



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

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

**AUGUST 2019**

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

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Twitter is: **sfvbromsociety**

Instagram is: **sfvbromeliadsociety**

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### Elected OFFICERS & Volunteers

Pres: **Bryan Chan** V.P.: **Joyce Schumann** Sec: **Leni Koska** Treas: **Mary Chan** Membership: **Steffanie Delgado**  
Advisors/Directors: **Steve Ball, Richard Kaz -fp, & Carole Scott-fp,** Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz** Refreshments: **vacant**  
Web & Editor: **Mike Wisnev** Snail Mail: **Nancy P-Hapke** Instagram & Twitter & Face Book: **Felipe Delgado**

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**next meeting: Saturday August 3, 2019 @ 10:00 am**

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91436

### AGENDA

**9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE**

**10:00 - Door Prize drawing – 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 – Duke Benadom “Aloes of Southern Africa”**

Most SFVBS members are interested in a variety of plants maybe including Aloes? Sometimes our raffle table will contain one or two Aloe, Hmm. What should we do about that? Maybe invite an Aloe expert to present a program on Aloes in their homeland. Ya think?



Duke Benadom has traveled extensively throughout North America and Africa and will share some of those adventures. Duke likes to include tidbits of interest such as reptiles, spiders, and rocks (geology) in his presentations; he and Kaz, his wife used to own a pet shop. This program has something for everyone! In addition, he will be bringing plants to sell.

Duke and Kaz have been long time members of SFVBS, but recent illness has prevented regular meeting attendance. Together they operate a small backyard

nursery in Simi Valley where they grow a variety of cactus and succulents as well as some bromeliads. Duke became a Director for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) in 1990. For a lot of years he wore many hats in the CSSA, serving as the CSSA's Show Chair, Convention Chair, VP, President and Editor of the CSSA Journal. He is a recipient of three CSSA awards, Superior Service, Special Service, and Fellow. He was the author of the long-running CSJ column, Superb Succulents, since its inception. He enjoys flora and fauna, seed growing, traveling, photography, and sharing these experiences with others of similar interests. Duke has published several cactus and succulent books and will have a few for sale; bring your check book.

**11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:** Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **I J K L M N and O 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 **bring one.**

**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 <>**

**Announcements**

- Time for the annual **Mosquito warning** – At 80 degrees water becomes stagnant in about 4 days. Stagnant water means Mosquitos are breeding. They live in the same tropical environments as the outdoor growth of bromeliads and die old when temperatures drop below 50. Flush bromeliads or add fresh water every 3 or 4 days. They can lay 100 eggs in a bottle cap.
- **SFVBS 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

**South Bay Bromeliad Associates - 2019 Bromeliad Plant Show and Plant Sale**

**Where:** Rainforest Flora Nursery 19121 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance, CA 90503  
**When:** Plant Show---Saturday, August 3rd noon - 4:00pm  
 Sunday, Aug 4th 10 - 4pm / Plant Sales---- Open Both days 10am - 4pm  
 Free Admission & Free Parking / Direct Inquiries to: Bryan Chan [bcbrome@aol.com](mailto:bcbrome@aol.com) (818)366-1858  
 Plenty of time to visit **after** our SFVBS meeting.

This is a must- see Bromeliad plant show! Rainforest’s exotic retail nursery location provides the space for some of the best growers in Southern California to display and sell their Bromeliads. This is a judged show and all Bromeliad growers are welcomed to enter.

The show will feature many species, hybrids, and cultivars that are not commonly seen. SBBA members and Rainforest’s employees will be available to answer any questions you may have. Many plants will be offered for sale from commercial vendors and SBBA member’s private collections.

