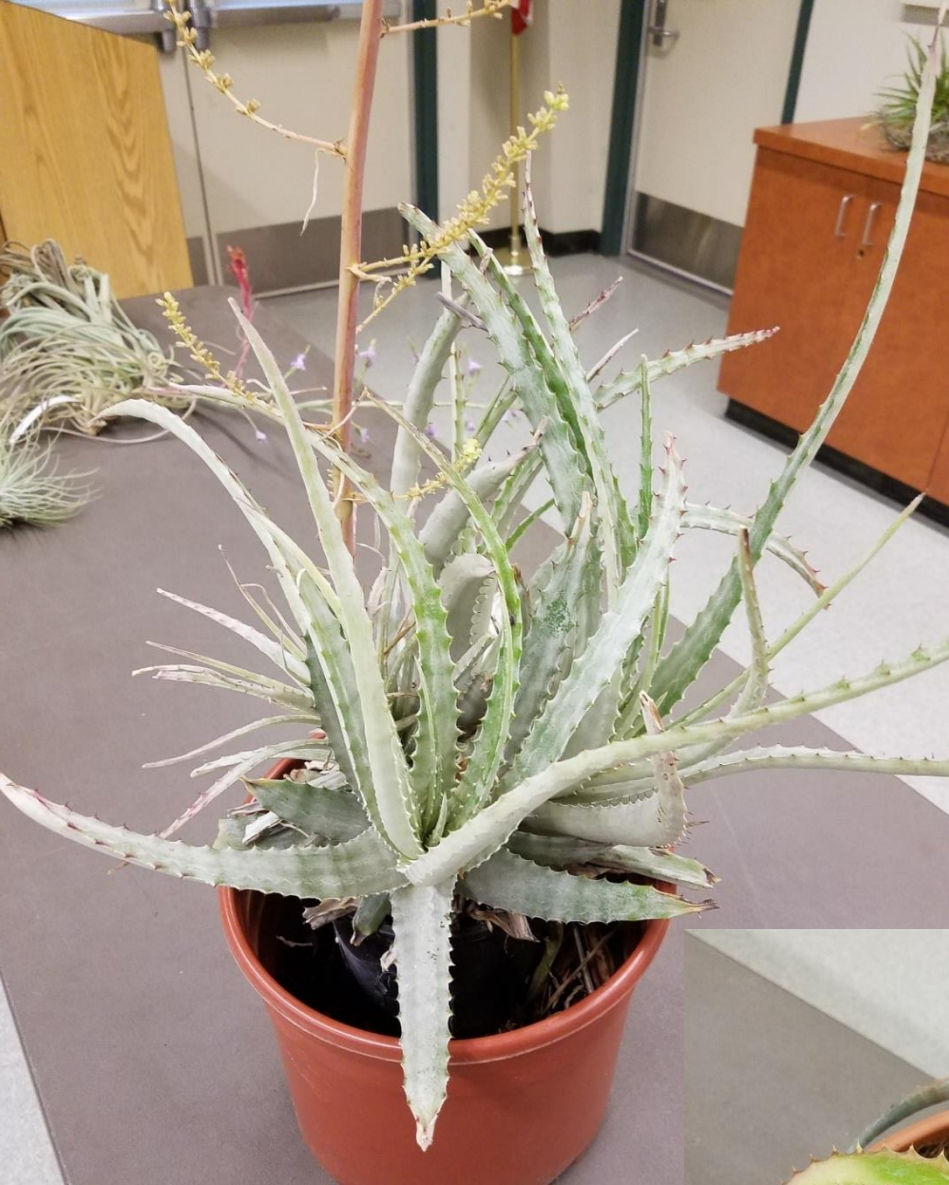
*Photo by:*  
Mike Wisnev

Bryan also brought the stunning plant below, which someone suggested might be a cross of *T. beutelspacheri* and *T. flabulata*, also a natural hybrid.



*Photo by:* Mike Wisnev

Not to be outdone, Steve Ball this blooming *Hechtia*.



Photos by: Mike Wisnev

John Martinez brought  
in this lovely *Hechtia*.



## Taxonomic Tidbits –

# *Yellow/green (and blue) petalled Billbergia* *Part 10 (*B morelii* and *euphemiae*)*

By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS Editor ([mwisnev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwisnev@sbcglobal.net))

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – December 2017

Though I have never heard of it, *Billbergia morelii* has been cultivated since 1848. Like the species described in Part 9, it has some lepidote flower parts. Its leaves are plain green, but with a long drooping inflorescence, and extremely large bracts, it is certainly worth trying to find. Unlike most of the species described so far, it has a simple inflorescence.

As seems often true, the illustrations can be a bit prettier than the actual plant. Below is an illustration of *Billbergia wetherellii* from Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Vol. 81, referred to *Billbergia morelii*.





Photo from Siqueira-Filho 1475.

