

Bromeliaceae

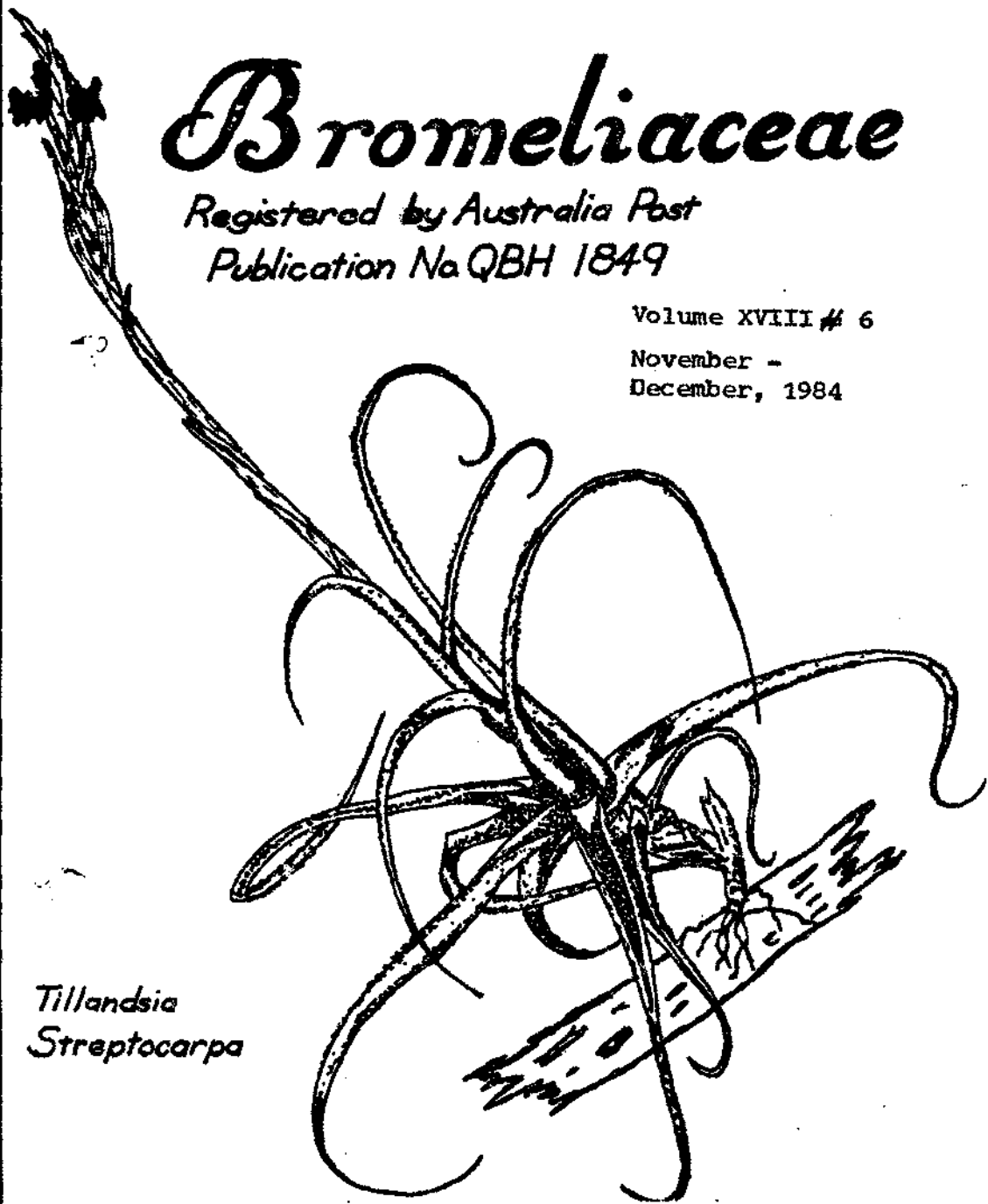
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November -
December, 1984

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 St., Fortitude Valley, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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PATRON: Mr. H. Caulfield

PRESIDENT: Mr. Len Trevor (work) 226135

SECRETARY: Mr. Greg Stewart 2779965

TREASURER: Mrs. Ruth Higgins 2002561

EDITOR: Mrs. Lorraine Wilton 3901226

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PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER, 15th Xmas Break-up Party
Cent Auction

DECEMBER:
1985 No General Meeting

JANUARY, 17th: General Meeting
Platyaechmea Group - Panel Discussion
presented by Study Group
Beginners Class - 'What is a Flower'-
John Higgins

FEBRUARY 18th: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Special Raffle - Three (3) select plants

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FEES

Fees are due and payable by 1st January, 1985. Members in arrears at the start of the A.G.M. are deemed unfinancial and surrender all membership priveleges. The fees for 1985 are -

Single \$ 5.00 per person
Family \$ 8.00 per family

EDITORIAL

The initial reason for people to join our Society is their interest in growing bromeliads, but usually after being a member for some time, most people decide what they want from being a member.

