

THE LEAFLET

The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

April 2016



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Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, México

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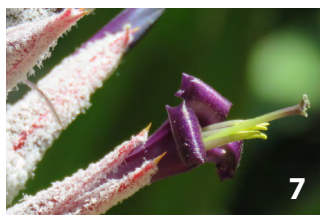
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Ursulaea tuitensis

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Curator's Corner

Dear Friends of the Garden,

My heart is still rejoicing after the multi-faith ceremony and blessing at the Vallarta Botanical Garden and opening of the new Nuestra Señora del Jardín (Our Lady of the Garden) chapel this past Palm Sunday. Receiving prayers and spiritual reflections of representatives from our local Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Buddhist, and Wixárika (Huichol) communities in celebration of nature and the bountiful gifts of God left a wonderful impression on all present.

In a complicated world that can pull people apart in fear and worry, mankind must focus on our many blessings and our abilities to work together to make things better. For our Garden to play a part in this kind of harmony and healing so greatly needed is an honor and delight.

Amén, Shalom, Namaste...

Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG



Our Lady of the Garden
Photo: Bob Price



Dichromanthus aurantiacus
Photo: Lizbeth Hernández Hernández

Mexican Orchid of the Month

Dichromanthus aurantiacus (La Llave et Lex.) Salazar et Soto Arenas

By Lizbeth Hernández Hernández, Biologist & Co-author of “Las orquídeas del occidente de México, Volumen 1”

This beautiful plant is widespread in the Mexican states of Aguascalientes, Chihuahua, Chiapas, Colima, Distrito Federal, Durango, Estado de México, Guerrero, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Sinaloa, San Luis Potosí and Veracruz.

Its habitat is terrestrial in pine-oak forests, transitional zones of cloud forests, in ravines and mountain slopes, usually in rocky soils, rich in organic matter or clay. It is normally found at altitudes ranging from 1000 to 3000 meters. In addition to natural environments, it is occasionally also found on old stone walls.

Dichromanthus aurantiacus blooms from early July to October and can be distinguished from a distance by its size and its bright colorful flowers and bracts. In Jalisco, there is no other *Spiranthinae* species with floral bracts as developed, colorful and attractive.

Mexican Bird of the Month

Trogon citreolus

By Greg R. Homel, Ornithologist & Founder, Natural Encounters Birding Tours & Birding in Puerto Vallarta

This is one of west Mexico's most understated avian gems—The endemic, Citreoline Trogon!

Usually, you only catch a quick glimpse of these striking yellow-bellied, yellow-eyed birds before they dart away in graceful, undulating flight. When seen in good, early morning or late-day “over-the-shoulder light,” however, patient observers are rewarded by a sight most field guides don't emphasize: shimmering tinfoil blue and green iridescence on their back, shoulders, neck and uppertail regions.

Endemic to the dry forest ecosystem of Mexico's Pacific coast, this is the only regional trogon with a yellow belly, and unique in Mexico for its yellow eyes, though it used to be considered conspecific with the Black-headed Trogon of southeastern Mexico and northern Central America's tropical forests... though that species has dark eyes and fleshy, opaque blue eyerings.

During spring, Citreoline Trogons often excavate nesting (or roosting) cavities in active, arboreal termiteries, and like some other Neotropical trogons, they subsist largely on fruit but may predate wasp nests, feeding on the exposed larvae. Furtive and easily overlooked, except from March-July, when their clucking and purring vocalizations resonate from within suitable habitats, revealing their true numbers.

Look for them in native habitat preserved within the Vallarta Botanic Garden; at Rancho Primavera near El Tuito, Cabo Corrientes; and the thorn forests near Mayto, Costa Alegre... and enjoy!

Support the Garden

Dividing your contributions to the Vallarta Botanical Garden into monthly payments can help you better budget your annual giving and allows us a dependable monthly income to carry the Garden through the slower times of the year. A new Give Every Month “GEM” page is now up on the Garden's website www.vbgardens.org for you to begin this kind of contribution today.

