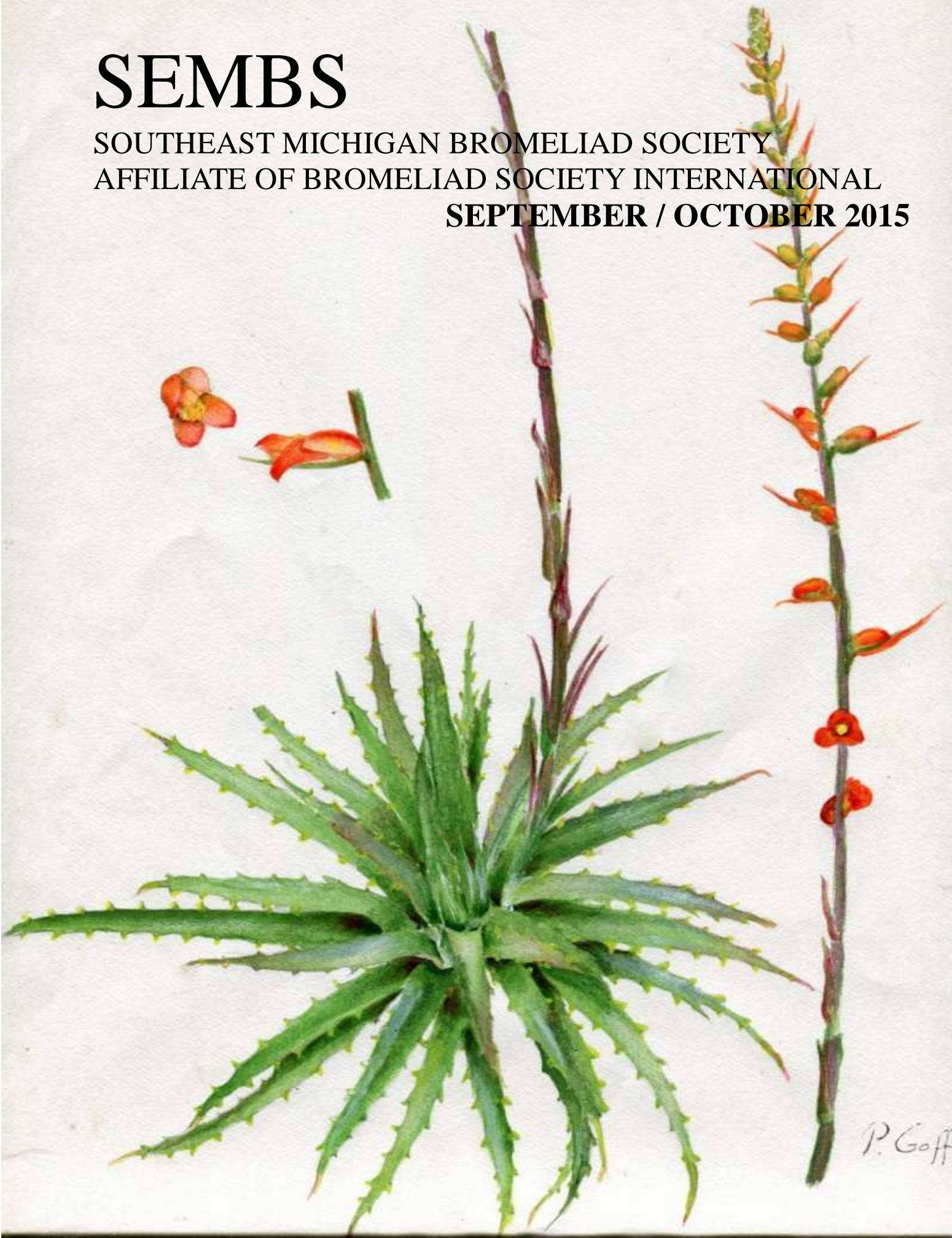


SEMBS

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY
AFFILIATE OF BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015



P. Goff



Cover: *Dyckia platyphylla*, terrestrial, growing along with cactus in sunny, arid areas of Brazil. Dyckias do not bloom from the center, but from a leaf axil so that the growth shoot does not die after blooming. The inflorescence extends disproportionately high to guarantee that pollinators find the vibrant orange blossoms amid all the competing growth.

