

Bromeliaceae

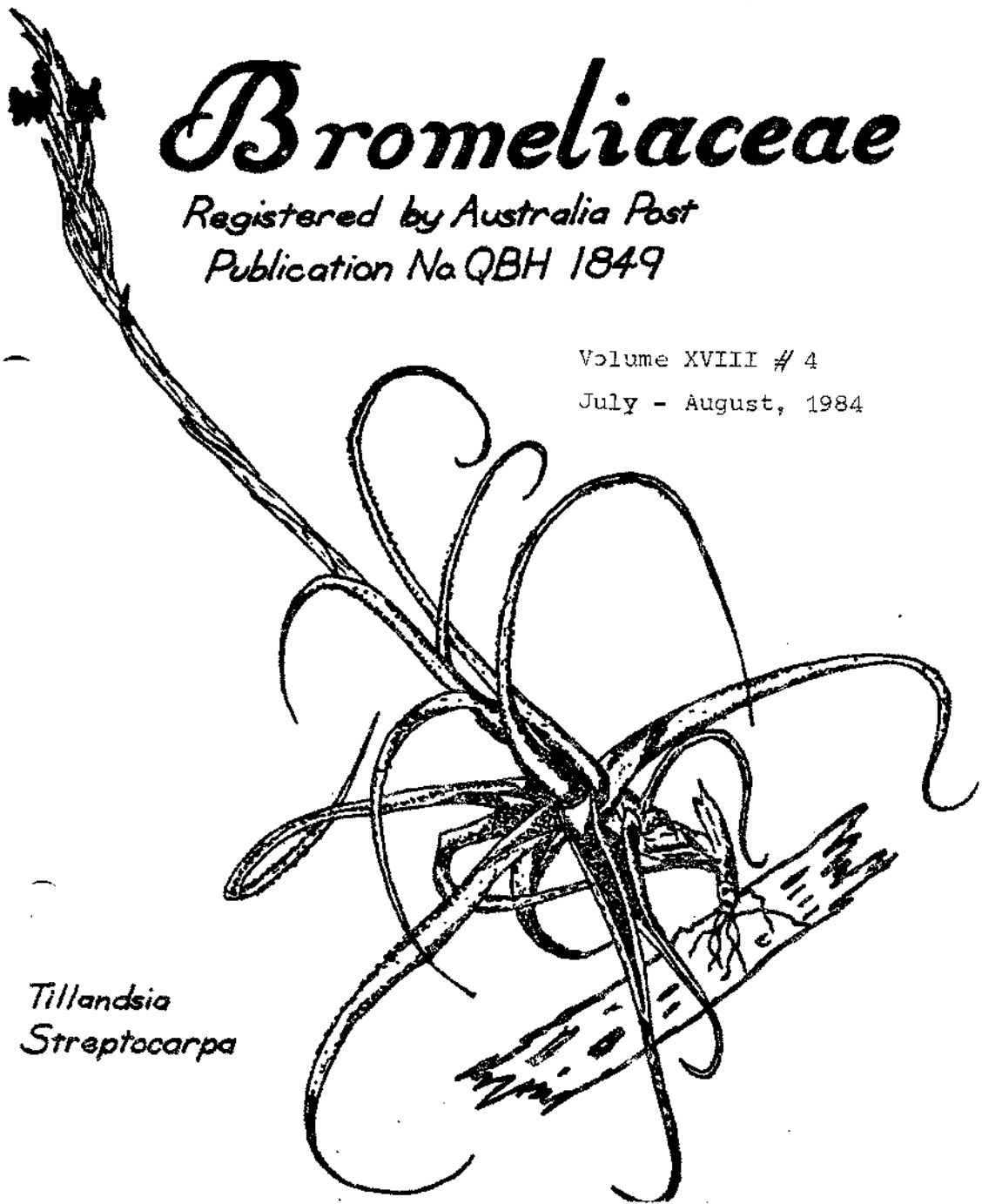
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July - August, 1984

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 p.m.

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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 19th: General Meeting
Nez Misso Memorial - Peter Paroz

AUGUST 16th: General Meeting
Bromeliads in the Gardens: Past, Present
and Future - Ross McKinnon, Curator,
Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

R.N.A. SHOW

Sunday, August 5th: Set up display materials in
pavilion

Wednesday, August 8th: Bring plants and assemble display

Thursday, August 9th to
Saturday, August 18th: Stewards man the display

Sunday, August 19th: Pull down display and collect
plants

EDITORIAL

Once again our annual Combined Show has come and gone, and like all events, much discussion follows as to the pros and cons of staging an annual show.

