

# Bromeliaceae

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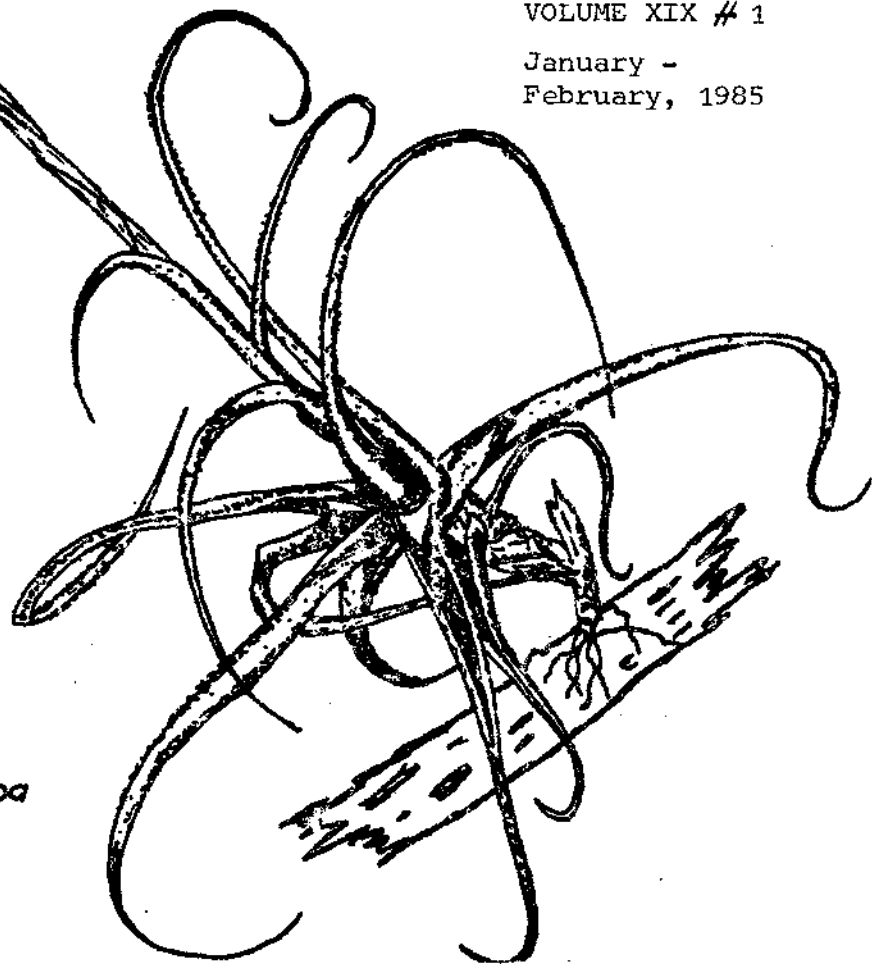
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January -

February, 1985

*Tillandsia*  
*Streptocarpa*



THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565,  
FORTITUDE VALLEY,  
AUSTRALIA. 4006

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December, at the Uniting Church Hall, Warner Street, Fortitude Valley commencing at 7.30 pm.

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PATRON:	Mr. H. Caulfield		
PRESIDENT:	Mr. Len Trevor	(work)	2261350
SECRETARY:	Mr. Greg Stewart		2779965
TREASURER:	Mrs. Ruth Higgins		2002561
EDITOR:	Mrs. Lorraine Wilton		3901226

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PROGRAMME

JANUARY 17th: General Meeting  
Platyachmea Group - Panel Discussion  
Presented by Study Group  
Potting Mix - Olive Trevor  
Beginners Class - 'What is a Flower'  
John Higgins

FEBRUARY 21st: Annual General Meeting  
Special Raffle - 3 select plants

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FEES

Fees for 1985 are due and payable on the 1st January. Members with fees unpaid at the start of the Annual General Meeting are deemed unfinancial and lose continuity of membership.

Single Membership	\$ 5.00
Family Membership	\$ 8.00

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EDITORIAL

With summer comes the flowering of neoregelias and nidulariums, giving splashes of bright colour to the garden and bush house which will last for some time. Plants are now at their growing peak and selection of those plants to be entered in competition should now be considered.

With the hot days which we have been experiencing lately, some growers may find that their plants are suffering from burn as the sun comes from a different angle and plants which were being shaded during the winter months may now be exposed to the full sun for some part of the day thus getting a scorched look to the leaves.

Watering habits also have to be changed in the summer as pots dry out much faster than in the winter. Misting frequently during a very hot day can be of great benefit to plants. For growers experiencing their first summer of growing seedlings, close attention is necessary with the high humidity as 'damping off' can occur thus destroying many small plants in a very short time. Regular spraying with a fungicide will help prevent this problem.

For anyone experiencing difficulties in growing their plants satisfactorily at this time of the year, I suggest talking with other growers and find out how they handle similar conditions.

Lorraine Wilton.

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COMBINED SHOW

Although the Combined Show, to be staged at Mt. Coot-tha is six months hence, now is the time to commence selecting and grooming those plants which are to be entered in competition, and also for plants to be used in the displays at the Bromeliads III Conference at Easter.

Ed.

SECRETARY'S NOTESXMAS PARTY '84

A new format, new ideas and a lot of new members could be best used to describe our Christmas break up night. I think all who were present would agree that the night was a resounding success with quite a few people going home with bags full of new and imported plants and the not-so-lucky (me included) went home fully sated with the beautiful spread put on by the unseen heroes in the kitchen.