Ted Johnson, Show Chairman of South Bay Bromeliad Associates, Jerry Robinson and Paul Isley of Rainforest Flora extend a hearty “welcome” to all and hope you will come to share this rewarding experience with us. <>

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## **Have you paid your 2019 Membership Dues?**

***NEED TO RENEW ?.....***

**Pay at the meeting to: Membership Chair –Steffanie Delgado 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 2019 Calendar. Rarely does our schedule change..... however, please review our website and email notices before making your plans for these dates. Your attendance is important to us

Saturday and Sunday August 3-4	SBBA show and sale
Saturday September 7	STBA
Saturday October 5	STBA
Saturday November 2	STBA
Saturday December 7	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 **Joyce Schumann** at 818-416-5585 or [ropojo@pacbell.net](mailto:ropojo@pacbell.net)

*This section is open each month for any Member-contributions of photos or articles....*

Bryan Chan submitted the following picture of various *Vriesea* in bloom. All of them are John Arden hybrids. John was the leading *Vriesea* hybridizer for decades. For more about him, see the September 2015 Newsletter. Many thanks to Bryan for sharing..



# Taxonomic Tidbits: *Two new genera* *(Waltillia and Gregbrownia) and new complex* *(Cipuropsis-Mezobromelia) – Part 2*

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –August 2019

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Last month discussed *Waltillia* and *Cipuropsis*, and this month continues with *Mezobromelia* and *Gregbrownia*. All are part of the *Tillandsioideae* subfamily, which was revised significantly in 2016 based on DNA testing and morphological features. See Barfuss, M.H.J.; Till, W.; Leme, E.M.C.; Pinzón, J.P.; Manzanares, J.M.; Halbritter, H.; Samuel, R. & Brown, G.K. (2016) *Taxonomic revision of Bromeliaceae subfam. Tillandsioideae based on a multi-locus DNA sequence phylogeny and morphology. Phytotaxa* 279 (1): 001–097 (“2016 Revisions”). For more details, see the Dec. 2016 and Jan. and Feb. 2017 Newsletters.

***Mezobromelia***. This genus was described by Smith in 1935 in his sixth Study in Bromeliaceae in 1935. Dedicated the genus to Dr Carl Mez, Smith said the corolla structure “is exactly like that in *Guzmania* except that there are scales alternating with the filaments at their point of attachment to the corolla.” No other distinguishing features are mentioned. In fact, he notes that when he compared this new genus to a *Guzmania*, he found neither was truly gamopetalous (having fused petals), but rather the petals were “so folded and interlocked as to make it seem so even in fresh material.” He listed a single species, *M bicolor*, found in Columbia, which is one the smallest species in the genus and has polystichous flowers. By 2016, there were about 9 species.

In different ways, the species were similar to *Guzmania* (northwestern S. America locality and connate petals) and *Vriesea* (petal appendages and generally distichous flowers). Some were more densely flowered, while others were more lax. They are generally large plants often with distichous inflorescences like *Vriesea*.



Figure 7.  
*Mezobromelia capituligera*, a giant epiphyte in northwestern Ecuador. Note the globose branches.

Photo by E. Besse.

Figure 8. The inflorescence of *Mezobromelia pleiosticha* photographed in western Ecuador. Note the rather elongate branches.



Photo by A. Hirtz.

The study in the 2016 Revisions included *Mezobromelia capituligera*, *bicolor* and *pleiosticha*, which fell on one clade with *Tillandsia schimperiana* (see Jerry Raack's great photos of *T. schimperiana* in the January 2019 Newsletter.) The authors stated *M. hospitalis* and *M. magdalenae* tentatively belong as well. In general, these species appear to be larger than *Cipuropsis* with more dense inflorescences. Both genera have simple erect stigma, unlike *Vriesea* which have type convolute blade II.

***Gregbrownia***. The 2016 Revisions found that 4 of the species (the laxly flowered ones) not only didn't belong in *Mezobromelia*, but they weren't even in the same tribe. These were moved to a new genus, *Gregbrownia*, in tribe Tillandsieae.