The standard of plants exhibited this year was very high, but the number of exhibits was very low, which leads one to wonder why this is so when our Society enjoys such a high membership. Has the exceptionally high standard of plants exhibited in past years made members wary of showing their plants, or is it simply that too few have a competitive nature and are simply content to grow their plants purely for pleasure.

However, the old adage "You are never too old" was certainly evident this year for the Champion Plant of the Show, a tricolor outstanding specimen of *Neoregelia Fireball*, grown by one of our senior members. Mrs. Duncan's dedication and enthusiasm in growing her plants is certainly an inspiration to each and every one of us to try and grow our plants better for next year's Show.

Lorraine Wilton

R.N.A. SHOW

The 1984 R.N.A. Show will be staged from 9th to 19th August. Paul Clarke, our Show Organizer will need the assistance of ALL members to -

- (1) Assemble the display material on Sunday 5th August
- (2) Make up the display on Wednesday 8th August
- (3) Pull down the display on Sunday 19th 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 owner's name.

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

N.B.: Entrance for set-up and pull down through St. Pauls Terrace gate only.

RESULTS OF COMBINED SHOW, 1984CLASS 1 - TILLANDSIA

1st	T. seleriana	Greg Stewart
2nd	T. didisticha	Greg Stewart
3rd	T. caput-medusae	Paul Clarke

CLASS 2 - VRIESEA

1st	Vr. gigantea	John Sax
2nd	Vr. gigantea 'Nova'	John Sax
3rd	Vr. gigantea 'Nova'	John Sax

CLASS 3 - OTHER TILLANDSIOIDEAE

1st	Guzmania x "Symphonie"	John Sax
2nd	Guzmania lingulata x glomerata	John Sax

CLASS 4 - TILLANDSIOIDEAE IN FLOWER

1st	T. stricta	Pat O'Dea
2nd	T. stricta	Paul Clarke
3rd	T. stricta	Paul Clarke

CLASS 5 - CRYPTANTHUS

1st	Crypt. x "Salome"	Gwen Gleeson
2nd	Crypt. x "Goldie Landon"	Gwen Gleeson

CLASS 7 - AECHMEA

1st	Ae. luddemanniana cv Mend	Greg Stewart
2nd	Ae. chantata	John Sax
3rd	Ae. chantinii variegata	Thelma Muller

CLASS 8 - NEOREGELIA

1st	Neo. carolinae tricolor Perfecta	Tony Lea
2nd	Neo. meyendorffii albo marginata	Tony Lea
3rd	Neo. carolinae tricolor Perfecta	John Sax

CLASS 9 - NIDULARIUM

1st	Nid. Ruby Lee	Thelma Muller
2nd	Nid. innocentia var. purpurea	John Sax

CLASS 10 - INTERGENERIC

1st	Guzmania peacockii X Vriesea x RUBIN	John Sax
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CLASS 11 - OTHER BROMELIOIDEAE

1st	Ananas nana	Ruth Wilson
2nd	Canistrum Leopardium	Thelma Muller
3rd	Canistrum lindenii variegatum	Greg Stewart

CLASS 12 - BROMELIOIDEAE IN FLOWER

2nd	Aechmea araneosa	John Sax
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CLASS 13 - HECHTIA/DYCKIA

1st	Dyckia platyphylla	Paul Clarke
2nd	Dyckia caberae	Greg Stewart
3rd	Hechtia mc dougallii	Paul Clarke

CLASS 14 - PITCAIRNIA

1st	Pitcairnia (unnamed)	Paul Clarke
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CLASS 16 - SPECIMEN ANY GENUS 3 OR MORE CONNECTED MATURE PLANT.