Commemorative Cantera Benches

Would you like to honor or memorialize someone with a permanent cantera bench at the Vallarta Botanical Garden? Benches are finished with beautiful hand-painted ceramic tiles. We can help you create a custom design with text and images of your choice. Prices are at \$7,000 USD for a Banca Real (Regal Bench) and \$5,000 USD for a Banca Distintiva (Distinctive Bench). Dividing this up into payments over the course of three years is a commitment of only \$194 or \$139 USD per month. These gifts qualify for tax deductible contributions in Mexico, the US, and Canada. Interested? Great! Please visit our website or call 322 223 6182 and ask to speak to the Garden's Executive Director, Neil Gerlowski or Membership Coordinator, Michaela Flores.

Your Legacy Lives on at the VBG

Including the Vallarta Botanical Garden in your wills, trusts, and estate planning is an investment in the long-term viability of this important natural sanctuary for Puerto Vallarta and the exquisite flora of Mexico and world tropics. A member of the Garden's Legacy Committee would be happy to talk to you about the best options for optimizing your philanthropic potential and further blessing a community. Please write to info@vbgardens.org.

Trogon citreolus
Photo: Greg R. Homel
WWW.BIRDINGINPUERTOVALLEARTA.COM /
birdingadventures@mac.com





Photo: Mike Laking

1st Latin American Garden/Arboretum to be accredited by ArbNet

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

The Vallarta Botanical Garden has just become the first Latin American garden/arboretum to be awarded accreditation by the [ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program](#), sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum of Lisle, Illinois, USA. Dr. Nicole Cavender, Vice President of Science of The Morton Arboretum and Secretary of the VBG's Science Advisory Board, presented the accreditation certificate to VBG staff in a special ceremony this past Easter Sunday.

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta and its Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The VBG's application for accreditation properly demonstrated aspects of its planning, governance, public access, programming, tree science, planting, and conservation that set it apart as an important emerging institution.

In this photo:

Bob Price, Founder and Curator of the VBG
 Nicole Cavender, Vice President of Science of The Morton Arboretum and Secretary of the VBG's Science Advisory Board
 Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director of the VBG
 Andrew Bunting, Assistant Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden

We will continue to develop the VBG's role as a garden/arboretum working to help ensure a bright future for the botanic diversity of our beautiful country. We also hope the VBG continues inspiring other Latin American gardens in this regard through leadership, professionalism, and global perspective.



Photo: Nicole Cavender

VBG Leadership Attend Oak Conference

The Vallarta Botanical Garden thanks The Morton Arboretum for sponsoring attendance for two of its staff to the "Taller Internacional sobre Conservación de Encinos en México y Centroamérica" (International Workshop on Oak Conservation in Mexico and Central America) this past month in Morelia, Michoacán. This was an incredible learning experience and VBG staff are now better equipped to make meaningful progress in local work necessary to conserve *Quercus* (oak) species of our region. Some of these, such as *Q. cualensis* and *Q. tuitensis* for example, have names that strongly connect them to well known localities throughout the mountains surrounding our bay.



Photo: Magdalena Hernández Martínez



Photo: Nicole Cavender

Mexico leads the Americas in oak diversity with roughly 150 species (almost 2 times the diversity found in all of the US and Canada combined) yet accurately distinguishing species and hybrids in the field is a challenging endeavor that requires training and patience. We hope to greatly add to the diversity of our garden's oak collection in the coming years through cultivating meticulously documented wild collected materials. These maturing trees will also serve as beautiful ambassadors of wild populations.



