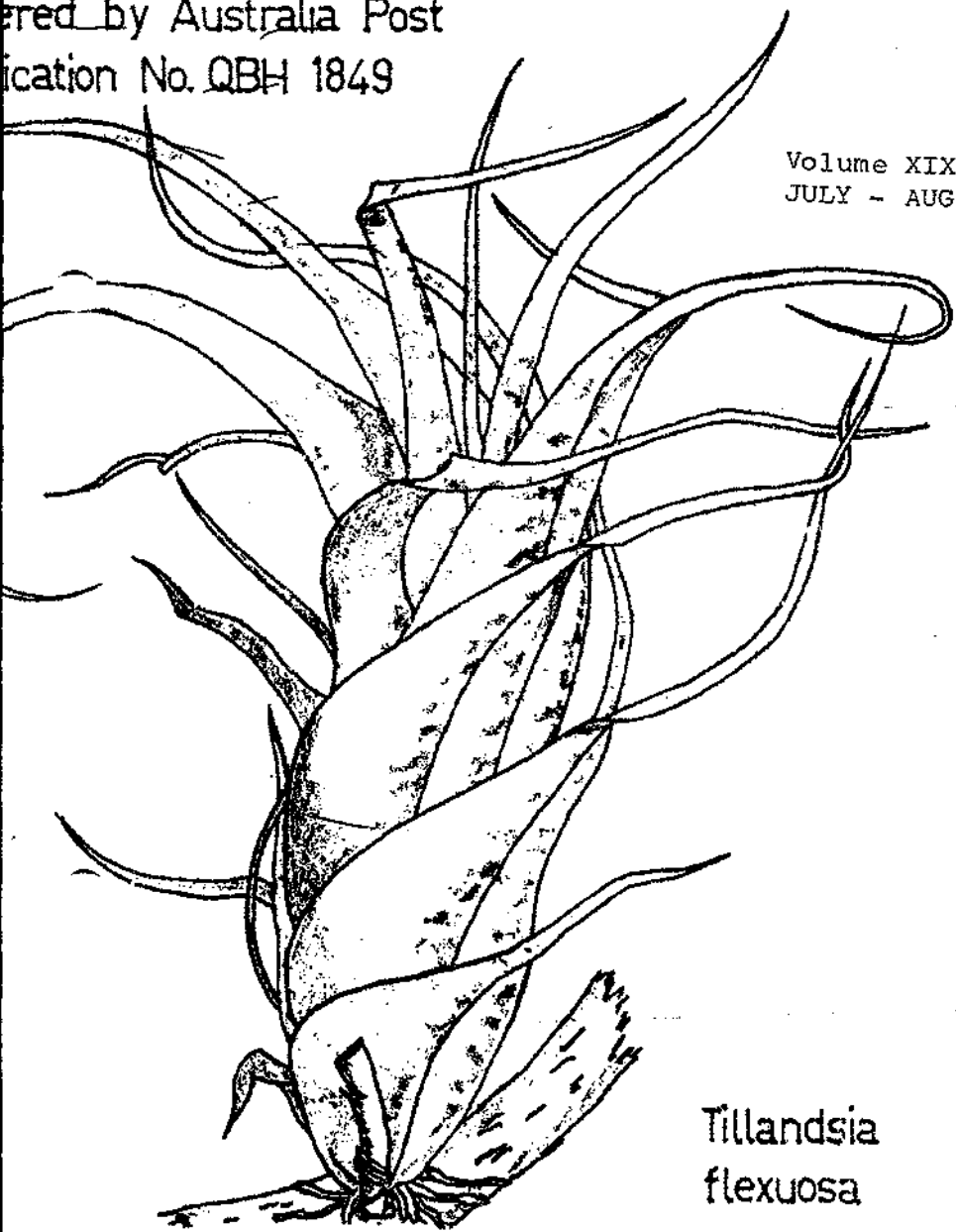


Bromeliaceae

Printed by Australia Post
Publication No. QBH 1849

Volume XIX #4
JULY - AUGUST 1985



Tillandsia
flexuosa

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 p.m.

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

PROGRAMME:

JULY 18th.	General meeting	
	Beginners class	
	Billbergias	Joan Imray
JULY 24th.	Special Meeting	
	Paul Isley	New Farm
AUGUST 15th.	General Meeting.	

