

A NEW SPECIES OF GUZMANIA (BROMELIACEAE) FROM WESTERN ECUADOR

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Guzmania* Ruiz & Pavon, *G. alborosea*, is described from Ecuador. Its relationships and phenology are discussed.

The genus *Guzmania*, with its center of diversity in the northern Andes, is a source of many attractive, horticulturally desirable plants. The majority of the cultivated guzmanias have their origin in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and these countries continue to supply interesting and often spectacular ornamental novelties. Such is the case of the Ecuadorian plant described here.

***Guzmania alborosea* Luther, sp. nov. FIGURE 1.**

A *G. scherzeriana* Mez affinis sed bracteis scapis laxi imbricatis, sepalis persucculentis et petalis brevissimis differt.

TYPE. Ecuador, Pichincha, Centinela, Montañas de Ila, km 12 on the road from Patricia Pilar to Flor de Mayo, elev. ca. 600 m, 15 July 1979, Dodson, Fallen & Morgan 8422 (SEL, holotype; US, isotype).

Plant flowering to ca. 1 m tall; leaves rosulate, spreading, 0.6-1.0 m long, appressed lepidote throughout, dark green; leaf sheaths elliptic, covered with brown-centered scales, only slightly darker toward the base, nearly concolorous with the blades; leaf blades ligulate, 4.5-9.5 cm wide, acute and apiculate. Scape erect, 6-10 mm in diameter, glabrous, pink or purple-red; scape bracts strict, scarcely overlapping and exposing the axis; inflorescence laxly bipinnate with 6 to 14 lateral branches, glabrous; primary bracts broadly elliptic, acuminate or acute, about equalling the sterile, naked bases of the branches, green or rose; branches spreading, to 20 cm long, with 8 to 18 flowers. Floral bracts broadly elliptic, 1.5-2.0 cm long, obtuse, coriaceous, obscurely carinate, nerved, pink or purple-red. Flowers erect and densely overlapping prior to anthesis, spreading and lax at anthesis; sepals elliptic, 28 mm long, acute, very thick and succulent when fresh, nerved and posteriorly carinate when dry, connate for 10-13 mm, white; petals ca. 3 mm long, barely exerted from the calyx at anthesis,

elliptic, obtuse, white. Capsules cylindrical, ca. 27 mm long; seed coma brown.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. **Ecuador.** Type locality: Dodson 6751 (SEL, MO). Carchi, between Chical and Peñas Blancas, valley of the Río San Juan on the Colombian border, elev. 1,100-1,250 m, Gentry & Shupp 26456 (SEL). Without locality, flowered in cultivation at SEL, from the nursery of DeMeyer-DeRouck, Ghent, Belgium, Luther 481 (SEL); flowered in cultivation, from Kents Bromeliad Nursery, Vista, California, Raack s.n. (BIC266) (SEL).

PHENOLOGY. The phenology of *Guzmania alborosea* is rather unusual. The petals are only slightly longer than the calyx and are exerted early in the morning. The flowers appear to be open and receptive for only a few hours, the petals quickly close and are retracted and completely concealed within the calyx by midday. In contrast, the flowers of *G. scherzeriana* are open for four to eight hours during the day and the petals wither in place. *Guzmania scherzeriana* and *G. alborosea* are not known to be sympatric in Ecuador but both occur with the related night-flowering *G. hitchcockiana* L. B. Smith.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. This species is found in western Ecuador in wet forests from 600 to 1,250 m elevation.

RELATIONSHIPS. *Guzmania alborosea* is related to and closely resembles *G. scherzeriana* Mez, a widespread species from Guatemala to Ecuador. Cultivated plants of *G. alborosea* are often labeled as *G. scherzeriana* 'Pink'. Living plants of these two species can easily be distinguished by the color of the inflorescence (red and yellow for *G. scherzeriana*; pink and white for *G. alborosea*) as well as degree of corolla exertion at anthesis (ca. 3 mm for *G. alborosea*; 15-25 mm for *G. scherzeriana*). Dried specimens are more difficult to determine but the scape bracts of *G. alborosea* are scarcely overlapping and the sepals are much thicker and prominently nerved.