1st	Neoregelia Fireball	Eileen Duncan
2nd	Tillandsia bergeri	Tony Lea
3rd	Neoregelia Fireball	John Sax
Highly Recomm	Vriesea vagans	John Sax

CLASS 17 - MINIATURE DISPLAY NOT EXCEEDING ONE (1) METRE
IN ANY DIMENSION

1st	Tillandsia bulbosa	Tony Lea
2nd	Tillandsia baileyii	Tony Lea

CLASS 18 - NOVICE - ANY BROMELIOIDEAE (ENTRANT NEVER WON
FIRST PRIZE)

1st	Neoregelia 'Little Gem'	Eileen Duncan
2nd	Aechmea magdalenae quadricolor	Sel Gleeson
3rd	Aechmea orlandiana var. "Ensign"	Lenore Carlson

CLASS 19 - NEZ MISSO AWARD: BEST TILLANDSIOIDEAE

Tillandsia seleriana	Greg Stewart
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CLASS 20 - HUDSON PERPETUAL TROPHY: BEST BROMELIOIDEAE

Neoregelia Fireball	Eileen Duncan
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CLASS 21 - BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE

Dyckia platyphylla	Paul Clarke
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RESERVE CHAMPION BROMELIAD

Tillandsia seleriana

Greg Stewart

CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW

Neoregelia Fireball

Eileen Duncan

TOM SCHOFIELD AWARD - Best Bromeliad in Display

Tillandsia carlsoniae

Olive Trevor

A mini show of Neoregelias has been planned for the October meeting. It is at this time of the year that the Neoregelias commence to flower and the wide spectrum of colours they present is what makes this genus so desirable.

SHOW REPORT

The 1984 Combined Show presented by the Bromeliad Society of Queensland and the Queensland Succulent Society was a great success. It was the 7th annual show staged and they seem to get better every year. Although the weather was not kind, we had approx. 2000 visitors viewing the lovely bromeliads, cactus and succulents on display.

Although the numbers of plants entered in the competition were down on last year, the quality was of a very high standard which did not make an easy job for the judges. The display plants were magnificent with a great many of them in flower. One of the plants which seemed to capture the imagination of the public and members alike was a beautiful clump of *Tillandsia tenuifolia* grown by Peter Paros. *Tillandsia meridionalis* also drew a great deal of attention, the delicate pink bracts and silvery green leaves certainly showed a highly desirable plant. There would not have been one member who did not share some of the thrill and delight of Mrs. Eileen Duncan when she won Champion of the Show with a beautiful specimen of *Neoregelia Fireball*. Mrs. Duncan has not been growing bromeliads for very long, but her joy and enthusiasm certainly paid off. Congratulations Eileen. I suspect we will be seeing a lot more of *Neoregelia Fireball* as the sales area could not keep up with the demand for this fetching little plant.

It would not be possible in this space to mention all the lovely plants in the display. Some of the Nidulariums were quite spectacular, the gay little *Vriesea carinata* made a lovely border along the front edge of the display. We had a different tree this year which was hung with a great variety of plants. Many thanks to those members who brought in their plants, and many thanks to Paul Clarke and helpers who arranged the plants so well.

Another highlight was the display on the stage by the Ipswich Bromeliad Society and the Brisbane City Council, each of whom provided a wide range of plants of outstanding quality.

Sincere thanks must go to the ladies in the kitchen without whom we could not have kept going. Thank you Miss Eileen Eisentrigger, Mrs. Yvonne Boorman, Mrs. Ruth Wilson, Mrs. Elsie Grice and Mrs. Gwen Gleeson, and all other kitchen helpers. Thanks also to the Judges and Stewards for all their work. The Show ran smoothly and efficiently.

A fascinating display of succulents and cactus were shown by the Queensland Succulent Society. Like bromeliads, there seems to be a never ending variety of shape and form in these unusual plants. These two families complement each other beautifully and together create a show which has become a yearly highlight for all plant lovers.

Patricia O'Dea

SECRETARY'S NOTES

MAY: 83 members and 5 visitors attended, with 2 apologies. A balance of \$1424.80 reported, and approval granted to pay \$228.84 for Society brochures. We hope the following new members have a long and happy association with the Society -
 JOHN QUANE & ROSALYN BUCHANAN.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Apologies are now to be recorded in the Attendance Book and not read out at the meeting, so members please remember that this is up to you. Last minute reminders for the Combined Show given by Len Trevor and Paul Clarke.

POPULAR VOTE ..

