

**FLORIDA COUNCIL**  
**of**  
**BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.**  
**1986**  
**Quarterly Newsletter.**

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This newsletter published quarterly by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and mailed February, May, August & November to all paid up members of those Bromeliad Societies of Florida which make up the Council. Non-members may subscribe for \$2.00 year. Make checks payable to: Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and mail to Carol Johnson, Editor, at the cover address.

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VOLUME VI - ISSUE II

MAY 1986

RECOLLECTING EARLY COLLECTING  
or  
COLLECTING WITHOUT PASSPORT  
by

ERVIN WURTHMANN

Back in April, 1960, Velva and I attended a foliage grower's seminar in Apopka, which is about 6-8 miles from Bromel-a. On our way back, we stopped by Mulford Foster's place. This was my first meeting with him and there we purchased a few *Cryptanthus*, *Aechmea tillandsioides* var. *kienastii* and *Guzmania lingulata* minor. My luck in growing these plants was not good. The *Aechmea* and *Guzmania* died, probably as a result of using highly saline water with .845 parts per million salt equivalent of sodium chloride. A source of better water was obtained the following year and I decided to start over again. Being in the nursery business, it was a source of embarrassment that I wasn't able to grow a bromeliad.

Another trip to the Orlando area resulted in the purchase of *Aechmea* "Burgundy" from Mr. Foster and *Vriesea* "Marie", *Aechmea luddemanniana* and some other *Aechmeas* from Mr. Julian Nally of Gotha. By 1962, encouraged by better results in growing, I decided to try more exotic types with an eye on *Aechmea* Foster's Favorite Favorite, but, damn!! 50 bucks was a lot of money to spend on a plant in a four inch pot. My wife, Velva, encouraged me to make the investment (she has always been supportive of my so-called extravagant plant purchases) and there were some really big purchases further down the road. Being able to grow this gem successfully started a fever to acquire variegated bromeliads which has not abated to this day.

In 1964, on a trip to California, I acquired *Aechmea coelestis* var. *albo-marginata* from California Jungle Gardens. Ralph Davis, having heard of my acquisition, stopped by to satisfy his curiosity. The plant was still a rarity in Florida, only Mulford Foster had it and he wasn't selling. Here I had four plants, and Ralph wanted one. His query: "How many plants did Californis Jungle Gardens have?" My reply: "Six plants". His comment: "!!!! why didn't you buy them all?"

People were often quite secretive about their sources of plant supplies in those day. I had seen *Aechmea fasciata* v. *albo-marginata* in South Florida. Where did it come from? All I could glean was, it came from Europe. This sort of riled me and I started a campaign by correspondence to Europe to find the plant. After a year I hit pay dirt with Marcel Lecoufle in Paris. This contact resulted in numerous importations of bromeliads, including the first one of *Guzmania zahnii* variegata (*Guzmania Omar Morobe*). This is a beautiful plant, but has always been somewhat difficult to grow. As a result, it is again somewhat rare.

The fever to acquire variegated plants never subsided--guess I had the incurable affliction known as bromania variegatus. For some time I had admired a mystery plant in Mulford Foster's greenhouse. It was a very spiny plant with magnificent cream colored variegation. Then, in 1966, it was described as *Aechmea magdalenae* v. *quadricolor* and released for sale. Mr. Foster made me a proposal--if I sold five plants of it, he would give me the sixth plant as a commission. Three days later I returned claiming my commission after selling seven plants.

Other beautiful variegated plants were making the scene, among them *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign'. There were plenty of offers to buy but Ed Ensign was in no



mood to sell. Finally, Mr. Ensign announced a selling price of \$1,000.00 for 12 plants. This was a very big bite to chew, but I was determined there had to be a way! An idea dawned. Other avid collectors were contacted with the proposal of putting up a \$90.00 deposit and if the deal was consummated they would receive a plant. No deal and the deposit would be returned. After seven plants were committed in this fashion, I felt I could swing the deal and kept the remaining five plants for myself. That was in 1968. Since then, *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign' has been propagated in large numbers and no longer commands a premium price.

That same year I drove 480 miles out of my way while enroute to the first World Bromeliad Conference in Culver City, California and stopped in Brownsville, Texas. There I exchanged an *Aechmea* "Foster's Favorite Favorite" for an *Aechmea luddemanniana* variegated (now referred to as "Alvarez") with Mrs. Beverly Wheelock. The 1975 World Conference in Buena Park, California resulted in the acquisition of the variegated *Aechmea orlandiana* sometimes referred to as reverse 'Ensign', from Mrs. Edith Potter Deats of Fort Myers, Florida, where it had sported in her garden.