Ursulaea tuitensis
Photo: Mike Laking

The Name Game: genus *Ursulaea*

By Robert Kopfstein

Chair of Bromeliad Society International Publications & President of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

The binomial system of scientific nomenclature is a gift to us from the famous eighteenth century Swedish academic Carl Linne, better known by his Latin name *Linnaeus*. In his system, groups of similar plants were gathered together into a general category called the Genus; specific members of that group he called the species. The name of the Genus is always capitalized; the species is not. So, for example there is the bromeliad *Tillandsia jalisco monticola*. The genus *Tillandsia* (a large group) is derived from a Dutch botanist Paul Tillands; the species *jalisco monticola* translates as "mountain grower in Jalisco."

In the forests of western Jalisco, and farther south and east is a genus of bromeliad that was originally mistaken as belonging to the genus *Aechmea*. Soon the taxonomists realized that there were morphological differences that warranted splitting two plants out of the genus *Aechmea* and creating a new genus: *Ursulaea*.

As is not uncommon, the name *Ursulaea* is derived from a person, in this case Ursula Baensch. She is the widow of Ulrich Baensch, who in economically devastated post World War II Germany, hit on a brilliant idea. After the war many Germans could not afford dogs and cats, but goldfish were cheap and readily available. Baensch, a chemist, devised a formula for affordable and nutritionally balanced fish food; he called it Tetra.

Soon the company went international and Baensch became very wealthy. He married Ursula, a Lufthansa flight attendant, and they moved to Bermuda where the climate was much more suitable for his passion: bromeliads.

Ultimately Baensch produced a book on bromeliads (Blooming Bromeliads, 1994) lavishly illustrated with brilliant color photographs, most of which were part of his personal collection. Today the book is out of print and is very expensive.

To honor his wife, the taxonomists named the genus *Ursulaea* after her; however, there are only two plants in the genus.

Ursulaea tuitensis, (named after the town of El Tuito) is a rock grower that thrives in the mountains east of the Vallarta Botanical Garden. *Ursulaea macvaughii* (named after Rogers Macvaugh, professor of botany) is a large understory bromeliad that grows south and east of the Garden near Pihuamo.

Both plants are very beautiful and could be valued additions to any garden. When the origins of their names are known, connecting them to people who were passionate about the flora of the world, plants become even more interesting.



Ursulaea tuitensis opening
Photo: John Gordon



Ursulaea tuitensis
Photo: Mike Laking



Hacienda de Oro
Photo: Jesús Reyes

Early Days of the Garden

It's our pleasure to share with you this little blast from the past (2005)...



Palms and Agaves being planted
along the Pam Grissom Way
Photo: Jesús Reyes



Bandera Trail through what is now the
Galeana Family Desert Plant Garden
Photo: Jesús Reyes



Early flower beds
Photo: Jesús Reyes

Memories from the Vallarta BEER Garden

We send a big thank-you to all who made the Vallarta BEER Garden a time of great fun and memories.





Photos: Bruno Castilla

Scenes from the Garden's Blessing and Chapel Opening on Palm Sunday



Above: VBG Executive Director Neil Gerlowski presents local spiritual leaders.

From left to right:

Milton Bogoch, Representing the Jewish Faith

Jien Argelia García & Anka Rick, Representing Zen Buddhism

Victor Hugo "Tonatiuh" Ochoa Guadarrama, Representing Wixárika (Huichol) Tradition

Page 13: Local spiritual leaders and garden founder in the chapel.

From left to right:

Alex O'Neill, spiritual musician

Victor Hugo "Tonatiuh" Ochoa Guadarrama, Representing Wixárika (Huichol) Tradition

Donna Feldman, Jewish Faith

The Rev. Michael Schirmacher, Anglican Church

Milton Bogoch, Jewish Faith

Father V. Saúl Cortés I., Catholic Church

Robert Price, Founder and Curator, VBG



Photo: Catalina Ochoa Guadarrama



Mango

Photos and article by Al Rouyer

Mangos are one of the most popular tropical fruits and the Mango tree with its lush green leaves and round shape is also a lovely ornamental tropical tree. The mango tree (*Mangifera indica*) is native to India (where it has been cultivated for over 4,000 years) and Southeast Asia. The name comes from the Tamil (south Indian) word *māngi*. But today the mango is grown around the tropical world for both its delicious fruit and beauty. Mexico is the world's fifth largest producer of mangos and number one in the Americas. The tree is very common in Puerto Vallarta and before the end of this month we should have an abundance of this tasty fruit at our fingertips.