ADVANCED: *Aechmea luddmaniana* cv Mend
 (Japanese Clone)

Greg Stewart

NOVICE: *Vriesea Gigantia* 'Nova'

Rolly Reilly

JUDGES CHOICE: *Vriesea Gigantia* 'Nove'

Rolly Reilly

PROGRAMME: Joan Imray & Olive Trevor gave a very informative talk on the winter care of bromeliads. This was very well received, especially by members who get frost in winter.

COMMENTARY: George Webley (President of Ipswich Bromeliad Society) gave a well informed & knowledgeable commentary on a well stocked table of exceptionally high quality plants.)

PLANT OF MONTH: The *Aechmea luddmaniana* cv Mend which won the Popular Vote is, in my opinion, a much superior clone to the normal one seen in our collections. This clone originated out of Japan and seems a much more delicate plant than what I call the American clone. The pink margins are much wider and even some striping ventures over toward the centre of the plant. The green section of the leaves also tends to get the light pink flush through it if grown in correct light. The plant does not seem to grow as large or as quickly as the other clone, but is well worth the wait.

JUNE: 64 members and 4 visitors attended, with 2 apologies. Olive Trevor reported on a lecture she gave the Aspley State School Project Club, who are growing bromeliads. Olive gave them a talk and presented them with some plants, also the Society has donated them some books. Good to see the young ones becoming involved in horticulture isn't it?

A balance of \$1409.93 was reported, and it was noted that a cheque for \$2695.40 had been received from the Combined Show. \$3000.00 to be placed on Fixed Term Deposit.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Allocation of area for the R.N.A. is still being discussed and negotiated with the R.N.A. We hope the following new members have a long and happy association with the Society - WENDY MURRAY; GEORGE GRAHEM; CHRIS DEANE; IVAN STEGMAN.

POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED: *Vriesea gigantea* 'Nova' John Sax

NOVICE: *Vriesea fosteriana* cv Red

Chestnut Gwen Gleeson

SHOW & TELL: The following members bought in plants and

gave us a small talk about them - George Lawson; Austin Prigg Elsie Grice; John Sax.

A post mortem done on the Combined Show, with some minor problems being discussed.

MEMBERS N.B.: A bus trip will be held on 23.9.84. Plants will be available for sale at both places, as well as beautiful plants to admire. Bring your own lunch and refreshments.

PROGRAMME: A talk by John Wilkins, John Conran and Norm Catan on microclimates and the creation of same. Following the talk the panel answered many questions from the members and a lot was learnt by all.

COMMENTARY: John Conran gave a very informative commentary on a sparse table, although this could be expected immediately after the Show.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: This month, two Tillandsias in flower were placed on the table which have never before been seen at a meeting, and as both are extremely beautiful, it is only fair to comment on both.

Tillandsia carlsoniae is one of the most attractive silver tillandsias in cultivation. It grows epiphytically at 3000 metres in Mexico to a size of 30cm. It has 5 or 6 beautiful dusty pink flower spikes which grow up to 4" high in a tight cluster in the centre of the plant. The contrast of the bright silver foliage and the pink flower spikes is unbelievable. Grow as an epiphyte under 30% shadecloth but it will take full sun.

Tillandsia deappeana is another stunner! A green leaved plant in a funnel rosette like Vrieseas. It also requires similar culture. Under 70% shade it will grow up to 1 metre high and have a flower spike about 50cm. The spikes are branched florescences with up to 7 or 8 spikes which come out from each scape bract up the stem. The flower spikes are a reddish pink and are very beautiful. This plant requires shady, humid conditions to do best.

Greg Stewart

'HOW NOT TO GROW NEOREGELIAS' & 'HOW I THINK THEY SHOULD BE GROWN'

Arrived up at Deception Bay November, 1979 with five coolite boxes filled with Grace Goode 'goodies' having first been introduced to bromeliads by visiting the Wasleys about six months earlier. What beautiful plants they were, I was hooked on them from first sight and from there we had a visit to Grace's at Alexandra Headlands.

I reckoned I could grow these plants without any effort, but I soon found many pitfalls. I dug up ground and planted Neoregelias, fertilized every time I watered through a spray line, beautiful big plants 2 ft. across but no colour. Where did I go wrong. I never asked any questions about how to grow them, but if you don't you won't get any ideas. I found out you must have 50% light but I had 30% so I was back behind the eight ball again. I then built benches three feet off the ground and grew them in pots. Still not much better because the pups I took off the mother plants were as green as grass. I worked out that the nitrogen in the fertilizer I was giving the parent plant went to the new pups. Asking a few more questions, I was told that they don't need fertilizer, so I cut it out and then I started to get some colour, but no growth. I am now using a low nitrogen fertilizer.

