S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

JANUARY 2018

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

sfvbromeliad.homestead.com sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

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, Mary K., Mike Wisnev -fp** Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz**
Refreshments: **vacant** Web: **Mike Wisnev,** Editors: **Mike Wisnev & Mary K.,** Snail Mail: **Nancy P-Hapke**

next meeting: **Saturday January 6, 2018 @ 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* - *Linda Holub*

Linda (the president of the Canejo Cactus & Succulent Society) and her husband recently visited Belize. They found that the resort where they were staying had the largest botanical garden in Belize. Linda will be talking about and showing pictures of many of the extraordinary plants native to Belize. The presentation will also feature pictures of native wildlife, Mayan ruins, and cave formations. It's a presentation you're sure to enjoy, and won't want to miss. <>

Happy New Year

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell: Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: ***Dana Groina, Nancy Pyne-Hapke, Adrienne Jaffe, James Johnson, Jeri Hughes, Richard Kaz, Leni Koska 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 <>

Holiday Card from Richard Kaz

Taking a look back at last month…….

Many regulars were missing but we still had a very nice Holiday Party, good participation, great food

Announcements

"Thanks to the generous donation of one of our members, the SFVBS's Library now contains one book.

The title is **"bromeliads - the connoisseur's guide"** by Andrew Steens. This is a valuable reference book for everyone. In addition to descriptions and photos of every Genus of Bromeliads, the author has included topics on "*Building a collection," Developing new bromeliads," and "Growing great bromeliads."* The section on growing is most informative.

Be sure to stop by the library area to peruse this new addition to our library.

Don't forget to also look at our collection of BSI Journals. – ***Joyce***

- ***Happy January Birthday*** to Ingrid Young Jan 5, James Johnson Jan 8, Phyllis Freize Jan 11, Mike Boess Jan 13 and Leni Koska Jan 26
- ***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. Each member, please bring one plant <>
- **Museum free day** will be Sunday, January 28th, 2018. The information is available at www.socalmuseums.org/free-for-all. It looks as if the only garden that's participating is Descanso Gardens.
- **National Public Gardens Day** is Friday before Mother's Day in May.
- In a few days I will forward you a copy of the The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter; there is an interesting article describing the fire at RFI growing grounds. Cristy Brenner has been there.

Please pay your 2018 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 for monthly e-mail** newsletters or **$15 for snail mail**

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	***Linda Holub***
Saturday February 3, 2018	***Bryan Chan***
Saturday March 3, 2018	***STBA***
Saturday April 7, 2018	***Cristy Brenner - Brazil***
Saturday May 5, 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** <>