Some folk are interested in collecting as many genera and species as possible, others like to collect hybrids, or it may be that they like to participate in competition. Others like to join for the social contact with other people growing the same kind of plants.

But whatever the reason, there will always come a time when a plant that is incorrectly named, or has no name, is discovered in a collection. Frequently, the plant has been imported at considerable cost, and it is very disappointing to discover one already has the plant but under another name.

Having the correct name on a plant may appear unimportant to people who just like to grow a plant simply because it appeals to them, and therefore having no name does not make the plant any less attractive to them.

It is not always possible to discover the correct name of some plants, but by bringing them to the meetings, there will always be members who will be willing to help solve the problem, or the Study Group would try to key out the plant for you.

When giving plants away or selling them, it is advisable to try to have the correct label on them. If no correct name is known, it is far better just to name the genera rather than give it some name that the seller or giver may fancy.

L. Wilton

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FEES:

The total amount of subscriptions received does not cover the administration costs of Society. The remainder of income is derived from Society activities such as raffles, plant sales etc. You will note that fees have not increased for the next year, and this is due to the support of members for these activities. Your continued support will keep fees as low as possible.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SEPTEMBER: 70 members and 6 visitors attended, and we hope the following new members have a long and happy association with the Society - TED BOON of Townsville, and MIKE & ANN FITTON from Cooroy. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1610.59. The President noted the Beginners Classes had commenced. The Combined Show Chairman's Report and Financial Statement was presented, and it was carried that we should participate in this activity again in 1985.

POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED:	<i>Neoregelia meyendorffii</i>	
	<i>albo marginata</i>	J. Wilkins
NOVICE:	<i>Aechmea triangularis</i>	S. Gleeson
JUDGES CHOICE:	<i>Neoregelia carolinae</i>	
	<i>meyendorffii</i> cv Citation	J. Sax

SHOW & TELL: The following members bought in plants and gave a small talk about them - Paul Clarke, Ruth Wilson and Ian Sunderland.

PROGRAMME: John Wilkins gave a talk on how to set up an automatic watering system in our greenhouses. As a lot of us are a little lazy at heart, the talk was warmly received and John was asked quite a few questions.

COMMENTARY: Len & Olive Trevor gave an interesting commentary on an exceedingly well stocked table.

OCTOBER: 58 members and 9 visitors attended with 12 apologies received, and 1 new member was welcomed by acclamation - MINNA DAWES. The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$1604.75, and the amount of \$270.50 was passed for payment for the purchase of books. The President and Treasurer presented a report on fees for 1985, and recommended that they stay the same for another year. The President presented the trophies from the display erected by a small group of members in aid of the Koongarra Crisis Centre at Logan City. The Society won the Mayors Trophy for Best Display, and third prize in the Popular Vote.

POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED:	<i>Tillandsia seleriana</i>)	G. Stewart
	<i>Neomea Strawberry</i>)	J. Sax

cont.

NOVICE: Aechmea retusa I. Sunderland
 JUDGES CHOICE: Tillandsia seleriana G. Stewart

SHOW & TELL: Heather James bought in a Pitcairnia heterophylla and Peter Paroz gave some informed comments on this particular plant.

PROGRAMME: Peter Paroz spoke in detail of the Bromeliads III Conference and what members could expect from the lecture programme; Ruth Higgins spoke on the costing of the Conference and what value people would get for their money; and the President spoke on the many other advantages members would get by attending the Conference, and the need for support from our members.

John Higgins gave an informative talk on neoregelias and the variances in the genus. John also gave a commentary on an exceedingly well support Mini-Show table of neoregelias.

COMMENTARY: Greg Stewart gave a commentary on a surprisingly, and pleasingly, well stocked table.

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NEOREGELIA MINI-SHOW - 18th October, 1984

It was very gratifying to have this activity so well patronised. Eleven members competed with 28 plants. This Mini-Show was run on similar lines to the Combined Show so as to familiarise members with the use of Schedules. I found all members very willing to co-operate in this exercise. The classes were -

1: Species 2: Variegated 3: Hybrids

From the display, members were able to see for themselves that the Species can hold their own in colour, beauty and conformation. Going by the number of members who crowded around admiring the Species section, I feel we can all rest assured that they are not about to disappear from the world of bromeliads. Perhaps more and more are realising that hybridisers can only go so far and then they must return to the beginning - the Species.