Identification – The Mango is a medium to large tree that can reach to 100 feet or taller (about 30 meters) with a dense, rounded crown. Its evergreen leaves are lance-shaped, 6 to 12 inches long (15-30 centimeters), deep green, smooth and relatively shiny. The brown bark becomes deeply fissured with age. Flowers appear in late winter, in clusters of thousands of tiny white, pink and yellow blossoms. When ripe in the spring the fruit is oblong to almost kidney shaped, 2.5 to 9 inches long (6-23 centimeters), hanging on long, sturdy stalks and depending on the variety the outer surface will be pink, red or purple in color. As all know, flesh is sweet, aromatic and orange (mango!) in color.



Mango Flower
Photo: Al Rouyer

Marc Holzman of YogaGlo instructing a special session at the Vallarta Botanical Garden last month.
Our thanks to Judith Roth, Keeper of the Sky Temple in Yelapa, for helping organize this special experience.
Photo: Jesús Reyes



Vallarta Botanical Garden's Calendar

DATE		EVENT	COST
		GARDENS ARE CLOSED ON MONDAYS FROM APRIL UNTIL DECEMBER	
3	APR	Garden Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Day — Party at 5 pm in the Visitor Center	Complimentary for volunteers and staff
4	APR	THE GARDEN IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS FROM APRIL UNTIL DECEMBER	--
22	APR	Earth Day — Celebrate our amazing planet in a natural paradise.	Included with entry
24	APR	Vanilla Blossom Expo at the VBG — Demonstrations of the hand pollination technique will be shared with visitors along with growing advice and fun facts. 1 pm	Included with entry
1	MAY	Labor Day (Mexico)	Included with entry
3	MAY	Teacher's Day (US)	Included with entry
8	MAY	Mother's Day (Canada & US)	Included with entry
10	MAY	Mother's Day (Mexico)	Included with entry
15	MAY	Teacher's Day (Mexico)	Included with entry

* Some activities subject to change. The most current calendar, often with links to further event information, can be viewed at www.vbgardens.org/calendar.



Sunflower
Photo: Jesús Reyes

Garden Hours

Open 7 days/wk

Open 6 days/wk

Early "Bird" Opening

Daily Guided Tour

9 am – 6 pm

for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March (except Christmas & New Year's Day)

(**Closed Mondays**) April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., & Nov.

8 am every Thursday

1 pm (Offered for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March)



Michaela Flores, Membership Coordinator, VBG
memberships@vbgardens.org

From the Membership Desk

Sunday, April 3rd is our time to say a big thank-you to all of our staff and volunteers. We appreciate the labor of all who worked to make this past winter season the most successful in the history of the Garden. If that sounds like I'm describing you, please come out and join us for pizza, beer, and celebration the evening of April 3rd at about 5 pm.

Also, please REMEMEBER that we are CLOSED MONDAYS from now until December.

Members: please always wear your membership card when visiting the Garden. This helps our staff and volunteers recognize you as members and offer valuable discounts on your Garden purchases and other important benefits.

Can you find your name on our WALL OF BENEFACTORS?

If you're not yet "on the wall" we invite you to join the family that preserves the Garden forever!