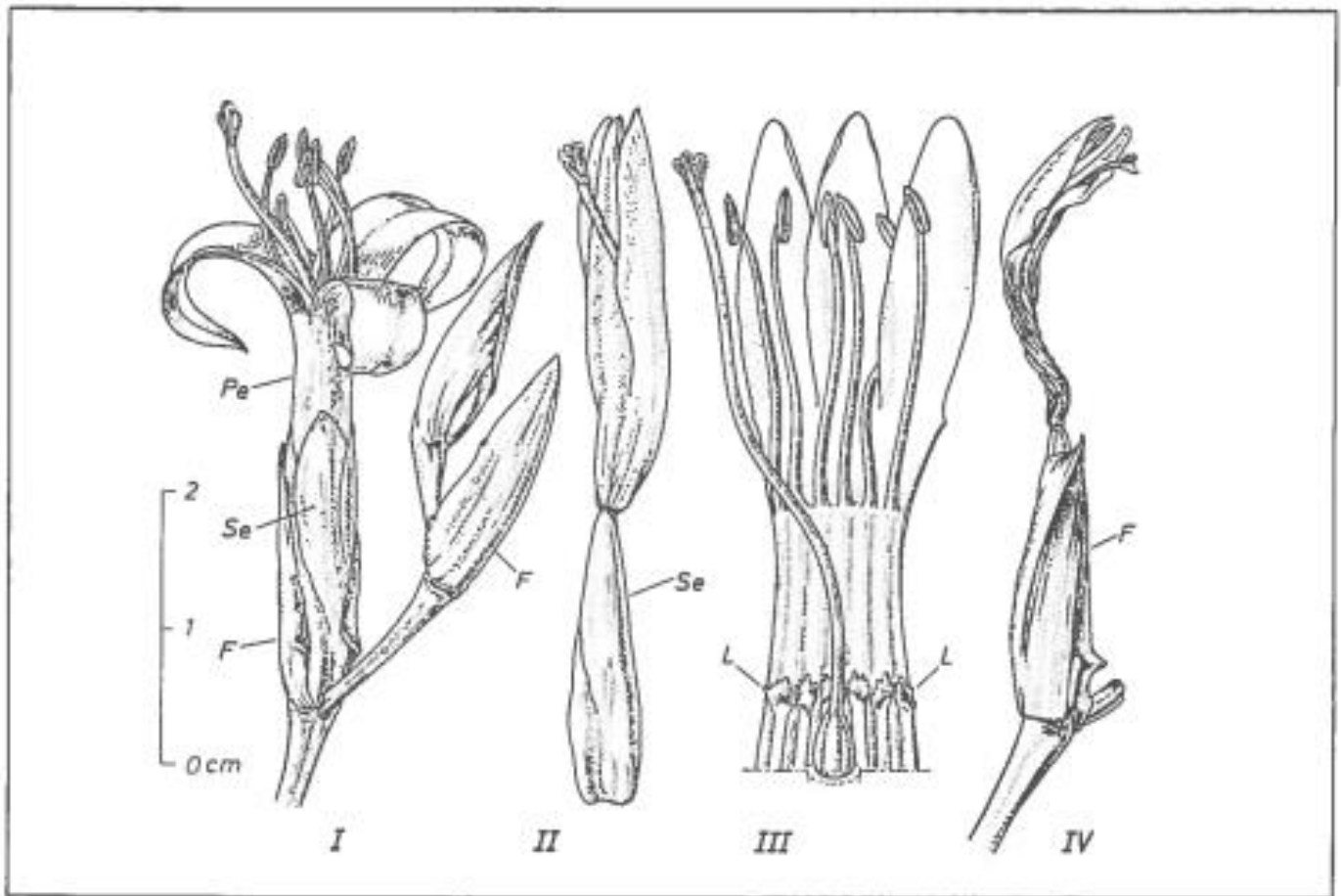
### *Gregbrownia fulgens*

“shown in full bloom at 2800 meters on the paramo (Cumbre Loja-Zamora), southern Ecuador).”