*Billbergia euphemiae* is quite similar, and also one worth looking for. Again, I don't think I have seen one before. Like *Billbergia morelii*, it has a lovely drooping inflorescence and large peduncle bracts that are rose, not red. Variety *euphemiae* often has nice banding on the leaves, though they can be concolorous; it is found in Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais. There are three or four varieties, depending on the source. Below is the inflorescence, a photo by Bromeliario Imperials.



According to Barros & Costa, *B euphemiae* is known for its “white floccose indumentum on the scape, on the rhachis, on the sepals and on the ovary, scape bracts congested at the base of the inflorescence and usually strawlike at anthesis, flowers zygomorphic, spreading to reflexed, ovary smooth to a little sulcate and the pattern of colours of the flowers. Smith (1955) described *B. euphemiae* var. *nudiflora* with the base near the inflorescence subdense, rhachis almost straight and reduced floral bracts. Examination of the type material for this variety confirmed the morphologic similarity of this material with the others identified as representatives of the typical variety.” Barros & Costa , for State of Rio de Janeiro, Acta bot. bras. 22(4): 1172-92. 2008 (translation by Butcher).



Below are illustrations by Foster of var *euphemiae* and var *nudiflora* – you can decide for yourself how similar these two are.

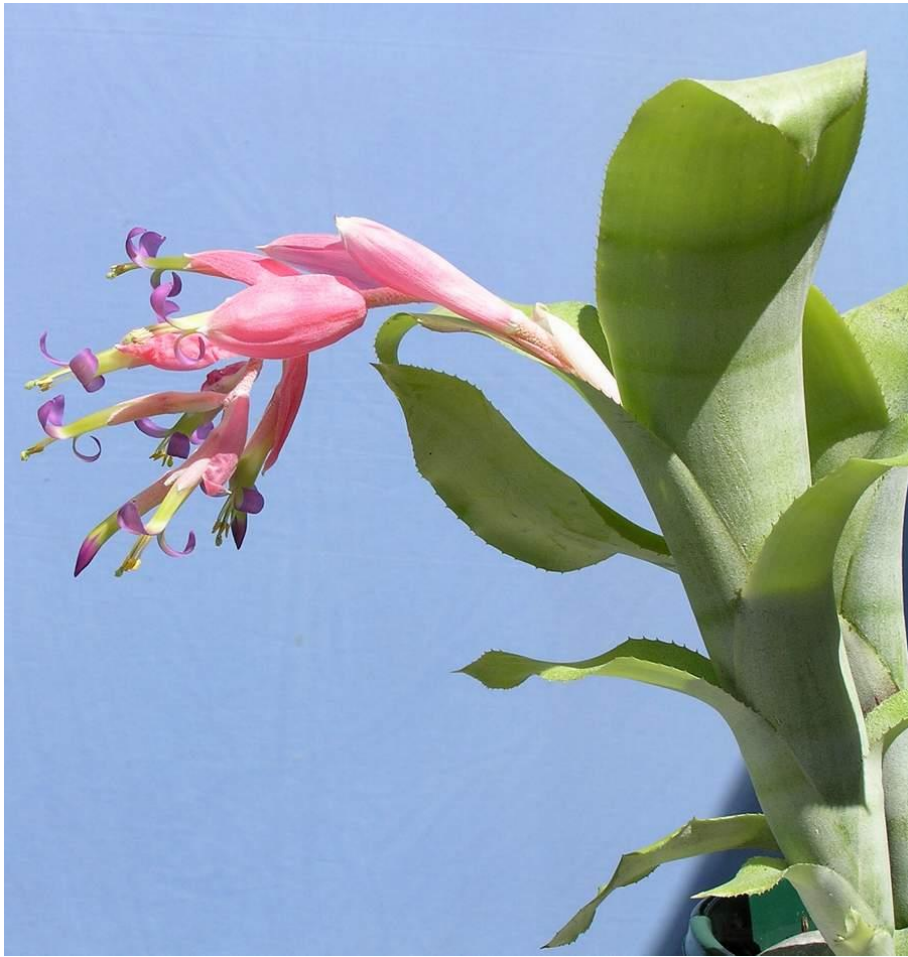


*Billbergia euphemiae* and *Billbergia euphemiae* var. *nudiflora*.  
*Botanical Drawings*. Images 27 and 28.

<http://stars.library.ucf.edu/fosterbotanical/27> and 28.

Mulford Foster described the type variety as having “apple-green leaves with grey bands” in contrast to the new variety he described named var. *purpurea*. He said “this new variety has reddish-purple leaves and does not show the typical gray bands of the other varieties. The richly colored leaves make an especially fine color combination with its lovely blue-flowers and luscious pink scape bracts carried on its nodding inflorescence.” *Brom. Soc. Bull.* 7: 40, 1957.

Below are var *euphemiae* and *purpurea* (photos by Derek Butcher).



Finally, var. *saundersioides* has spotted leaves - named since it looks like *Billbergia saundersii*; it grows in Bahia. Below is another illustration by Foster.