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The winners were -

CLASS 1: SPECIES

1st	N. carolinae meyerendorffii 'Citation'	J. Sax
2nd	N. kautski	J. Sax
3rd	N. concentrica (Red Form)	J. Higgins

CLASS 2: VARIEGATED

1st	N. carolinae var tricolor 'Perfecta'	J. Sax
2nd	N. carolinae var tricolor	W. Foster
3rd	N. carolinae var tricolor 'Perfecta'	I. Sunderland

CLASS 3: HYBRIDS

1st	N. Claret X marmorata	P. Hobbs
2nd	N. X American Beauty	J. Dunlop
3rd	N. chlorosticta X princeps	J. Sax

Congratulations to all the winners and also to all who competed to provide a beautiful show which was enjoyed by all present.

Joan Imray

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND & QUEENSLAND SUCCULENT SOCIETY COMBINED SHOW 1984 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The seventh Annual Combined Show was staged at the Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens on Saturday, 9th and Sunday 10th June, 1984.

Despite showers during the weekend, the attendance was well over 2000. Mr. Ross McKinnon, the Curator of the gardens, was our Official Guest, and helped in the presentation of prizes to the winners. The display, despite fewer entries, was of the usual high standard, and as a judge of the Q.S.S., I can say in all honesty, the final decisions on the winning plants was very difficult. Congratulations must go to all entrants in both societies.

The centre display was a credit to the display organisers and their many helpers, while the foyer, with many coloured photographs of bromeliads and succulents, enticed the half-hearted to look farther and leave with

exclamations of delight.

The sales area was much improved on previous years with less plants blocking the walking area, and the stewards really do an excellent job of advising customers as to the suitability of the various species and their best locality.

The special area for tillandsias prevented the light-fingered amongst the public, so it was a shame to see it ruined at the closing of the Show by some member/s removing plants not belonging to them.

As usual, the refreshment area was constantly on the go, and all the workers could not have continued without their ever-welcome cuppa, which always arrived on the scene just when we were feeling at our lowest ebb.

Our new idea of a sales holding area in the courtyard was received with mixed feelings, though more thought needs to go into the removal of plants in the allotted time.

Your Committee has retained sufficient funds to stage a Show next year, and it only remains for both societies to accept Committee's recommendation that the Show go on as usual.

I take this opportunity to thank my Committee for all their support and assistance, all voluntary helpers, display organisers, competition stewards, sales stewards, kitchen staff and all who brought in display plants and assisted in any way. It is only by working as a team that we can achieve success, and it definitely was considered a success this year.

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Marie D'Alton
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT & BALANCE SHEET FOR 1984
.S.Q./Q.S.S. COMBINED SHOW ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS:

Balance from 1983	
Return of Investment	49.84
Door Takings	1100.00
B.S.Q. Sales Commission	1020.51
Q.S.S. Sales Commission	2695.40
Catering Profit	884.50
Return of Deposit	285.25
Bank/Investment Interest	20.00
	69.91
	<u>\$6126.21</u>

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EXPENDITURE

Advertising	119.00
Equipment Rental	257.52
Insurance (General/Cash/Public Liab.)	193.00
Hall Rental	211.00
Cleaning	60.00
Judges Honorariums	60.00
Competition Prizes (Trophies/Medallions/Cash)	112.60
Printing (Presentation)	13.00
Stationery/Display Items	32.47
Steward Meals/Official Morning Tea	41.00
Bank Charges (Fed. Tax)	2.55
B.S.Q. Sales Commission	2695.40
Q.S.S. Sales Commission	884.90
Investment Deposit C.T.B.	1400.00
Balance to Date	<u>43.81</u>
	<u>\$6126.25</u>

ASSETS

Cash Book Balance - Cash on Hand	43.81
- Investment	1400.00
Stores/Equipment - Stewards Ribbons	20.00
- Metal Signs	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>\$1513.81</u>

Certified True & Correct by G. Lawson, Auditor

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BUS TRIP

On the 23rd September, I had the pleasure of going on the Bromeliad Society's bus trip to Deception Bay and Caloundra with Joe and friend Janet. Our numbers were fewer than we would have liked, but nevertheless we had a wonderful and fruitful day.

It was quite an education to see how different members build their shade houses and the attractive way their bromeliads are displayed and grown to advantage. I most certainly recommend this trip to all members, and especially

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to more recent members like ourselves who are keen to build up our collections and to see at first hand the conditions best suited to different species in different environments.