R.N.A. SHOW

Sunday, August 4th.- Set up display material in pavilion
 Wednesday, Aug. 7th.- Bring plants and assemble display.
 Thursday Aug. 8th. to
 Saturday, Aug 17th. - Stewards man display.
 Sunday, Aug. 18th.- Pull down display and collect plants.

SECRETARYS NOTES

MAY: 64 members and 4 visitors attended with 4 apologies. A balance of \$ 3018-19 was reported. We hope the following new members have a long and happy association with the Society:- Myles McGregor Lowndes, Kevin Walters, Kevin Keegan, Phoebe Thompson, Bob McGregor, Roy & Betty Duncan, Margaret Draddy, Marj McNamara, M. Nicholls and Fleur Gaborit.

GENERAL BUAINNESS:

John Wilkins made a report on a chemical called SUSCON which may help in control of mosquito breeding in bromeliad cups. A sample of the product was given to the secretary for distribution and testing. John Higgins appealed to members who took photos at the convention to show him so that some may be used in the proceedings.

POPULAR VOTE:

ADVANCED:	V. fosteriana	
	var. siedeliana	R.Reilly
NOVICE:	T. roland gossellini	E. Duncan

PROGRAMME: A round robin workshop was held and the following speakers gave demonstrations and a talk;-

Peter Paroz -	miniature tillandsias
Greg Stewart-	methods of fertilizing
Joe Dunlop -	shade house construction

The talks were well received and members expressed a wish for more of this type of programme.

JUNE: There were 55 members and 3 visitors present with 4 apologies. The treasurer reported a cash balance of \$ 4106-75. The following new members were welcomed with acclamation; I. & B. McLennan, J. Ketalas, M. Poulton, and R. & E Varney.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

John Higgins gave a farewell address to John Conran, who, unfortunately is leaving to take up an appointment at Melbourne University. John will be sorely missed by the Society with special note to the work he has done with the study group as far as botanical work goes.

POPULAR VOTE:

ADVANCED:	Ananas bracteatus variegata	R. Reilly
NOVICE:	x Neoregelia rosatina striatum	Phyllis Hobbs
JUDGES CHOICE:	Ananas bracteatus variegata	R. Reilly

MEMORABLE:

John Wilkins showed a wide range of beautiful slides that he had taken during the times he had been overseas. A lot of beautiful plants were seen for the first time.

BEGINNERS CLASS

A new format will commence from the July meeting for beginners. This segment will be for approx. 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the general meeting. Each month a different genera will be introduced so as to help new members as to their growing requirements and habits. The programme for the remainder of the year will be:-

July-	Billbergias	Joan Imray
August-	Neoregelias & Nidulariums	John Wilkins
September-	Vrieseas & Guzmanias	Gwen Gleeson
October-	Tillandsias	Rolly Reilly

All new members are invited to attend and their questions will be gladly answered.

SPECIAL MEETING

During July, Paul Isley, co-owner of Rainforest Flora nursery in California will be visiting Brisbane.

Although the timing of his visit does not co-incide with our monthly meeting, Paul has been invited as our guest at a special meeting which will be held on Wednesday 24th. July at 7.30 p.m. at the Uniting Church Conference Hall, at 52 Merthy St. New Farm.

Paul will give a talk on Bromeliads in America and also show slides of many new plants. This will be a very informative evening and a most enjoyable one also and not to be missed.

R.N.A. SHOW

Once again the Society has decided to stage a display at the R.N.A. Show in the Horticultural Pavilion from 8th. to 17th. August. The assistance of all members is required to:-

1. Assemble the display material on Sunday 4th. August.
2. Make up the display on Wednesday evening 7th.
3. Pull down the display on Sunday 18th. August.

PLANTS are needed for the display and should be emptied of water before being brought to the show. All pots and plants should be marked with the owners name.

STEWARDS are needed for the roster to maintain security of the display throughout the duration of the show.

N.B. Entrance for set-up and pull down through St. Pauls
entrance gates only.

