

## **BOOK REVIEW: BROMELIADS IN THE BRAZILIAN WILDERNESS**

*Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness* was written by Elton Leme. It was published in 1993 by Marigo Comunicacao Visual in Rio de Janeiro.

Elton Leme has written many books on Brazilian bromeliads. This is one of his earlier books.

It is well illustrated with many high quality colour photographs of a selection of Brazilian bromeliads and their habitats.

The book opens with an overview of the bromeliad family, including their evolution and botanical characteristics.

The major Brazilian ecosystems in which bromeliads occur, and some representative species of each one, are then described. The ecosystems are:

- Atlantic rainforest (which has the greatest diversity of bromeliads)
- High-altitude grasslands
- Sandy coastal plain vegetation
- Grasslands on rocky soils
- Caatinga (a semi-arid ecosystem)
- Amazonia

The book then has a brief description of fauna that are at least partially dependent on bromeliads for shelter or food.

It concludes with a listing of the bromeliad species covered in the book and a comprehensive glossary, bibliography, and index.

Overall, the book is a good introduction to the habitats of Brazilian bromeliads. The only minor point is that some of the species names have changed since the book's publication. So, please consider this point, if you are trying to buy the bromeliads described in the book.

**Year of Review: 2010**