October Meeting: Saturday October 17, 2015, 2 pm

Andrew and Malorie Okla, 2840 Parker St., Dearborn, MI 48124. Tele.: (248) 762-0896 will host our meeting in October: Discussion topic: **Coping with Winter: What Instructions Does Natural Habitat Give Us?** We are decidedly uncomfortable at 45° F. Which bromeliads feel the same way as we do? Do some need more water in the dry winter air? Or less in the cooler temperatures? The natural habitat offers valuable hints about the best ways to get our plants through the winter.



The Okla Greenhouse (photo: Okla)



Billbergia 'Casa Blanca' (photo: Okla)



A few bromeliads (photo: Wingert)



EXOTIC PLANT SHOW & SALE

MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS

SEPT.

12-13

SPONSORED BY

10:30 AM

– 4:30 PM

MICHIGAN CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY

INFO: 248-380-7359

2015 marks the fifth year we have co-hosted the show and sale with the Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society. We have enjoyed the advantages of co-hosting: many more visitors to introduce bromeliads to, fascinating display of specimen cactus, caudiciforms, bizarre succulents. And of course the cactus and succulent people bring interesting things to sell. Even a few bromeliads. Last year I picked up a *Dyckia marnier-lapostollei* (which bloomed a month after I brought it home) and a *Billbergia nutans* whose leaves turn dark reddish in the sun. Much more showy than the green-leaved variety we're accustomed to.

Members are encouraged to bring favorite plants for display and plants, pups, seedlings to sell. All material for sale should be clearly tagged. Members need not be present to sell.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens



Navia lactea in bloom

Marie Selby has been among my top few botanical destinations (Kew Gardens in London, Kirstenbosch in South Africa and Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix round out the top four). After seeing the name again and again in orchid books and beside many amazing photos in Oliva-Esteva's *Bromeliads*, the allure had grown sufficiently to warrant a road trip.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that the tropical conservatory was once again open to the public, having been under construction while the central wooden pergola was replaced. The space is beautifully designed and well-maintained, but surprisingly small—given, most plants needn't be grown under glass in zone 9b. The outdoor gardens are more expansive, with some beautiful specimens from a variety of biomes. The xeric garden was among the most interesting, where in addition to some nice *Hechtia* spp. we were treated to the fetid stench of a blooming *Stapelia gigantea*.

What makes Selby so spectacular, though, is the breadth of their collection, the overwhelming majority of which is not on public display. We were fortunate to meet collections horticulturist Addie Worth, who gave us a tour of the seemingly innumerable greenhouses. What we anticipated would be a mere “quick peek” wound up being a few-hours chatting, taking photos and generally wandering around in awe. In addition to an incredible array of orchids (many from genera I'd never heard of) and two spectacular *Titanum*



Tillandsia concolor



The 'Tillandsia house'

amorphophallus in flower, it offered a unique opportunity to see some bromeliads seldom encountered in cultivation (e.g. *Lindmania*, *Brochinnia*, *Fosterella*, etc.). I was eager to finally see some *Navia* spp. in person, a rare opportunity for reasons made obvious by photos of the plants in situ: most reside in relatively isolated populations on the summits and steep cliff faces of Venezuelan tepuis, often in very specific microclimates that have made them thus difficult to adapt to cultivation.

Our tour concluded in a greenhouse devoted entirely to *Tillandsia*, which contained—among many other

superlatives—the largest clumps of *T. funckiana* we'd ever seen. An enormous pile of "extra" *Tillandsia* spp. had been relegated to one of many "hodgepodge" tables, full of plants that had become too numerous or lost their identification tag, to be used as miscellaneous adjuncts in the gardens, sold or given away. Such is



Wittrockia cyathiformis

the vastness and prestige of the Selby collection that otherwise remarkable specimens are treated with such callous indifference!

Addie even imparted a few plants that would join our collection or be sent to Matthaei (including a hefty chunk of *T. funkiana*). When the view through our rear windshield was entirely obstructed, we tacitly agreed it was time to head home.



The finally lot. Not pictured is Wittrockia superba in the back seat