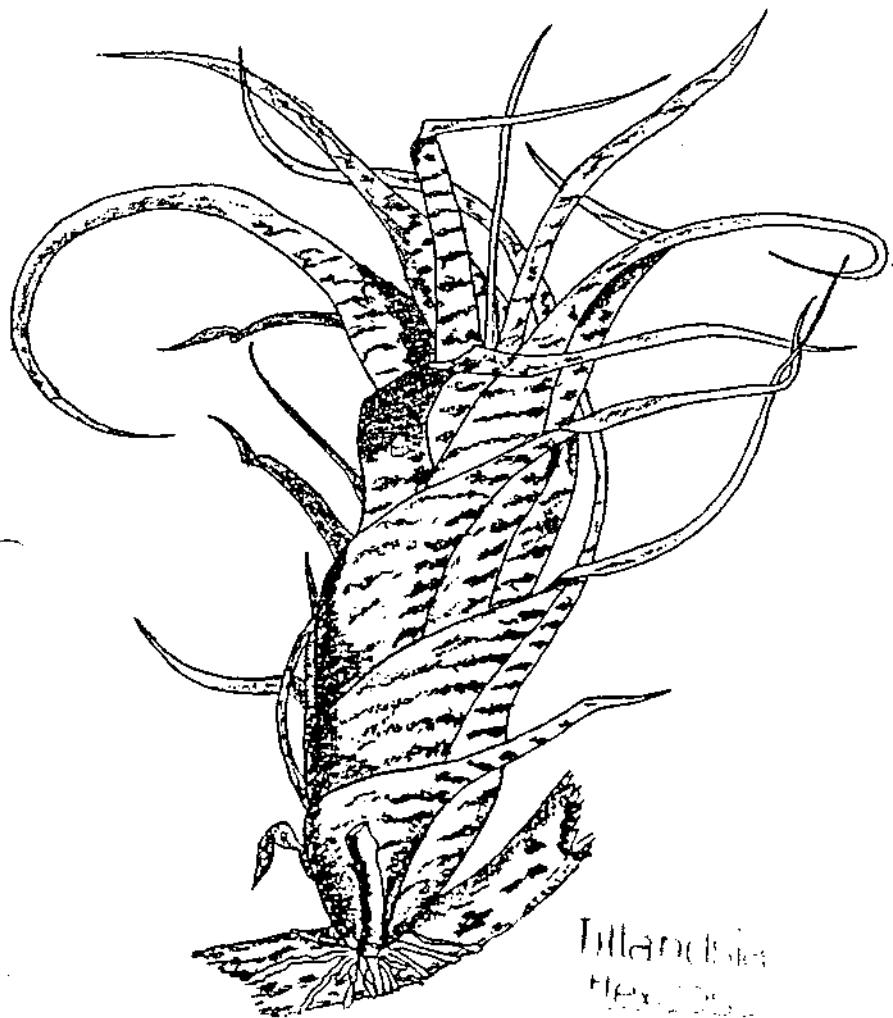


Bromeliaceae

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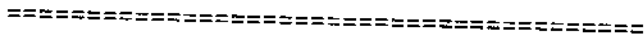
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MAY - JUNE, 1987



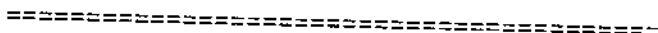
BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND:

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.

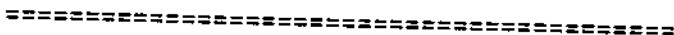


PATRON:	Mr. H. Caulfield	
PRESIDENT:	Mr. R. Paulsen	2970415
SECRETARY:	Mrs. M. Marshall	2774275
TREASURER:	Mr. G. Stewart	2779965
EDITOR:	Mr. L. Butt	8483515



PROGRAMME

MAY, 21st	General Meeting - Winter Care of Plants - Joan Imray Bromeliads IV Report - John Higgins Beginners Class - Air Circulation & Light Joan Imray
JUNE, 5th	Set Up Combined Show - Mt Coot-tha
JUNE, 6th	Combined Show
JUNE, 7th	Combined Show - Pull Down from 4.30p.m.
JUNE, 18th	General Meeting - Slides - Tillandsias Part 1



EDITORIAL

It is good to be back in the saddle once again after so many years.