The first fifteen years were exciting, challenging and rewarding. My fever for new variegated plants is unabated, but those were the good old days.

#### ADVERTISING IN THE QUARTERLY?

The possibility of selling space in the Quarterly has been discussed at Florida Council meetings several times in the past, and again at the last meeting. No decision was made, but I said I would put it up to the readers:

1. Is there a plant you are panting to acquire or some you need to sell or trade? If so, how much would you be willing to pay to make your wishes known to 600 people (1200 if you count two per address)?
2. Would you be interested in ads by commercial growers introducing new bromeliad gems?

The Quarterly is a "bare bones" publication. Ads would be classified type as we have no facilities for accomplishing fancy layouts. Please discuss the matter at your society meetings and inform your Council reps of your feelings in the matter.

#### ANNUAL ISSUE

VOLUME VI, ISSUE #3, August, 1986 of the Quarterly will include the annual state membership roster. If you have an address or telephone number change, please correct them now.

AECHMEA TUITENSIS (BROMELIACEAE: BROMELIOIDEAE, PODAECHMEA),  
A NEW SPECIES FROM WESTERN MEXICO

Patricia Magaña and Emily J. Lott  
Herbario Nacional, Instituto de Biología, UNAM  
Apdo. Postal 70-367, Deleg. Coyoacán,  
04510 México, D.F., México

Recent field work for a bachelor's thesis on the Bromeliaceae of the coast of Jalisco, Mexico (Magaña unpubl.) has resulted in several interesting collections, among them a small lithophilic Aechmea which apparently has been in cultivation under the name A. macvaughii (Gardner, 1984). Comparison of our plant and another collection of A. macvaughii (Lott 1925, MEXU), from Colima, Mexico confirmed that two different species are involved.

AECHMEA TUITENSIS P. Magaña & E.J. Lott, sp. nov.

A. macvaughii L.B. Smith statura minore, foliis ad 56 cm longis, 2-4.5 cm latis, scapo erecto, inflorescentia erecta simplici, 11-18 cm longa, bracteis floralibus 4.5 cm longis, petalis oblongis, obtusis et lobis stigmatibus torsivis differt.

Plants small semicaulescent rosettes 30-60 cm tall at anthesis; propagating freely by basal rhizomes. Leaves 15-20, the sheaths ovate, 8-11 cm long, 4-7 cm wide, green to red, densely white-lepidote, fleshy, the venation conspicuous, the margin entire; leaf blades triangular, 20-45 cm long, 2-4 cm wide, the apex attenuate, terminating in a spine 5-7 mm long, densely lepidote, green to red, fleshy, serrate, with yellow spines 3-4 mm long. Scape erect, 20-37 cm long, 4-7 mm wide, densely lepidote, green; bracts of the scape erect, the lower ones foliaceous, 15-17 cm long, 1-3 cm wide, the upper ones elliptic, acuminate, 7-15 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, chartaceous, margin serrate, the apex terminating in a spine 2-4 cm long, densely lepidote, pink. Inflorescence racemose, densely white lepidote-lanate throughout the trichomes branched, erect, 11-18 cm long, 5-12 cm wide, the rachis terminating in a coma of linear bracts. Floral bracts linear, 2.5-4 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, the mucro 2-4 mm long; reflexed, the venation conspicuous, pink. Flowers patent, the pedicels 2-5 mm long, 2 mm wide. Sepals free, lanceolate, more or less symmetrical, 1.5-2.7 cm long, 4-8 mm wide, mucronate, coriaceous, with conspicuous venation, densely lepidote, dark green, the apex purple. Petals oblong-spatulate, apex recurved, obtuse, 4-4.5 cm long, 3-6 cm wide, with a fimbriate scale 4 mm long at the base, blackish-purple. Stamens and pistil exserted; filaments white, 3 cm long, the second series adnate to the base of the petals; anthers yellow, 4-8 mm long; ovary globose, 1 cm diam, densely lepidote, the style 4.5 cm long, the stigma spiral (Type II of Brown & Gilmartin 1984). Fruits globose berries 1 cm diam (immature), densely lepidote, green to purple.

Etymology: The specific epithet refers to the town of El Tuito, Jalisco, which gives its name to the area where the new species was collected.

TYPE: MEXICO. JALISCO. Mpio. Talpa de Allende, a 20 km al E de El Tuito, sobre la terracería a la Mina del Cuale-San Sebastian, alt. ca. 1050 m., 10 Mar 1985 (fl), P. Magaña et al. 192 (Holotype: MEXU; Isotypes: MO, US).  
Additional collections: MEXICO. JALISCO. Mpio. Talpa de Allende, same locality, 30 May 1985 (fl & fr), P. Magaña et al. 242 ENCB, F, MEXU, NY, SEL).

