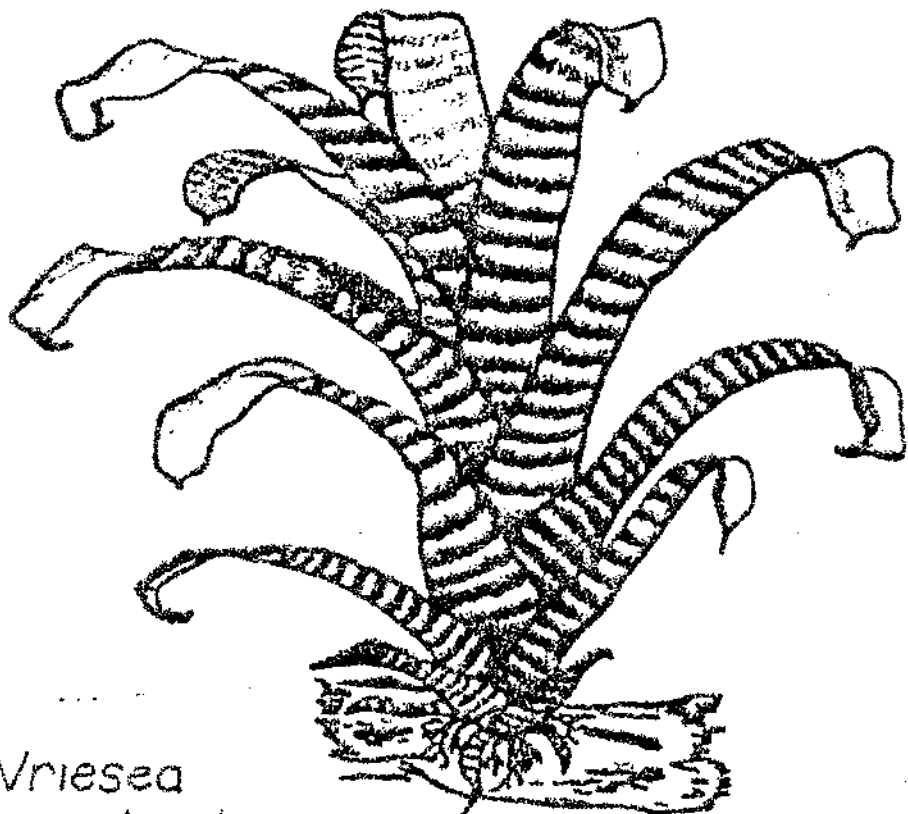


Bromeliaceae

Postal Address:- P.O. Box 565
JUN 1986, XX # 1
JANUARY - FEBRUARY
Fortitude Valley, Qld, 4006,
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*Vriesea
splendens*

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:

JAN. 1st.	Fees due.
16th.	General Meeting
	Beginners class - Properties of potting mixes.
	Cultural clinic - Panel to discuss problems.
FEB. 20th.	Annual General Meeting.
	Special Raffle.

FEES:

The annual subscription remains at \$5 per person and \$8 per family for 1986 and was due on 1st. January. Members with fees unpaid at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting are deemed unfinancial and lose continuity of membership.

1986 COMBINED SHOW:

Although the Combined Show is still several months away, now is the time to commence selecting and grooming plants for the competition. Plants may need to be repotted, checked for any sign of scale or slugs or any dead leaves removed. Turning the plants regularly will ensure even growth of leaves.

Q.B.S. XMAS PARTY:

Sixty-six members, and eleven visitors, participated at the Queensland Bromeliad Society's 1985 Xmas Party. The attendance whilst being less than anticipated, the enthusiasm of the party members present compensated for the deficiency in attendance. Once again some of the Bromeliad collectors set up an effective and dazzling display of exquisite Bromeliads. Two specimens, Tillandsia imperialis, and Neoregelia Halellis, must have impressed all those present. To all Bromeliad lovers privileged to see so many top class plants, it must have been an extra Xmas bonus. Thoughts no doubt had them thinking that maybe one day, even just one of these plants may have a special place in their Brom.House. That could be when the pup's pups, have pups. Maybe? We can all wish can't we?