This is, of course, the right time to remind you all that our Annual Combined Show of Bromeliads and Succulents is again very near, in fact June 6th - 7th, to be precise. It almost goes without saying that every member will give support to make this a success. Setting up will be on the Friday evening, 5th June.

Further to this, we have the August R.N.A. Bromeliad display to think about. Remember, this is from the 6th to the 15th August.

Worth remembering also is the proposed New Zealand get-together in Auckland to celebrate their 25th Anniversary at Easter, 1988.

Len Butt.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

MARCH: 58 members and 8 visitors were present, with 5 apologies. A cash balance of \$3235.67 as at 28.2.87 was reported.

Mr. Harold Caulfield has accepted the Position of Patron once again for 1987.

A letter of thanks for our donation of \$1000 was received from the Mulford Foster Identification Centre, Florida.

New Members - Margret Graham and Arnold & Phyllis James

Popular Vote - Advanced:	<i>Guzmania</i> Orangeade	Thelma Muller
Novice:	<i>Vriesea glutonosa</i>	Patricia O'Dea

General Business: John Higgins talked on the concept of the Tenth Anniversary Combined Show, asking for members to nominate as Stewards. He also discussed the display requirements, such as large plants, and advised that a truck would be available for pick-up for plants that cannot be transported by the members.

Patricia O'Dea gave an explanation of the new Show Competition Schedule, and asked for 3 volunteers to help her.

SECRETARY'S NOTES (cont)

It was passed that extra monies required to produce the proceedings from Bromeliads III be paid. Copies will be included in the Library.

2 delegates to go to the meeting for Flora 87. for Logan Red Cross to obtain more details for the Show in September.

COMMENTARY: Patricia O'Dea commented on the well stocked table, and John Higgins gave a talk on plants grown by Rolly Reilly.

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APRIL: 44 members and 2 visitors, with 14 apologies, (mainly due to Bromeliads IV in Adelaide).

Cash Balance: \$3514.71, as at 31.3.87

Popular Vote: Advanced: *Guzmania Fleur D'Anjou*
(French hybrid) John Wilkins
Novice: *Cryptanthus Fosterianus*
'Elaine" Doug Reilly

General Business: A telegram sent to Bromeliads IV, wishing them 'Best Wishes'. (This was very well received in Adelaide. Ed)

Royal Horticultural Society advised that extra donations would be required for the pergola at Mt. Coot-tha as insufficient societies agreed to the proposal. It was agreed to pay the initial donation and wait to see how much extra would be required.

Members are reminded to bring in slides for the May meeting on past shows.

Members were complimented on the friendliness of the Society, and were requested to wear name badges. Members were also thanked for attending the meeting on Easter Eve.

Sales Stickers are available in bundles of 50 and 100 tickets, at a cost of .025¢ each (\$1.50 for 50, etc.)

Commentary: Patrician O'Dea again filled the breach with an interesting commentary on the display table.

Programme: The slide programme 'Aechmea Jewels Part 2' was given by Bob Paulsen

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THE MAIN PEST OF BROMELIADS

SYMNASPIS AECHMEAE of the family DIASPIDIDAE. This big jumble of Latin is one every bromelian should learn and get acquainted with. It comes from the NSW Department of Agriculture Biological Research branch, and is the main pest of all bromeliads in tropic zones, sub-tropic zones, and now deep in northern NSW. It is, if you wish a common name, the Fly Speck, or Pin Spot scale!

In 1981, the NSW Agricultural Department writer mentioned that he did not think it affected the pineapples in industry. I suggest he should have lived in Queensland as I have seen it on *Ananas* as far back as 1978.