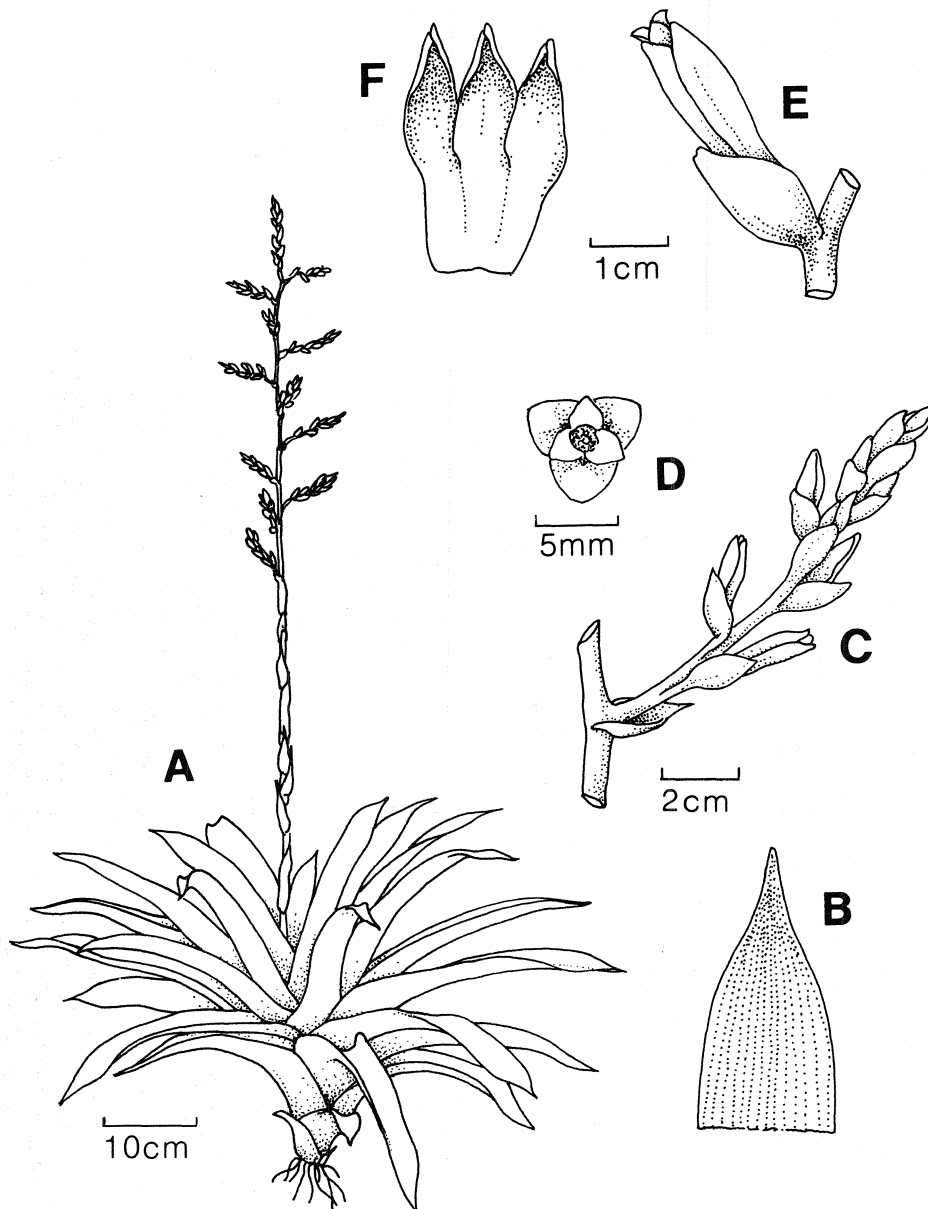


FIGURE 1. *Guzmania alborosea*. A, habit. B, leaf apex. C, branch of inflorescence. D, flower, apical view. E, bract and flower, lateral view. F, sepals.