From the car park in Warner Street, we travelled to Decoy Bay where John and Val Sax and other members of the Sax family cheerfully waited to welcome us to their paradise of green lawns, flowering shrubs and native trees on which *Aechmea nudicaulis* and other epiphytes were growing. We eager beavers quickly made our way to a large shade house where we were able to buy neoregelias and vriescosas at reasonable prices. After completing our purchases we were then free to browse around the various houses viewing John's collection in their different stages of growth and to ask questions. We even had time to take a peep at Val's nook where she keeps her indoor plants and cryptanthus before being served morning tea on the lawn under an overhead shelter.

Thank you John and Val for a wonderful morning, and thank you also to other members of the family who were so helpful to us all. Reluctantly we waved goodbye to the Sax family and travelled north to the park near the Caloundra turn off for a leisurely picnic lunch.

Then off again to Tony Lea's at Caloundra to buy more bromeliads. Quite a number of different species were for sale and Tony was there to help us with any information we required.

We then made our way over a small bridge into a large cave like tropical wonderland with a high canopy shade cloth roof and high brush walls, built to give protection to the plants from strong ocean winds. This was truly another paradise. A far different setting. On all sides there were palms, ferns, orchids, bromeliad trees topped with flowering orchids and hanging baskets with flowering zygocactus, fuschsias etc. Bromeliads of many different species were growing on the ground in pots, in hanging baskets and on trees everywhere.

A grateful thank you to Tony for showing us his collection and to Joyce for a delightful afternoon tea.

I feel that the success of the day was due in no small way to the organising ability of Ruth and John. Thank you.

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Jean Dunlop
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THE PUZZLING QUANDARY OF TILLANDSIA USNEOIDES

I have often admired huge clumps of *Tillandsia usneoides* in photos of South America and somewhat smaller versions of this in some of our own collections.

The plant itself seems to multiply extremely quickly if given the right conditions and care, and this is where I was mystified.

If one carefully looks at a *Tillandsia usneoides*, it only throws one offset off each plant, and if this was the sole means of its multiplication, then I couldn't possibly see how clumps could get so big so quickly.

The answer to this question is really quite simple. The plant has an almost unbelievable capacity to flower, set seed and germinate in a short period of time. I have found that from the time of flowering to maturing of seed pods is, at some times, as short as two months.

Some seed was put down from the last lot of flowering plants and I would hazard a guess that these plants are very close to maturity. That was only 6 months ago so I would venture to say that the time from flowering to mature seedlings would be only 12 months, which is an abnormally short time considering most other tillandsias take 6 to 7 years.

What must happen is that the thick clumps of *Tillandsia usneoides* hold the seed as the pods break open, and fulfill the role of a natural growing medium for the seedlings.

Combined with the one offset per plant, the seedlings tend to form a very large clump of *Tillandsia usneoides* in a very short period of time.

Greg Stewart

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OLD IDEAS WORTH RECONSIDERING

Are you worried about perspiration contaminating seed as you handle them? Wash and dry your hands and then try the old nurseryman's trick of dusting the hands with talcum powder!

Do you use live sphagnum moss? If you are posting plants, it is marvellous to wrap some round the roots in a plastic bag and put some down the centre of the vase: the plants arrive fresh even after prolonged delays. Why not grow your own? Plant some dried sphagnum with peat moss in a plastic bowl and make a mini bog; or better still get some live sphagnum from a friend. Rain water is best and creek water O.K. Many water supplies are too alkaline and the plant slowly deteriorates. Put the lot in a plastic bag if it dries out too quickly.

Have you tried a wick pot? Marvellous for vriesea and like plants which benefit from a continuous supply of moisture. Select a pot with bottom slits at least 12mm up the sides. Drill a hole in the middle of the bottom and pull through a short length of nylon (it won't rot) rope. Crock to just above the frairage holes with pea sized charcoal, then pot the plant in an open mix bringing the ends of the rope to the upper part of the pot. Place in a tray of water so that the drainage slots are not covered. The wick provides continuous moisture (and fertilizer if required) and the charcoal crocking and open slots ensure aeration.

Have you tried a gravel tray? Just put a 15mm layer of fine gravel (match head size or a little bigger) in a tray and fill with water until the gravel is just covered. Place the plant in the middle and the water, as it evaporates, creates that extra humidity around the leaves. For best results, the tray should extend beyond the span of the plant.

Peter Paroz

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BROMELIADS III CONFERENCE

COUNTDOWN - 20 WEEKS TO GO

JOIN IN THE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES DURING
EASTER, 1985 WITH MEMBERS AND VISITORS.

ENQUIRIES: (07) 2002561

JOHN HIGGINS

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