1985 SHOW

- Class 1. Tillandsia
 1st. T. macrographica R. Riley
 2nd. T. bourgeai G. Stewart
 3rd. T. nima G. Stewart
- Class 2. Vriesea
 1st. V. hieroglyphica L. & T. Muller
 2nd. V. fosteriana "Red Chesnut" L. & T. Muller
 3rd. V. fosteriana "Red Chesnut" G. Gleeson
- Class 3. Other Tillandsioidae
 1st. ==
 2nd. Guz. lingulata splendens variegated G. Gleeson
 3rd. --
- Class 4. Tillandsioidae in flower
 1st. T. juratii G. Gleeson
 2nd. T. imperalis P. Clarke
 3rd. T. x Grand Prix J. Sax
- Class 5. Cryptanthus
 1st. C. x Ruby L. & T. Muller
 2nd. C. Mr. Green Jeans V. Sax
 3rd. C. Madam Gannwalder V. Sax
- Class 6. Billbergia
 nil
- Class 7. Aechmea
 1st. Ae. chantinii variegated L. & T. Muller
 2nd. Ae. luddemanniana "Mend" R. Riley
 3rd. Ae. fosteriana variegated J. Sax
- Class 8. Neoregelia
 1st. Neo. pendula brevifolia G. Gleeson
 2nd. Neo. fosters "little gem" E. Duncan
 3rd. Neo. kautskii J. Sax

contd.

1985 SHOW (contd.)

Class 9. Nidularium

1st. --

2nd. Nid. rutilans variegated J. Sax

3rd. --

Class 10. Intergeneric

1st. Neomea spectabilis

x recurvata

L.&T. Muller

2nd. Guz. peacockii

x V. Rubin

J. Sax

3rd. --

Class 11. Other Bromelioideae

1st. Ananas bracteatus

variegated

R. Riley

2nd. Ananas nanus

G. Gleeson

3rd. Orthophytum navicoides

R. Riley

Class 12. Bromelioideae in flower

nil

Class 13. Hectia - Dyckia

nil

Class 14. Pitcairnia

nil

Class 15. Other Pitcairnioideae

nil

Class 16. Specimen, any genus

Three or more connected mature plants

1st. V. vagans

J. Sax

2nd. Neo. Firebell

J. Sax

3rd. Ananas nanua

L.&T. Muller

Class 17. Miniature Display

nil

Class 18. Novice

nil

Class 19. Best Tillandsioideae:-

Nes Misso Award

T. duratii

G. Stewart

Class 20. Best Bromelioideae

Hudson perpetual Trophy

Ananas bracteatus

V. variegated

R. Riley

Special Commendation

Neo. pendula brevifolia

G. Gleeson

contd.

1985 show (contd.)

- Class 21. Best Pitcairnioideae
nil
- Class 22. RESERVE CHAMPION
Ananas bracteatus
v. variegated R. Riley
(special Commendation)
Nees. pendula brevifolia G. Gleeson
- Class 23. CHAMPION BROMELIAD
Ananas bracteatus
v. variegated R. Riley
Tom Schofield Award
V. Ospinae O. Trevor
-

B.S.I. Director - Australian Region

The management of B.S.I. have recognised the rapidly increasing interest in Bromeliads in Australia, and the increase in B.S.I. membership by Australian enthusiasts and created a new B.S.I. membership region - The Australian Region with the entitlement to elect a director to the Board of management.

The recent election resulted in Peter Paroz being elected as the inaugural director of the Australian Region for the term to December 1987.

Congratulations Peter

Tillandsia dura

Plant identification by amateurs can be fraught with difficulties; but occasionally it all comes together with a positive i.d. and no nagging inconsistencies.

Such was the case with the recent flowering of T. dura. I had imported this plant many years ago under that name from South America, but as it had never flowered, I was unable to confirm its identity. When it did flower, I was able to run it through the key without difficulty, confirm the description; and the line drawing in Smith and Downs could have been drawn from my plant. Sweet serendipity.

T. dura has a shortish but distinct stem with numerous stiff brownish leaves - a growth habit after the style of T. tenuifolia. The flower spike was erect, about 120mm long and 12mm wide, silicles red, with silvery pink bracts and blue flowers in the axils. Individual flowers lasted several days and the spike lasted in good colour with irregular flowering for several weeks.

This plant has proved easy to grow, if not prolific in growth and flowering. It grows quite well on a cork block along with other dry growing tillandsias with an occasional misting and a dose of weak fertilizer. An interesting and undemanding species, eyecatching without being spectacular but a good inclusion in any collection.

P. Paroz

NOTES ON THE COMBINED SHOW

The combined show held at Mt. Cootha gardens in conjunction with the Succulent Society again proved to be one of the highlights of the year for plant lovers, and was generally well received by the public.

Although I have no confirmation to date, I believe attendance figures were similar to last year and we will no doubt receive a statement in due course.

cont.

show notes (contd.)