The President Len Trevor declared the party opened, and as cent auction sheets were bought, everyone was certainly looking forward to the exciting night it proved to be. The four musketeers Len, Greg, Ruth and John, with their helpers, kept the auction going at an excellent pace, thus allowing all to enjoy each plant held up for auction. To the lucky winners congratulations, to all those whom "Lady Luck" passed by, remember 1986 Q.B.S. Xmas Party is not so very far away. Yvonne, Eileen, Rose and Eric once more excelled themselves with the quantity and quality of the plates of tantalising food that the tables were laden with. It certainly made one forget about calories, cholesterol etc. It was a team effort well done and done well.

cont.

Q.B.S. XMAS PARTY (cont.)

Thanks is a small word with a big meaning! Such as the gratitude and admiration etc. for the dedication of these four very special people. The evening finally came to an end which meant goodbye 1985 and to all a healthy and prosperous New Year, 1986.

Gwen Gleeson

BEAUTIFUL PERU:

During the month of December we were lucky enough to be given an insight into the plants & people of PERU by Mr. Rob Phillips of Coffs Harbour.

Rob had not long come back from an organised trip to Peru, mainly to study and collect plants of the Bromeliad family and he kindly offered the society a night of his time to give a detailed talk & show slides of his expedition. There was a very poor roll up of only some sixteen members which in a lot of ways was a pity because it was probably one of the best talks & slide showings the society has ever been privileged to see.

Rob went on the trip under the wing of intrepid explorer and plantsman Mr. Lee Moore. The magnificent scenery this country offers is breathtaking with escarpments up to 6,000 ft. high in one jump & some peaks being over 20,000 ft. high. The profusion of Bromeliads was breathtaking with huge clumps of *Tillandsias* looking like our spinifex areas, these being intermingled with cactus & succulents. Huge clumps of *Tillandsia edithae* and *Tillandsia tectorum* photographed particularly well.

The wet forest areas in western Peru were also very superb with perhaps the highlight for me being a photo of two huge *Tillandsia fendleri* in full flower which were growing over a jungle stream. Another superb slide showed

cont.

BEAUTIFUL PERU (cont.)

fields of newly discovered Guzmania bismarkii a breathtakingly beautiful plant of banded foliage and exquisite form. While all these beautiful slides were being thrust upon us, Rob was non-stop giving information on the plants & habitat.

By the time the night was finished I'm sure all present were in a state of utter awe in seeing in such a short time where a large quantity of the plants we grow in our greenhouses actually come from and how they adapt.

Thank you Rob for the night and also for the lovely Tillandsias which you donated to the society for raffle at our A.G.M. meeting next year.

See you all in Peru after the A.G.M. (perhaps some during it) ?

Greg Stewart

A.G.M.

Once again it is time when a new management committee must be elected. All members are asked to consider carefully as to what degree they would like to contribute to the Society. New members are essential to generate new ideas and concepts to keep the society moving forward.

Nominations, in writing, will be received by the secretary up to the start of the A.G.M. and should include the following information - nominee, position, name of proposer and signed by the nominee that he/she will accept the obligations of the position. Nominations will also be received from the floor at the appropriate time during the election.

Nominees, proposers and seconders, must be financial members of the society.

L. Wilton

FASCINATING & ELUSIVE:

A *Tillandsia* not often seen in many collections is *T. complanata*. It is an unusual *Tillandsia* with many soft green leaves forming a dense rosette and bears several lateral inflorescences which emerge from the leaf axils making it easily recognizable.

It is not an easy plant to grow even if one is lucky enough to procure it. Because of its unusual habit of not producing any pups, propagation is only by seed. For it to set seed two different clones are required.

