



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

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

**APRIL 2017**

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

sfvbromeliad.homestead.com

sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

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**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**

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**next meeting: Saturday April 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 Bryan Chan**

**“Getting your Plants Show Ready”**

Bryan and Mary Chan have been active members of

our club for more than 20 years. During construction of the Sepulveda Garden Center the Chans frequently hosted our monthly meetings, holiday parties and backyard picnics. Bryan is a top grower of bromeliads and several of his *Dyckia* are registered thru the Bromeliad Society International. Many of his plants are sold on eBay. Each year he is a co-chair for the annual show and sale. Recently retired, Bryan has been able to pursue his love of the guitar and singing the Blues.

At this meeting Bryan will demonstrate show preparation for your plants. Many valuable growing and prep tips. Whether you are a novice or advanced grower, you can learn something.

**Don't miss this meeting! <>**

**11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:**  
Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **David & Sue Bassani, Ron Behar, Kaz & Duke Benadom, Jeanette Bond, Cristy Brenner, Mike Boess, Pat Byrne, Bryan & Mary Chan 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.

**Questions about refreshments?** Call Mary K. (818-705-4728) Leave message - she will call back.

***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.

***Taking a look back at last month.....***

**Announcements**

**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

**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 April 1	Bryan Chan – Getting your Plants Show Ready
Saturday May 6	Roxie and Jim Esterle – Baja Plant Adventure
Saturday June 3	David Bassani – Designing with Bromeliads (tentative)
Sat & Sun - June 10&11,	<b>SFVBS Bromeliad Show &amp; Sale</b>
Saturday July 1	STBA
Saturday August 5	STBA
Saturday September 2	STBA
Saturday October 7	STBA
Saturday November 4	STBA
Saturday December 2	Holiday Party

**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) <>

## Taxonomic Tidbits –

*Yellow/green petalled Billbergia - Part 8 – (species that have some forms all green/yellow and some with blue - B iridifolia, minatum and leitzii).*

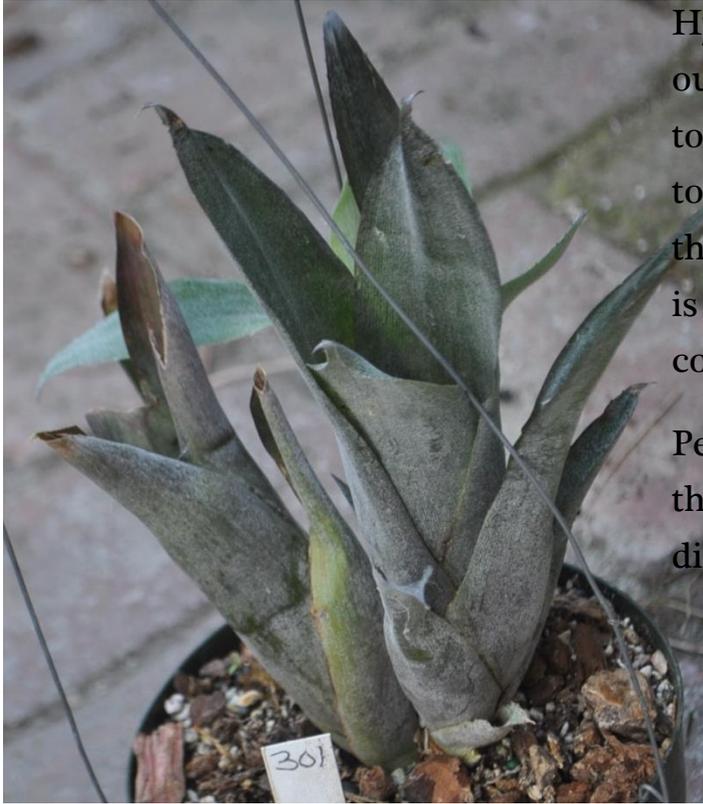
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By Mike Wisnev, ([mwisnev@gmail.com](mailto:mwisnev@gmail.com))

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –March 2017

This series started out by looking for a *Billbergia* with yellow, or perhaps yellow green, petals. We have seen many pictures that qualify, though most have some blue in them. Last August, Part 7 finally described a number of them without any blue in the petals. Some species have some forms or varieties with some blue in the petals, and some that all green or yellow. Two have already been mentioned – *B amoena* and *distachia*, discussed in parts 1-4.

*B iridifolia* is, I think, the first actually described as actually having yellow flowers.