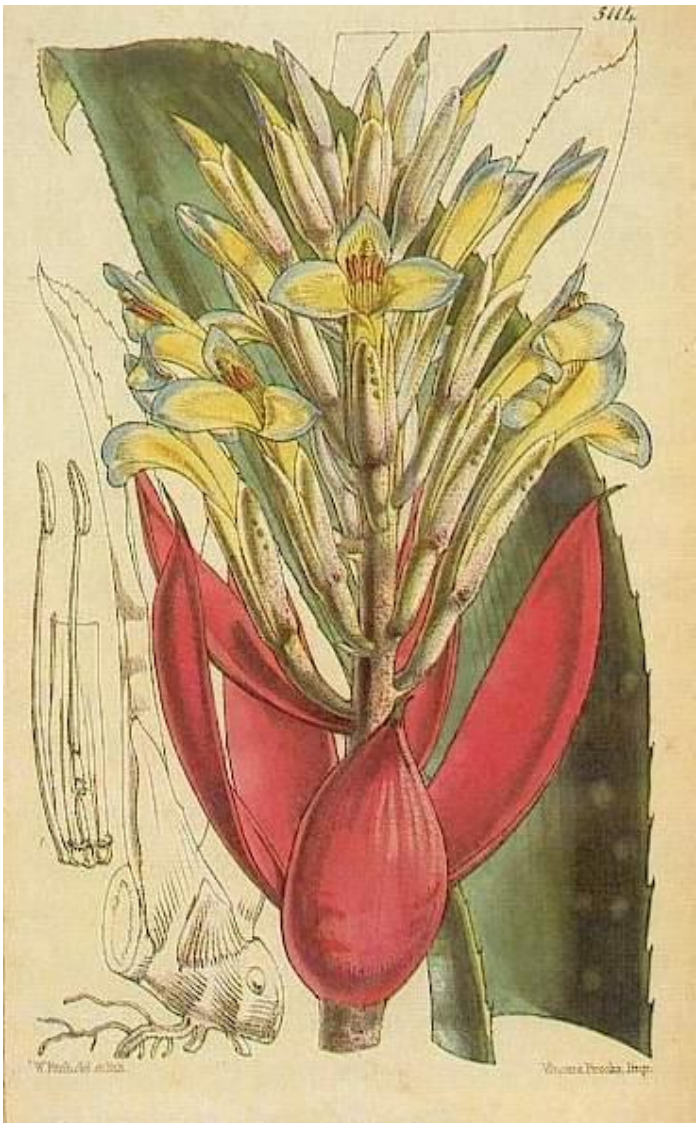
Taxonomic Tidbits – *Yellow/green petalled Billbergia - Part 11(B macrocalyx and the rest)*

By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS Editor (mwisnev@gmail.com)

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –January 2018

After some two years, this Part 11 will wrap up the discussion of yellow/green petalled *Billbergia*! Part 1 appeared back in Feb. 2016.

The inflorescence of *Billbergia macrocalyx* is both lovely and seemingly unique compared to most described so far. First, like *B nutans*, the petals are blue margined, rather than blue tipped. While *Bilbergia nutans* petals are medium green with dark blue margins, these are light pale green with sky blue margins. Second, most of the rest of the inflorescence, including the peduncle (but not the red peduncle bracts), are white farinose.



The effect is quite lovely, as shown below. This is actually a photograph, by Don Beadle, of a "highly detailed drawing[s], beautifully colored" of *Billbergia macrocalyx* in plate 5114 Curtis's Botanical Magazine (1859) See 41(3) JBS 104 (1991).

As is often the case, the illustrations are prettier than the actual thing, shown below. They seem pale blue.

Billbergia macrocalyx, photos by Brod (left) and Butcher (right).

The species is found in both Minas Gerais and Bahia, Brazil. Interestingly Foster found both it and *amoena* var *minor* at or near Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais in July 1940. His illustrations of the latter is below. *macrocalyx*

Billbergia macrocalyx . *Botanical Drawings.* Image 36.http://stars.library.ucf.edu/fosterbotanical/36 Minas Gerais: Belo Horizonte, 6 July 1940. Foster 542 (GH).

Two other *Billbergia* grow in the same area. One is the fairly rare *Billbergia porteana*, which also has a white farinose scape, but looks quite different. Actually, it has green petals as well, but it won't be described for reasons noted later. The other is the fairly well known *Billbergia vittata.* While the description of Billbergia *vittata* in Smith & Downs says the petals have " the apical third dark blue and the remainder white or pale green," photographs suggest any green portion is hidden by the red sepals with blue tips.

Given the blue margins of *Billbergia nutans* and *macrocalyx*, I was curious if anyone had crossed them. Billbergia 'Candy' is such a cross, the petals of which are shown below. It was described as a "giant *nutans*."

Though not intended to so, this series of articles has unexpectedly covered most of subgenus *Billbergia*. It has discussed 21 of the 26 currently accepted species of subgenus *Billbergia* that are listed in Smith's Monograph. As to eight current species of subgenus *Billbergia* listed in the Bromeliad Taxon List that are not listed in the Monograph, five more appear to have yellow/green petals. We have already discussed *castelenis and decipiens*. The other three seem related to *Billbergia amoena or distachia* , which brings us full circle to Parts 1-4 which covered those species at length.