Becoming a member is easy & provides great benefits:
www.vbgardens.org/memberships

A high resolution image of this photograph is available at www.vbgardens.org/benefactors



We would like to acknowledge and thank the following supporters:

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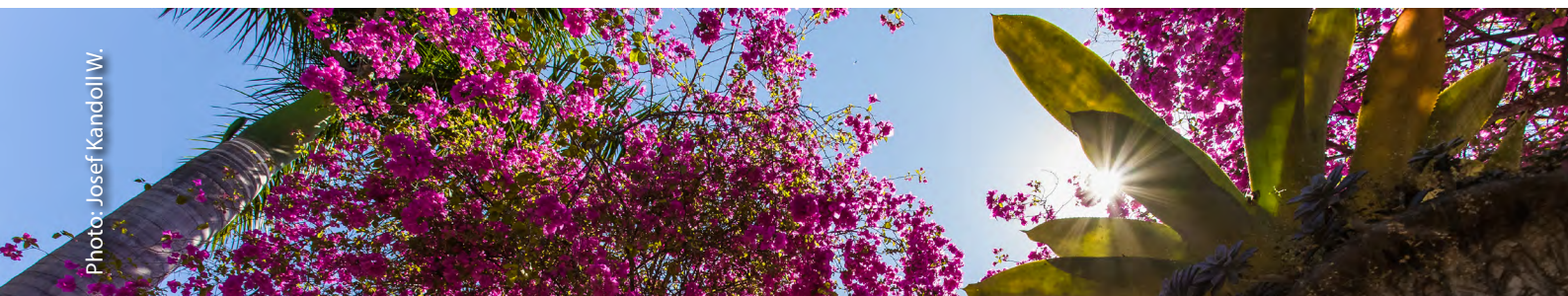


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**If your name is missing or you find an error, please alert the Membership Coordinator,
 Michaela Flores: memberships@vbgardens.org Thank you.**

(S) = student (I) = individual ☼ = deceased

We Also Thank the Following Foundations for Their Recent Support:

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 THE CALIBAN FOUNDATION
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 MELINDA MCMULLEN CHARITABLE TRUST
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Your Donations to the Vallarta Botanical Garden are Greatly Appreciated

México



- **Tax-deduction receipts** are available for donations to the Vallarta Botanical Garden made through the *Fundación Punta de Mita* (FPM).
- **Please send an email earmarking your gift for the Vallarta Botanical Garden to donaciones@fundacionpuntademita.org with a copy to info@vbgardens.org**
- In this email please include your name, the date your gift was sent, and the amount of your gift.

Checks may be mailed to:

Fundación Punta de Mita, A.C.
Carretera Federal Libre 200 Km 18.05
Punta Mita, Nayarit, C.P. 63734 México.

- Please provide FPM with your email and information to be included in the tax-deductible receipt (which will be sent by email).
- Please provide FPM with confirmation (copy of check) for tracking.

Wire transfers: Bank: Banamex

Account in Mexican Pesos (MXN):

Account in US Dollars (USD):

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09840115760 CLABE 002375098401157608

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Paypal: www.fundacionpuntademita.org/en/how-to-help

Canada



- Our educational programs qualify for **tax-deduction receipts** provided by The Canadian Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation (CCSHF)

Cheques may be mailed to:

Canadian Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation
87 Lavinia Ave
Toronto, ON,
M6S 3H9
Canada

Please write "VBG" for "Vallarta Botanical Gardens" on your cheques.

Alternatively, you may donate using a credit card through CanadaHelps.org (whose donation page is linked to the CCSHF website www.ccs hf.ca) selecting the "Vallarta Botanical Gardens Fund."

USA



- Our direct support 501(c)3, "Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C." issues **tax-deduction receipts**:

Checks may be mailed to:

Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C.
759 North Campus Way
Davis, CA 95616

Wire transfers / direct deposits are accepted:

Please write to treasurer@vbgardens.org for routing and account numbers.

Credit Card Payments:

Call us w/ your card info: +52 322 223 6182

PayPal: www.vbgardens.org/fvbg

Donations of stocks and IRA distributions:

- Charles Schwab Account # 46789311 DTC
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