Several times I have tried to import *T. complanata* but on each occasion the plant has not survived quarantine. I have also tried to raise seed but this too also has failed. But as the saying goes "good things come to those who wait", I was given a plant of *T. complanata* recently.

A friend who has had a plant in her collection for many years discovered some time ago that hers had begun to produce several pups which is quite unusual for this plant. All pups were removed and the mother plant is still in good condition and flowering.

I have not heard of this happening to any other grower, but I wonder if the mother plant is nearing the end of her life and, by producing pups, it is its last effort to ensure that the species survives.

L. Wilton

AECHMEA FASCIATA DAMAGED BY A FUNGUS DISEASE

Aechmea fasciata is of South American origin, probably from the region of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Its attractive rose-coloured head containing blue flowers and its stocky rosette of green leaves with silvery patterns makes its varieties particularly popular. Most of our favorite plants however, can succumb to disease and *Aechmea* is no exception.

cont.

AECHMEA FASCIATA (cont)

One disease in particular can ruin flats of seedlings, mature plants and all stages in between. It is especially severe when humidity is very high and leaves remain wet for long periods of time. When plants are crowded on a nursery bench, good air circulation is impossible to attain. Even without crowding, some greenhouses have such poor aeration humidity remains high enough for this disease to spread rapidly from sick to healthy plants.

The first warning of the problem consists of the appearance of very small, circular, yellowish spots on leaves. Since only two or three days elapse from the time the fungus lands on a leaf to the appearance of spots, plants must be observed frequently. Small spots quickly turn brown and are somewhat sunken below the surface. Merely a few small spots on a leaf can enlarge and lead to severe destruction of that leaf as it matures. Large diseased leaves may become completely brown and hang limply from the plant; in fact the disease is often lethal. Browned leaf areas enlarge fast in high humidity and stop expanding when surrounding air becomes dry, only to spread again when moisture returns.

The fungus that causes this serious malady lives within dying and dead leaf tissues. When air temperature and moisture are just right, it forms millions of its microscopic spores on leaf surfaces and these drift in the air and are splashed by water from diseased to healthy plants. The scientific name of this fungus villain is HELMINTHOSPORIUM ROSTRATUM.

Preventing an epidemic of the disease is far better than trying to control it after it appears. First of all, keep diseased plants out of your bromeliad collection no matter how inexpensive or generously given. If possible keep newly acquired plants in a "quarantine" area, away from the rest, for a few weeks in case they are inconspicuously infected. If symptoms appear on a plant, quickly remove it from the premises for burying or burning; the disease is very contagious. Don't toss a sick plant onto a trash pile near the nursery; discarded, diseased plants are often a source of fungus spores

AECHMEA FASCIATA (cont.)

that can infect healthy specimens. Use of a disease free potting mix, clean pots, tools and benches is another useful precaution. Sterilize or pasteurize the potting mix or buy one that is guaranteed to be disease-free. There are packaged, premixed and sterilized products available. Benches, tools, pots and the entire nursery are more likely to be disease free if plant hygiene is constantly kept in mind.

Humidity can be kept as low as possible by circulating air with fans and placing plants so that air passes freely around each of them.

If one or two diseased plants had to be removed the next step is fungicidal control. Occasionally too many plants have become infected for roguing to be appropriate and application of a fungicide spray is the only alternative. Satisfactory control by any fungicidal spray depends upon; (1) choice of the correct fungicide, (2) continuous mixing and optimum pressure in the sprayer and (3) thorough spray coverage of all upper and lower leaf surfaces. With this particular fungus disease choice of the proper fungicide is especially important. For instance, although benomyl is superior for controlling some diseases, it will not control this one. A spray containing one and one half pounds of zinc plus maneb as a seventy-five percent wettable powder in one hundred gallons of water provided excellent control in experiments. Chlorothalonil or zineb gave adequate protection in greenhouse tests. The county agricultural advisor can offer helpful suggestions for acceptable chemical controls as well as advice about hygienic measures that can be taken.