Prof. Werner Rauh says this species grows terrestrially in the plains in Southern Ecuador between 2500 and 3000 meters in altitude. But on the Amazonian side, they grow epiphytically and are much smaller.

Photo by Werner Rauh. 42(1) JBS 20 at 23 (1992). This had been *Mezobromelia* species until 2016.

Despite the fact they are not in the same tribe, the key in the 2016 Revisions distinguishes lists this genus next to *Mezobromelia*. In simplified terms, both genera have connate petals like *Guzmania*, but they have petal appendages (unlike *Guzmania*). Each genus has a different stigma type. As compared to *Mezobromelia*, the inflorescences of *Gregbrownia* species are generally twice branched (vs once branched) but with less dense flowers. Their petal appendages look different. The style and stigma of *Gregbrownia* extend beyond the petals, while those of *Mezobromelia* don't.



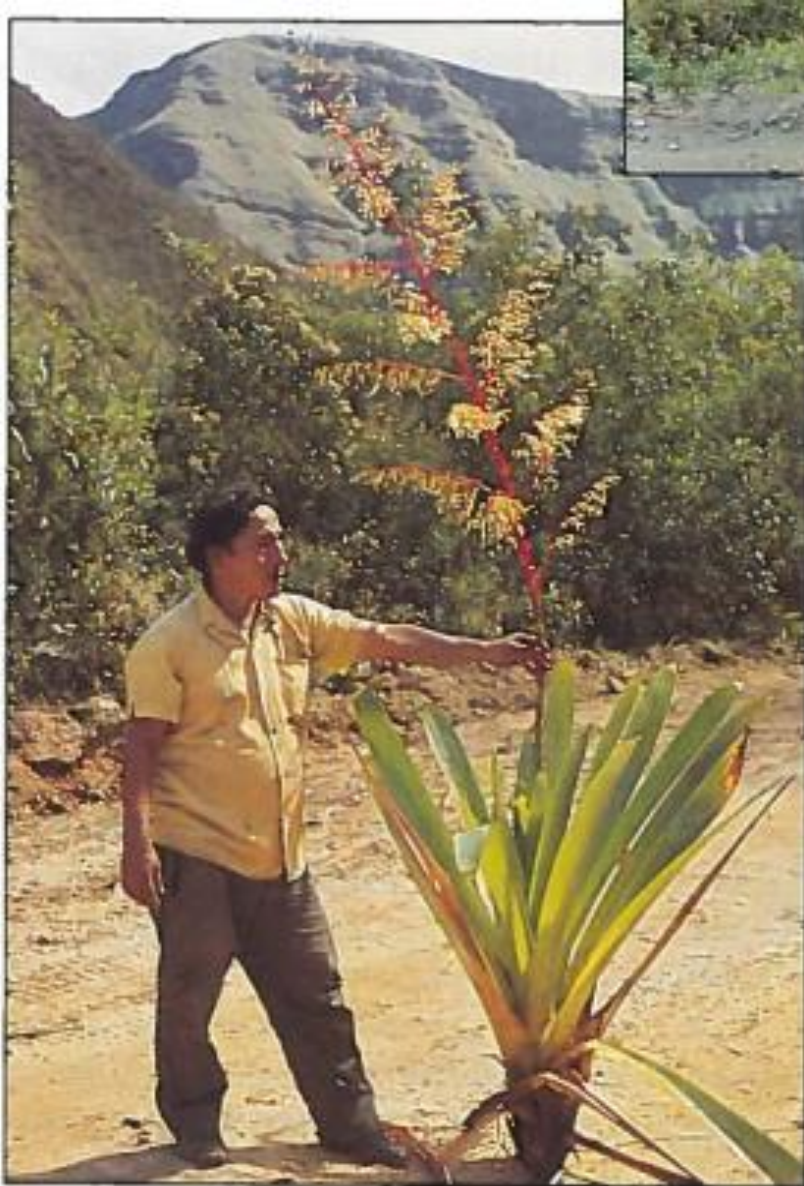
F. Rückert

Figure 9

*Mezobromelia hutchisonii* (L.B. Smith) W. Weber & L.B. Smith (= *M. trollii* Rauh). I. Bloom spike with opened flower: Se sepals, Pe petals, F floral bracts; II. Flower in postfloral state; III. Opened flower with ligules: (L); IV. Young fruit.