Billbergia 'Candy'

Photo from Bromeliad Cultivar Register.

Two of them have petals that green at the base, and purple or blue at the tip. One is a natural hybrid of *Billbergia distachia* and *Billbergia vittata* called Billbergia x*claudioi* (the x indicates its hybrid status). The only pictures I can find are copyrighted, so see this link if you are interested. http://fcbs.org/articles/Don_Beadle_Others_Hybrids.htm

The other is a real oddity. *Billbergia manarae* is perhaps the only *Billbergia* found in Venezuela. First described in 1978, it seems to have sterile pollen, and some think it is a hybrid, perhaps of *Billbergia amoena* and *distachia*. I was shocked to find a plant with that label at the HBG Jungle Garden; I can't wait to see if it ever blooms to confirm the ID.

At the other end of the spectrum, *Billbergia nana* has rather short leaves – the description says 8-10 inches long. Described by Pereira in 1973,
Smith doesn't even mention it in the Monograph, even as a synonym. Pereira says "This species has some affinity with *Billbergia amoena* (Lodd) Lindl. but from this and its known varieties it is distinguished by the clearly simple inflorescence with very few flowers, by the very small size of the plant with entirely purplish leaves. Being collected in Espirito Santo and cultivated in Santa Catarina, it is possible that this plant represents only another variety of *Billbergia amoena*, but considering the discrepancies our plant presents, both from the typical form *of Billbergia amoena* and from its known varieties, and for the lack of knowledge about the variability of this species, we prefer to consider it as separate species in order not to increase the confusion already existing in the *Billbergia amoena* complex. It is true that the Bromeliads, specifically the Billbergias, Vrieseas and Neoregelias are subject to great ecological variations, due to the great capacity of adaptation and facility in hybridizing. In this case however the discrepancies are in my opinion too great." ***Billbergia nana*** E Pereira Bradea 1: 316-8 1973 (translation by Butcher).

Billbergia nana, left . Photo by Leme.

Leme, Brazilian Reports, Numbers 2, 3, and 4. 39(1) JBS 17 (1989). While it has affinities *with Billbergia amoena*, Leme notes its short stature distinguishes it, and unlike most varieties of *Billbergia amoena*, the upper part of the sepals and petals of *Billbergia nana* are violet.

Summarizing, this series has discussed 26 of the 34 species of subgenus *Billbergia.* It turns out there are far more green yellow petaled species with some blue in their petals than those without any blue. A rough breakdown of the categories is below.

Five or six species with green, yellow or green/yellow petals, plus five varieties or forms of others : *chlorantha, laxiflora, viridiflora, decipiens, castelensis*, *tweedieana* (maybe), *amoena var viridis, distachia var straussiana, lietzei var chlorantha, iridifolia var concolor*, and some forms of *minarum.*

Three species with blue at the very tip: *amoena, elegans and distachia.*

Three species with blue around the margins: *nutans, fosteriana and macrocalyx.*

Nine species with green extending beyond sepals, and blue for more than just at tip: *saundersii, sanderiana, lietzei, leptopoda, iridifolia, minarum, nana, X claudioi, and manarae*

Five or six species with green at base, basically covered by sepals, and rest of petals all blue. *Euphemiae, morelii, seidelii, pohliana, reichardtii and tweedeiana* (maybe).

Have we covered all the *Billbergia* species with petals that are at least partially yellow or green? The answer is a resounding NO. As we have seen, the petals of some clones of some species don't quite match the description; thus, it might be that some of the other eight subgenus *Billbergia* species have petals with some green in them. More importantly, except for *Billbergia porteana*, this series hasn't mentioned a single species of the other subgenus, few of which are commonly cultivated. Many of them have green/yellow petals! No doubt this subgenus will show up in another article.