By comparison with previous years there were certain aspects of the show which I believe were not as good, while others could be considered an improvement. Display and competition plants were quite light on in some areas but fortunately this was not generally noticed due to the many excellent plants in others. The large colourful Neoregelias, usually so noticeable were particularly sparse. The inconsistent weather early in the year and the hail storms in particular no doubt had much to do with this.

On entering the hall the centre display first came to notice. This generally was very attractive, however, the tree looked singularly sparse. Of particular note in this display was the very excellent colourful area provided by the cacti display. This included a background of taller plants, many attractively woolly, with smaller plants in front, with many flowering plants adding considerable interest and colour.

The bromeliad display in this island was also very attractive with large colourful plants and many excellent flowering specimens. Several different species of *Guzmanias* were flowering beautifully, and the clump of *Vriesea carinata* in bloom was as usual an attractive point of interest. Towards the stage side several large plants of selected *Aechmea chantinii* crosses stood out among a group of large attractive plants, including a particularly beautiful *Billbergia* cross. The brilliant yellow inflorescence of *Vriesea ospinae* stood out among other flowering plants in this area. The tree in the centre display, while trailing large quantities of *T. Usneoides* looked rather bare. There were several other *Tillandsias* but not nearly enough and I feel that more plants of other genera could have been used to give it more substance.

The stage display provided by the Ipswich Society and the Botanic Gardens was particularly attractive. The Gardens display included many very colourful flowering zygocactus among their attractive bromeliads and cacti. The Ipswich Society as usual produced an excellent display, notable for its range of large brilliant well groomed plants. Several *Nidulariums* were particularly notable.

contd.

Show Notes (contd.)

The competition tables appeared to me to be not very well stocked, and it is notable that no prizes were awarded in several classes. There were, however, many fine plants entered and the prize winners are to be heartily congratulated. There were several plants of Ananas nanus shown and these are always a source of interest for the public. It is a pity that the fruits were still green at this time of year as they are even more appealing when the pineapple colour matures. The competition table plants also appear to be all provided by a very few members. It is a pity that more members did not select a few plants with the idea of grooming them for competition at the next show. Started early, there is a good chance of having at least one good specimen by next June. Members should remember that it is not necessarily the very rare and expensive plant which wins in a particular section. Many of the fairly common bromeliads when well grown can be breath-taking and worthy of prize winning.

The plant sales area was well laid out and very well stocked and almost constantly well filled with eager buyers. I was particularly impressed by the large variety of plants of almost every genus, and the generally very reasonable prices asked for plants. Many plants which a couple of years ago were very expensive were quite readily available to the average enthusiast.

I must congratulate the Succulent Society on their display which I felt was particularly good this year, and for their contribution which goes such a long way to help make the whole show possible.

Finally I must congratulate the staff on the staging and management of the show, with particular mention of the ladies in the back room, up to their elbows in the washing-up, and the others behind the scenes who helped to make the show a successful and enjoyable occasion.

B. Hirning

A NOTE ON THE CULTURE OF PITCAIRNIAS

The pitcairniae generally produce very small seed with an appendage at each end, and being dry, like those of all the sub-family Pitcairniaceae, will remain viable for longer than most of the seed obtained from berries. It is best to sow this seed, however, as soon as possible after harvesting for best results. It should be sown on the surface of the compost, in the usual way, and kept continuously moist. In such a large genus there will be some variation in the time taken for each species to germinate, but in most cases the seed is very slow; it may take 4 or 5 weeks for germination to commence. One exception has been found here so far, *P. mirabilis*, which came up in a few days and grew rapidly. No doubt there are other species with similar characteristics. Once the seedlings are up they should be treated very carefully and given plenty of air, and not too much water. Many varieties resent being disturbed while the plants are small, and in most cases I have found it preferable to leave the young plants until they are 2 or 3 inches high before transplanting. They will grow quite well to a larger size than this if necessary and are much easier to manage at this stage.

Once the plants are established in pots, growth is quite fast for a bromeliad and they can be potted on into larger containers as they grow. Being terrestrials, they appreciate an occasional dose of fertilizer and a larger pot than most epiphytic species. A well drained sandy compost has given good results, with plenty of water in summer and much less during cold weather. I have not yet grown any of the deciduous varieties, but assume that these would be dormant after shedding their leaves. It is necessary to remember that loss of leaves does not mean the plants are dead; it is part of their normal growth cycle.

Bernard Stoner, West Australia

(reprint from B.S.I. Journal, V.XXI #3)

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