42(1) JBS 20 at 21 (1992). Drawing III above shows how the petals are joined together, as is the case for *Guzmania* and *Mezobromelia*. In that same drawing, you can see the crenulated petal appendages at the bottom; *Guzmania* don't have them, while those of *Mezobromelia* are entire. Drawing I shows that the stigma and style are exserted, unlike those of *Mezobromelia*.

A comparison of their descriptions in the 2016 Revisions shows a number of similar characteristics for *Cipuopsis*, *Mezobromelia* and *Gregbrownia*. In general, they are all epiphytic or terrestrial plants that form rosettes with their mesomorphic and lingulate leaves and have compound inflorescences and symmetric sepals. They have white or yellow petals that are partially conglutinated/connate with petal appendages and filaments partially agglutinated/adnate to the petals. In most cases, their pollen is similar.



*Gregbrownia hutchisonii* “has a large rosette and reaches up to 2.5 m. The inflorescence may have from 2-4 branches with flowering spikes reaching downwards.”

This had been *Mezobromelia* species until 2016. It has been collected by Paul Hutchison and Wright in 1964 and two years later named *Tillandsia hutchisonii*. It was later moved to *Mesobromelia* and finally became a *Gregbrownia* in 2016.

You can see the inflorescence is more branched than those of *Mesobromelia* shown above, but also more lax.

### *Gregbrownia hutchisonii*

Photo by Werner Rauh.  
42(1) JBS 20 at 22 (1992).

In contrast, *Vriesea* are mostly epiphytic, sometimes have simple inflorescences and have yellow, cream, brown-red or white flowers. While petals are usually connate and filaments are usually adnate, both are rarely free. Not surprisingly there is considerably more variation within *Vriesea* since it has over 200 species..



There are also some differences. *Cipuroopsis* are usually smaller than the other two genera. The inflorescence of *Mezobromelia* is usually once branched (rarely twice), while *Cipuroopsis* is once or twice branched (rarely simple) and *Gregbrownia* is twice branched (rarely triple). *Mezobromelia* have densely flowered fascicles whilt *Gregbrownia* have a lax panicle. *Vriesea* have simple or compound (usually once branched) inflorescences that are lax to imbricate. Other technical differences are shown below.

	<i>Cipuroopsis</i>	<i>Mezobromelia</i>	<i>Gregbrownia</i>	<i>Vriesea</i>
Flower arrangement	distichous	spiral, rarely distichous	distichous, rarely spiral	distichous, rarely spiral
Degree of petal connation	1/4	1/3–1/2	more than 1/2	Short. Rarely free.
Petal apices	straight or recurved	slightly recurved	blades spreading	tubular or campanulate
Petal appendages	linear and entire	linear and entire	crenulated	Rarely lacking
Stamens	included	included	exserted	Included or exserted
anthers	united into a tube surrounding the stigma, not versatile	united into a tube surrounding the stigma, not versatile	Not united into a tube, versatile	
stigma	simple-erect	simple-erect	conduplicate-spiral type (weakly spiral).	convolute-blade II

Some definitions from various sources including Derek Butcher’s glossary which in turn is based on various sources:

Connate - united or joined; in particular, like or similar structures joined as one body.

Conglutinated - united by a sticky substance.

Agglutinated - adhered in a mass by some sticky or viscous substance.

Adnate - attached for most of the length.

Versatile - the relevant part (here anthers) can easilty move back and forth.

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Taxonomic Tidbits: *Two new genera*  
*(Waltillia and Gregbrownia) and new complex*  
*(Lipuroopsis-Mezobromelia) – Part*

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*The article will continue next month.*