Hybrids in cultivation probably outnumber species more than 10 to 1. Of all the species mentioned to date in this series, this is the third one that I actually have, if it is correct. A bloom is needed to confirm a label.

Perhaps it will have bloomed by the time this article shows up –it did, see more below.

*B iridifolia*, per label.

The leaves are grooved, or canaliculate, as mentioned in the description below.

In the key, Smith groups *B iridifolia* with *B distachia* and *nutans* - all three have a decurved glabrous inflorescence with sessile flowers. He distinguishes it on the basis that its floral bracts are all large, while the other two species have much reduced ones towards the apex.



Smith's description

starts out with this: "*Billbergia iridifolia* (Nees & Martius) Lindley, Bot. Reg. 13:pl. 1068. 1827." This shows that Lindley first described it as such in the publication noted. This is the illustration in that publication.

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/9049#page/73/mode/1up>.

Contributed by the Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library.

The parenthetical reference to "(Nees & Martius)" means they described it earlier with the same species name, but as a member of a different genus. They named it *Bromelia iridifolia* four years earlier.

*B iridifolia* "stands out from the others by the tubular rosette with canaliculate leaves, long and geniculate rachis, inflorescence lax, lower

floral bracts and upper ones similar to the scape bracts (and the lower ones equal the flowers and the upper ones equal the sepals), flowers sessile to short-pedicellate, zygomorphic, the pattern of colours of the flowers and form and length of the ovary. “ Barros & Costa , for State of Rio de Janeiro, Acta Bot. Bras. 22(4): 1172-92. 2008 (translation by Butcher). The article continues that “the species is distributed in the States of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro ... in the Atlantic Pluvial Forest, in the restinga forests, and rupestral fields, to 810 m altitude ...”

Like a few other *Billbergia* species covered so far, the petals can be two colors. Var *iridifolia* has yellow petals with blue tips, while var *concolor* has all yellow flowers. The peduncle, peduncle bracts and floral bracts are rose, while the sepals are “green or yellow with the top 1/5 blue, or rose base with middle portion yellow and blue apex.” Id.

Below is **var *iridifolia***, showing the tubular rosette, decurved inflorescence, sessile flowers, 2 toned petals, 3 toned sepals and large floral bracts. Photo by Butcher?



Looking through Derek's materials, I was surprised to find this following information written by Edward J Alexander in Addisonia (a journal published by the New York Botanical Garden from 1916 to 1964), volume unknown. Perhaps if my plant pups a lot, I might give it a try!

*B. iridifolia* is said to have tonic, expectorant and slightly cathartic qualities. A tea made from the leaves has been used in pulmonary and other lung troubles, for which purpose the tea must be mixed with brandy and sugar. The natives in South America are said to prepare a delicious drink by distillation of the entire plant, obtaining a liquid similar in appearance to the juice of sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*), but not conveniently convertible into sugar.

Perhaps if my plant pups a lot, I might give it a try!

Sadly for readers, while I certainly appreciate the beauty of bromeliads, I don't have much talent in describing them nearly as well as some others. Alexander describes *B iridifolia* as follows:

The drooping billbergia is an epiphytic herb, with a short stem covered by closely set leaves forming a rosette, and with their bases cupped. The leaves are from one and a half to two or three feet long, tough and hard, dark-green above, somewhat scurfy beneath, strap-like, with an acuminate tip and undulate margin, sparsely set with minute spiny teeth near the base. The inflorescence is a loose,

drooping raceme, the entire rachis of which is bright rosy red, with several coralline bracts below the flowers and one subtending each individual flower. Each flower is from two to two and a half inches long. The three sepals are coral-pink, tipped apically with sky blue. The three petals are greenish yellow, becoming sky blue towards the rounded recurved apex; linear, convolute towards the base, where each bears two nectar-glands. The six stamens are exerted on slender white filaments. The stigma is three parted, convolute; the style filiform; the ovary inferior, three-celled and many ovuled. The capsule is berry like, the seeds naked.

EDWARD J. ALEXANDER.

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As noted earlier, **var. *concolor*** has all yellow petals. Here are photos (by Butcher) of that variety. Like some of the all yellow green petals in *amoena* var. *viridis*, there might be a hint of blue at the tips of the petals. Though not so described by Smith, the sepals don't have any blue in them, and are



almost all yellow'



Notice how the flowers develop first on the part closest to the rosette, as is the case for all? bromeliads. Some of the older bracts are drying out and losing their color.