*Botanical Drawings. Image 31.*

<http://stars.library.ucf.edu/fosterbotanical/31>

You might note that some of these pictures of *Billbergia euphemiae*, especially the first one, look much like *Billbergia morelii*. Smith's key distinguished them as follows.”

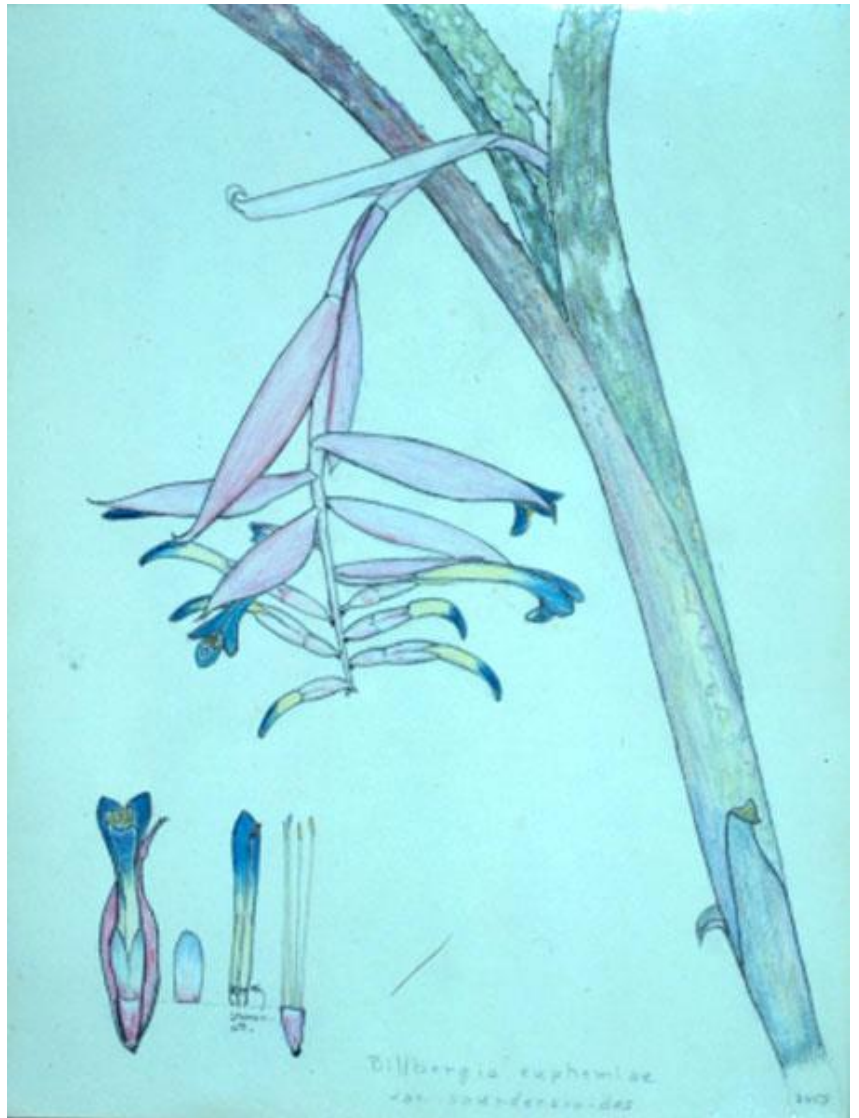
27. Inflorescence pendent, generally pseudosimple at the base with flowers at the ends of very short branches; petals pale green below the apex.

28. Lower floral bracts bright red, large, ample, concealing most of the dense inflorescence; leaves concolorous.

*morelii*

28. Lower floral bracts roseate or more often almost white, small, narrow; leaves banded or spotted.

*euphemiae*. ‘



In this regard, Barros & Costa stated that *Billbergia morelii* “shows a great likeness to *Billbergia euphemiae*, a species that is polymorphic. Morren (1872), Baker (1889), Mez (1892) and Smith & Downs (1979) used the orientation of the rachis, the disposition of the flowers along the rachis, the colouration of the bracts, the length of the lower floral bracts and the presence or absence of a pedicel as diagnostic characteristics in the separation of the two species. The characters that refer the orientation of the rachis and the disposition of the flowers along the rachis were also used by Smith (1955) to describe the variety *Billbergia euphemiae* var. *nudiflora*. The second character, however, was shown very variable among the examined specimens.

As for the distinction of the colouration of the bracts - red in *Billbergia morelii* and rose in *Billbergia euphemiae* - are well-known in the difficulty of collectors in discerning the colours of those structures.

The identified materials as *Billbergia morelii* occurring in the State of Rio de Janeiro (Moutinho & Ventura 35 HB, Santos Lima 15710 RB and Fontoura 10 RB) are badly preserved or they present insufficient characteristics for a description of the species. Therefore, the information contained in the labels and the evaluation of this herbarium material does not guarantee the necessary identification, being necessary for such a reevaluation of the range of both species starting with field work.” Barros & Costa , for State of Rio de Janeiro, Acta bot. bras. 22(4): 1172-92. 2008 (translation by Butcher).