The new Cent Auction concept went off rather well, although it dragged a little in the end, but the quality of the plants, such as *Nidularium fulgens varigata*, *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign', *Aechmea magdalenae* quadricolor, *Tillandsia rothii* and a huge plant of *Aechmea pectinata* to name a few were a great attraction to buy heaps of tickets. Quite a few of our new members and visitors took top plants home so we only hope this success can lure them back to each of our general meeting nights, not only to hear the programme but buy top quality plants that always appear on the trade table now.

To Eileen, Yvonne, Rose, Millie and helpers, a great Thank You for the feast you provided at the end of the night, and also thank you to members who brought a plate. The only thing wrong was that the girls did not win a prize for the night, but I can assure you <sup>cleaning process can be</sup> plenty of tickets were bought out there in the kitchen.

For those who missed not having a plant commentary, the President apologises, but the night was getting late and we would probably be still eating after midnight if we had had one. The display on the stage was crammed full of beautiful bromeliads and would do justice to any growers in the country. One pleasing aspect that I noted this year is that some of the newer members are starting to bring in plants for displays etc. Please, keep it up.

If any aspect of the Christmas Party can be improved,

for next year, do not hesitate to approach your President or Committee member and offer suggestions. I can assure you that they would be listened to and discussed rationally by the Committee.

To all those members who donated plants to supplement those purchased by the Committee go our sincere thanks. They certainly added to the pleasure of the evening.

In closing, we wish all members a Happy Bromeliads III New Year.

Greg Stewart.

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#### SOME THOUGHTS ON GROWING DYCKIAS, HECHTIAS & PUYAS

Often when I write about growing plants and ideal conditions, this is not the way they are kept in my collection. Hearing others talk, observing their plants and mine, certain conclusions can be reached, but for a variety of reasons it may be impossible for me to put these observations into practice. Space, light and protection are fundamental problems.

Protection, in my yard, is to me very important. Not protection from theft, we have never had a plant, to my knowledge, liberated. Protection from trash, blossoms, leaves, seed, grass clippings, etc. are almost magically drawn to many leaved, spiny plants. The tiresome, boring and bloody. It is easier to grow clean plants than to try a major salvage operation. There is no place available to me that offers this kind of protection for some of the plants requiring extremely high light.

Space is another compromise. There is room for just so many plants, and the best space is at a premium.

These plants are all terrestrial and should have large pots compared to top growth. In Neoregelias we expect the plants to be much larger than the pot. When potting the Dyckias, Hechtias and Puyas, overpot so that there is at least 1½ to 2 inches of pot extending past the sette. This will allow for future growth and

sufficient, if not adequate, soil for root growth. Regarding root growth, you may have noticed that these plants send their roots to the periphery and wind around the pot. Now, quoting WAYNE GUTHRIE, "if a dark plastic pot is used and set in the sun, the heat absorption of the dark plastic cooks the roots touching the outside, therefore the use of clay pots is recommended".

Regarding light, the requirements vary widely. Only the desert sun can give enough light for some species or, perhaps, it is high altitude with more ultra-violet that is required. We do know that the Gulf Coast does not have the right light to do some of the species justice. Some of the green species and hybrids will bleach out if given too much sun, although high light is beneficial to all.

Water requirements are surprising. Many in the hobby associate these plants with cacti, or at least dry growing conditions. These plants enjoy much more water than one would suspect, much more than most of us give our Neoregelias, for instance. They also respond well to a regular feeding program with a balanced fertilizer. High, constant humidity is a must if dry leaf tips are to be prevented.

In summary, consider growing Dyckias, Hechtias and Puyas more like Cryptanthus than Neoregelias. They enjoy high light to full sun, high humidity, quick draining but not dry soil, and a large area for the root ball. Protect the roots from heat and do feed them regularly.

Tom Montgomery

(Reprint from Bromeliad Society Houston Inc, Vol. 17 No. 3)

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#### TILLANDSIA FLABELLATA

This species is native to the mountainous regions of Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvadore, where it grows at elevations of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. There are two forms: the green form is found in shade on rocks and lower limbs; the red form grows in sunny locations.

From a dense rosette of arching, spreading grey green leaves, 6 to 10 inches long, a short, erect scape emerges. The scape is so hidden by the foliage that its many branches look like separate simple inflorescences. The branches are spaced in a way that makes the inflorescence look like a cnadelabrum, the bright scarlet bracts are narrow and flat, the flowers are long and tubular with bright blue violet petals and exerted yellow stamens. The plant varies in height from 8 to 18 inches.

The softer leaved Tillandsias, such as T. flabellata will not do well epiphytically unless you maintain quite high humidity. As their leaves do not have much trichome cell covering, they cannot absorb as much moisture or nutrient from the air and they are best grown potted in porous, well-drained mix in which they will produce feeding as well as gripping roots. Some of the soft leaved plants can retain and feed from water in their leaf axils.

(Reprint from Bromeliad Society Houston Inc. Vol. 17 No. 2)

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BROMELIADS III CONFERENCE

COUNTDOWN TO CONFERENCE : TWELVE (12) WEEKS TO GO

Registration Forms are being posted out to members. Please complete and return these to the Registrar as early as possible to secure your registration. Please note - final date for Registration is 8.3.85.

Any member not receiving a form, please contact the Co-ordinator.

John Higgins,  
Conference Co-ordinator

Phone: (07) 2002561

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TRADER BERT

Normal trading operations will resume at the January meeting.

Orders will be taken for bales of peat moss, and also for bulk Dysiston (25 Kg lots).

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## ADVERTISEMENT

## PLANT EXCHANGE:

Available for exchange a wide range of Tillandsia species and varieties.

Enquiries to P. Paroz, phone (07) 2651547

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