Given the many colors in the flower parts of this species, I was curious if it had been hybridized much. Checking on FCBS, the search engine revealed only a single hybrid – the rather well known *B*Catherine Wilson, which in turn has been hybridized extensively (FCBS lists 19). But the parentage isn't clear - it is listed as *amoena* var *viridis* x "*iridifolia*?" Interestingly, all of the picture on FCBS and BCR seem to show petals without any blue, and sepals with a blue tip, consistent with the description in the article on BCR by Derek. As to the "*iridifolia*?" Derek just says "don't let that worry us!"

Given this lack of hybrids, I can't wait until my *iridifolia* blooms. If it is indeed *iridifolia*, my hopefully I can cross it with something and get some seed! Maybe Larry F can give me a Costco cashew jar! (For those non-Club

members, Larry gave a talk on growing seed, and grows everything in these jars – he has hundreds of them!).

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I wrote most of this series at the end of 2015. A few months later, an inflorescence began to appear on my *B iridifolia*. By March 2016, it was in full bloom, as shown below.



Inflorescence of my incorrectly labelled *B iridifolia*. Wait – it doesn't seem to match very well! The petals are yellow green, not yellow, and it has tiny floral bracts. The sepals and ovaries aren't really the right color, though that is often due to sunlight. When I keyed it out, it seemed to match (and look like) *B distachia straussiana* almost perfectly. So labels aren't always right.....

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At least one more taxa has all green petals – *B lietzei* var *chlorantha*. . According to the original description by Morren, translation by Butcher: “We recognized two very distinct varieties among the few stems of *Billbergia lietzei* that bloomed under our care. The form that we consider as typical has green petals but for the top being blue, while a variety exists, that one can name *chlorantha*, whose petals are green entirely. From Belg. Hortic. 31: 97-8, Pls. 5-7. 1881. Smith did not recognize both varieties, though the description noted the different colors for the petals.



*B lietzei* var *chlorantha*, with all yellow/green petals. Photo by Butcher. There is another variety with blue tips discussed and shown in the next part.

*B minarum* also exists in two forms, one with an all green flower and one with blue tips. The plant shown on FCBS is an odd looking plant, with thin spotted leaves and a highly decurved inflorescence much like *B viridipetala* but with much shorter pedicels. The picture on Tropiflora looks quite different. Smith described the species in 1955 based on a collection by Foster 15 years earlier in Minas Gerais. He compared it to both *leptopoda* and *lietzei*, differing in its minute floral bracts.

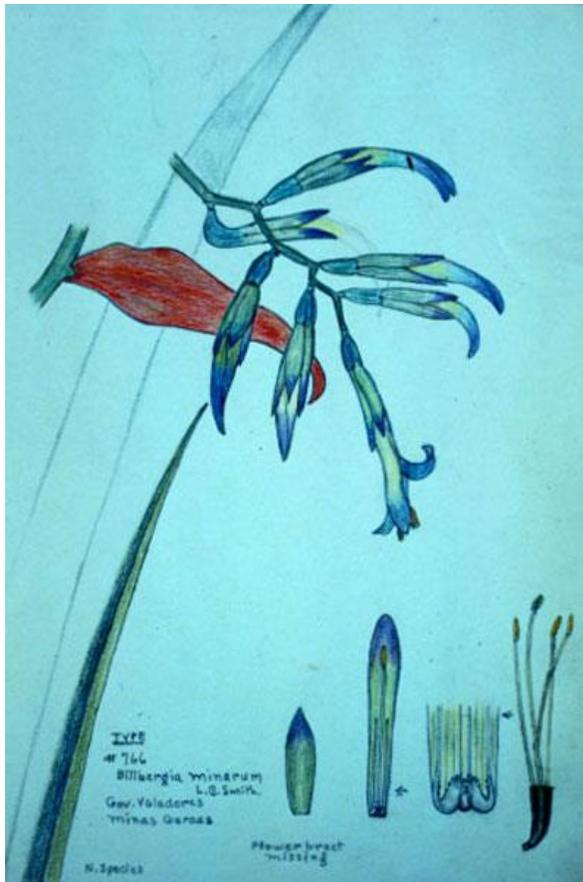


Illustration of type plant found by M Foster in 1940 and given the name *B minarum* by Smith in 1955. "*Billbergia minarum*" *Botanical Drawings*. Image 38. <http://stars.library.ucf.edu/fosterbotanical/38>