A. tuitensis was collected in oak-pine woodland at ca alt. 1050 m. and flowers March-May. The local name for the plant is "piños".

Aechmea tuitensis differs from A. macvaughii in several important characters (Table 1), especially in its much smaller size, ovate triangular leaves, simple erect inflorescence, much larger floral bracts and entire sepals. In addition, the leaves of our plant lack the waxy glaucous covering beneath which Smith (1964) mentions in the type description of A. macvaughii.

The proposed new species clearly belongs to subgenus Podaechmea Mez because of its lepidote inflorescences, pedicellate polystichous flowers, mucronate sepals and well-developed petal-appendages (Smith & Downs 1979). Its simple erect inflorescence differs from the amply compound and lax inflorescence common to the other five species of the subgenus.

Apparently our new species is the plant of which seeds were offered for propagation by Gardner (1984). Gardner (1984) refers to A. macvaughii as a "large plant with the leaves up to one meter in length" as in the type description (Smith 1964). Gardner (1984) also describes A. macvaughii as having a simple spike, which is clearly shown in the accompanying photograph. However, according to the type description of A. macvaughii (Smith 1964), it has a pendulous, bipinnate inflorescence, as does our material collected in Colima (Lott et al. 1925) in similar habitat to that mentioned in the type description (Smith 1964). Therefore, it seems that there has been a confusion between the cultivated material made available to Gardner and the original description of A. macvaughii, which hitherto had been known only from the type locality. Additionally J. Utley (pers. comm.) has seen both our material of A. tuitensis and the material being distributed as A. macvaughii and concurs that they are the same.

Nature created Time  
so that everything  
wouldn't happen at  
once!



Table 1

Characteristics distinguishing A. tuitensis and A. macvaughii

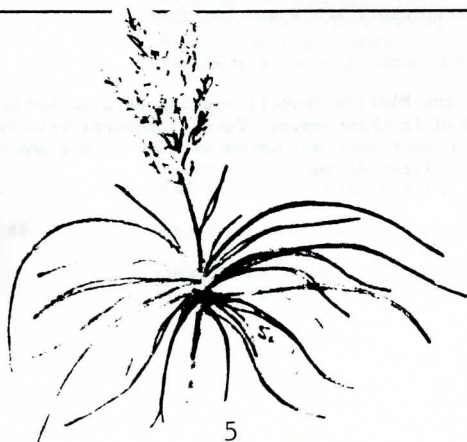
Characters	<u>A. tuitensis</u>	<u>A. macvaughii</u>
Leaf size	28-56 X 2-7 cm	to 120 X 16 cm
Leaf shape	ovate-triangular	ligulate
Inflorescence	erect, simple	pendulous, branched
Floral bracts	4.5 cm long	1 cm long
Petals	oblong-spatulate	lanceolate
Habitat	oak-pine woodland, alt. ca 1050 m	mixed tropical forest with <u>Brosimum</u> , alt 500-600 m

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank John Utley for discussion of the problem and review of the manuscript, J.L. Villaseñor for help with the Latin diagnosis, and O. Téllez for photographs.

LITERATURE CITED

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## AN INVITATION

A two week tour of nurseries and botanical gardens in Western Europe is planned beginning October 2, 1986. You will have a unique opportunity to visit some of the world's outstanding bromeliad growers and hybridizers. Departure is scheduled for that date via scheduled airline to Belgium where the tour begins--- highlights include nursery tours in Belgium and Holland, tours of gardens in Heidelberg and Berlin. There will be ample opportunity to visit non-bromeliad "sights" in Brussels and Ghent in Belgium, also Amsterdam and the surrounding countryside in The Netherlands. There is a plant auction outside Amsterdam at Aldmere where 14 million dollars worth of bromeliads are auctioned each year.

The price of \$1,700.00 includes round-trip air fare from Orlando, first class accomodations, breakfast and many other meals, ground transportation, guides, entrance fees, gratuities and much more. Post-tour add-ons are available.

For more complete information write: Mr. Bud Martin; 1405 Pine Way; Sanford, Fl. 32771. Telephone 305-321-0838.

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Harry Luther, Director of the Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, called and asked that I express his thanks to all those who donated plants and those who purchased them at the Saturday night auction held at the Florida State Bromeliad Show in Tampa. \$967.50 was raised for the BIC at that auction.

. . . . .

Dr. Lyman B. Smith, long-time "Big Daddy", "Godfather" and certainly the definitive authority for all bromeliad growers, has been quite ill. The latest word is that he is recovering nicely. For those who want to send him best wishes, his address is:

Dr. Lyman B. Smith  
Kensington Gardens Nursing Center  
Room 130  
Kensington, Maryland 20895

. . . . .