Two years ago I extended my shade house and put 50% shade-cloth on top. Now this must be the right light so I must get perfect plants. Yes, I have about 1% that are show-bench condition, but the others are about 50% on the way to being perfect. Where we live we are very open and get a lot of light, so don't compare my conditions to yours. You will have to be like me, trial and error. Mine has been a lot of errors.

Since the start of 1983 summer I have found 50% is too much because it darkens the colour in the plant too quickly. Now in 1984 winter weather I have put most of the young pups out under 50% light then when summer arrives I will take some inside my other shade house under 70% or put up an extra piece of shade cloth.

Once your neoregelias have started pupping, don't put them under benches or trees where they won't get good light,

because you will get a strappy plant that takes too long to colour up and grow into a good compact neoregelia.

I hope this article does not confuse you because I have been confused for five years now, but the next five might overcome this. Also I have a sprinkler system under my benches so I can keep up humidity because our soil is very sandy.

John Sax

WAIT AND SEE

How often do we throw out or push aside an ordinary plant or bromeliad saying it is just plain green, no markings or interesting formation, only to find that in time it produces a beautiful long-lasting flower or stalk of berry like seed. Such is my pot of *Aechmea mortensii* which came near to being put on the rubbish heap but now has pride of place in my shade house sporting a great spike of deep blue berry seed. It has been in flower/seed for over three months now and looks like lasting for another three.

So, if your plant does not look pretty be like me, wait and see.

Ruth Wilson

DOING IT MY WAY

When asked to do a 'Show & Tell' at our May meeting, I took along two tillandsias I had been experimenting with. After the meeting when approached to write an article on them, I was very dubious about putting my ideas into words.

We all know tillandsias can be grown on natural bark, cork, coconut fibre and even in a loose plant mix. They say there is a use for everything in this world, so I decided to be adventurous and try what to me would be a new approach to growing some varieties of these fascinating little bromeliads. Gathering some of the fine brown silk that clings to the 'Cooperi' tree ferns, then taking one plastic and one terracotta pot, proceeded to put my ideas to work. Packing the silk firmly into each pot, I then pushed each tillandsia pup into the centre. Now after approx. 6 to 8 months, there is no sign of a break down in the mixture. The root formation must be good because I can lift each tillandsia up by the leaves and they still hold fast to the pots. One of these tillandsias

has already flowered and has two pups which can now be removed.

Gwen Gleeson

SPACE UTILIZATION IN THE BUSHHOUSE

There is a heavy old joke about building a bushhouse twice the size you think you would like and buying half the plants that you want. This is not always practical but a little planning can make best use of available space. The key to adequately housing more plants is to make use of the height of the bushhouse as well as the floor area. Most growers now hang the extreme epiphytes (silvery leaved tillandsia type). This is most effective when the South wall (i.e. the one facing north) is used, and can be set up with floor to roof mesh. As well as making good use of space this gives the plants good light and good air movement.

Another idea recently advertised in the B.S.I. Journal uses a vertical pole with adjustable-radial-horizontal pot hangers. While I have not seen this system in use, it would appear to offer some advantages where plants with a large leaf spread needs to be separated to avoid leaf marks. 'A' frames are another practical way of using vertical space. The preferred alignment of the frames is North-South so that both sides receive equal light exposure. If the angle of the frame is approximately the same as the taper of the pots then small pots, secured with a wire hook, will sit level and allow the plants to grow vertical. This is particularly suited to seedlings and small plants where the leaf spread is not great.

Bench space can be best utilized by running the benches East-West then staging the larger plants to the south and smaller ones to the north. Alternatively a tiered arrangement of narrow benches can be constructed. Hanging of epiphytes overhead is sometimes adopted but unless watched carefully can lead to overshadowing of the plants underneath.

In short, a consideration of the range of plants to be grown and a little preplanning of the layout can materially increase the number of plants that can be housed without incurring any penalties. Remember that good air movement is a must and while this is unlikely to be a problem in shade houses, the same plant density in a glass house will require extra care to ensure that ventilation and air movement is adequate.

P. Paroz