

## BOOK REVIEW: NATIVE BROMELIADS OF FLORIDA

This book was written by Harry Luther and David Benzing. They are two bromeliad experts from the United States of America. The book was published by Pineapple Press in 2009.

The book's first chapter outlines how bromeliads grow and reproduce. Of particular interest are:

- The description, and consequences, of the C<sub>3</sub> and CAM photosynthesis processes. Each of these are used by different bromeliads.
- The description of how bromeliad trichomes (leaf scales) work.

These two topics are presented in a clear style and are worth reading if you are interested in these issues.

The next chapter focuses on describing the appearance, and habitat, of all of Florida's native bromeliads. The species and natural hybrids described are:

***Catopsis:*** *beteroniana, floribunda, nutans*  
***Guzmania:*** *monostachia*  
***Tillandsia:*** *balbisina, bartramii, fasciculata, flexuosa, paucifolia,*  
*pruinosa, recurvata, setacea, simulata, usneoides,*  
*utriculata,*  
*variabilis, xfloridana, xsmalliana*

All of these plants are available in Australia.

The book is well illustrated with colour photographs of the bromeliads. The book also contains a glossary of technical terms, botanical identification keys for the bromeliads, and suggested additional reading references.

Overall, the book is worth reading but it would probably appeal most to tillandsia growers.

**Year of Review 2009**