Chris & Bob Montgomery of 132 Parsons Rd.; Longwood, Fl 32779 are disposing of a considerable number of quality bromeliads and orchids at almost giveaway prices. They want to go back to the fork in the road, so to speak, and start over with new greenhouse facilities. If interested, drop them a line. The plants I acquired are completely scale and bug free.

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Minutes of the Florida Council meeting held in April were not available in time to be printed in this issue. Council members will be furnished with copies in advance of the next meeting, which will be at the home of Carl & Betsy Perryon 5066 Varty Road; Winter Haven.



## 1986 WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE TENTATIVE SHOW SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, May 21, 1986

#### All day

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

#### Set up show.

B.S.I. board meeting.  
B.S.I. lunch.  
Entries.

### Thursday, May 22, 1986

9:00 a.m. to 12:00  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
6:30 p.m. --

#### Judges' briefing and judging.

#### Judges' lunch.

Photo session in the show area for photographers.  
Walking tours of the French Quarter.  
Walking tours of the French Quarter.  
Show and plant sales open to registrants only.  
Opening ceremonies in St. Louis Cathedral.  
Morris Henry Hobbs art exhibit in the Presbytere.

### Friday, May 23, 1986

9:00 a.m. to 12:00  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00  
12:00 noon  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
8:00 p.m. --

#### Show open to registrants only; plant sales open. Seminars.

Show open to the public.  
River boat ride.  
Show and plant sales close.  
Rare plant auction (cash bar).

### Saturday, May 24, 1986

9:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00  
  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
  
6:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
8:00 p.m. --

#### Show open to the public.

Wisdom home tour.  
Walking tours of the French Quarter; seminars.  
David H. Benzing, Ph.D., featured speaker.  
Wisdom home tour.  
Walking tours of the French Quarter; seminars.  
Show and plant sales close.  
Happy hour (cash bar).  
Banquet, drawings, entertainment.

### Sunday, May 25, 1986

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00

#### Show open to the public.

Plant sales open.  
Wisdom home tour.  
Walking tours of the French Quarter.

### Monday, May 26, 1986

#### All day

#### Local gardens open to conference registrants-- to be announced.

Judges' school #2--See handbook for topics to  
be covered.



S H O W   P A G E

May 17, 18, 1986. Bromeliad Society of South Florida Ninth Annual Bromeliad Show, at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami. Membership and commercial sales. Entries on Thursday, May 15, judging on Friday, May 16. Open to the public Saturday and Sunday. Show Chairman, Trisha Frank, telephone 305-665-4369.  
THIS IS NOW!!!!

May 21-25, 1986. WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE. Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans.  
"One Mo' Time". See schedule of activities elsewhere in this issue.

June 20-22, 1986. Eighth Annual Atlanta Bromeliad Show. At South DeKalb Mall, Atlanta. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DATE AND PLACE CHANGE. It was previously announced for June 6-8 at Cumberland Mall.  
Entries on Friday, Judging on Saturday, June 21. Commercial and membership plant sales.

FLORIDA STATE BROMELIAD SHOW at University Square Mall, Tampa-- Jean Schnabel reports there were 28 exhibitors (16 local and 12 from other societies).

The Saturday night plant auction raised \$967.50 for the Selby Bromeliad Identification Center.

Best in Show: Vriesea "Christine" by Herb Hill, Jr.  
Division I - Vriesea "Brentwood" X "Vigeri X Cardinalis" - Herb Hill, Jr.  
Division II - Billbergia "Catherine Wilson" Roland & Jean Schnabel  
Division III - Tillandsia geminiflora Sam Smith  
Division IV - Tillandsia magnusiana - Herb Hill, Jr.  
Division V - Ae. correi-araujii - Bill Clark  
Division VI - Neo. pauciflora - Ramona Pettigrew  
Division VII- "The Carioca" Ramona Pettigrew  
Sweepstakes - Ervin Wurthmann

1987 FLORIDA STATE BROMELIAD SHOW will be hosted by Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society.

Audrey McCrory of Bromeliad Society of Central Florida won the "Pick the Miami 1988 World Conference Theme" contest with her entry of "Miami Magic". Congratulations, Audrey. Now, you will have to attend the Miami show to pick out your prize(s).

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida has a new slate of officers. They are:  
President, Mr. Robert Neubauer  
Vice President, Mr. Edw. C. Hall  
Secretary, Ms. Audrey McCrory  
Treasurer, Mr. David Cooper.

Best in Show at the Jacksonville Bromeliad Show was won by Ron Schoenau with Guzmania lindenii. Sweepstakes was won by Kyle Brown.