This tiny black armoured scale attacks only the Bromeliaceae genus and all divisions of the genus. *Aechmea* and *Billbergia* were once thought to be it's main hosts, but I find it infests *Neoregelia*, *Vriesea*, *Guzmania*, *Nidularium*, *Canistrum*, *Ananas* and *Portea* just as thickly. It came from Florida where it is a serious pest of the pineapple. The tiny crawlers that emerge from under the female scale plating can be blown by the wind onto other plants, or even transferred there by the clothes of humans. The scale is 0.5mm. The male and female form a double scale cover together, and this makes the cover far more difficult to penetrate than other scale types.

WHITE OIL, a recommended cure for scale CANNOT be used, as white oil is injurious to all bromeliads.

After nearly four years of experimenting I have come up with several recipes for eradication which I am happy to pass on to those interested. First of all, the best way to attack scale insects is to soften the scale, and this can be done by using an agricultural detergent such as 'Agral' or 'Wetta-soil' as the base for your spray. To this, add liquid Carbaryl or powdered Maldison, mixing as directed on the bottle or container. Using a watering can, wet all plants once a fortnight. Affected plants should be quarantined well away from the rest of the collection, the whole plant should be completely immersed in the mixture for a few seconds then laid on its side to drain. Do not return the plants to the main collection until you are sure the eradication of the scale is complete. Fly speck scale cannot be scratched or wiped off, but will brush off readily after treatment.

Disyston 5 granules sprinkled on to pot mixtures made a good deterrant as, being systemic, it destroys any sucking insect that

cont.

attacks a pot plant. Disyston 5 needs co-sensense in its use. The special container is a shaker with sealed cap. The instructions are on the container and it is never used on house plants or indoors or enclosed areas. The user is asked to wear household plastic or rubber gloves when using it. Cover granules with sand and moisten immediately.

Len Butt

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IMPORTING PLANTS

The prospect of importing plants into Australia through government quarantine houses has taken a big set-back this year, due to the huge increase in fees charged by this authority.

If you are going to import plants through the government quarantine centre, please check what fees you are going to be charged. The new schedule of fees is as follows

- (a) initial inspection cost \$15.00 plus \$13.00 per half-hour or part thereof
- (b) Care of plants \$50.00 per shipment, plus \$4.00 per plant.

To give you some idea of costs of a shipment of 20 plants, the approximate cost would be \$158.00, or in real terms a cost of \$6.00 per plant for quarantine fees. When you take the average cost of an imported plant of, say AU\$15.00, this extra quarantine charge makes plants almost prohibitive.

The private quarantine fees are much lower, and I suggest to anyone thinking of importing to investigate this avenue. I would hazard a guess that fees would end up being about half of those of the government centre. The added advantage of private importation is that you can arrange for care and mounting of the plants yourself.

Greg Stewart

BROMELIADS III - CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

A limited number of the proceedings are available for sale to members at a cost of \$15.00, plus \$2.00 p&p (total \$17.00). Please forward enquiries to the Society address.

BROMELIADS IV - ADELAIDE

As I winged down over Adelaide on 16th April, it was a sight to remember, A great fairyland of orange and white street lights stretching in orderly pattern as far as the eye could see.

The Conference was something not to miss! I vow they get better every time, and I thought I had seen the ultimate one in Queensland in 1985. This well planned get-together was equally as goods as Bromeliads III.

Our Queensland society representatives all seemed to have an enjoyable time, and all speakers did an admirable job. One section of the Park Royal foyer was furnished with bromeliads from South Australian members collections, while several painting of bromeliads were hung around the conference room. These were loaned by the S.A. Botanic Gardens.

The walks through the Botanic Gardens and the Veale Gardens were much appreciated by all delegates, and many photos were taken.

The bus trip through the Barossa Valley was quite a contrast to other organised but trips, being concerned with wine and wineries rather than with bromeliads.

This conference did have very unique sections. The New York apartments inundated with potted bromeliads while ice was on the outside of the window panes; bromeliads growing in Fiji conditions where rainfall is measured in feet, not inches; epiphytic methods of growing bromeliads; and a really close up viewing of Tillandsias in flower and full growth.

One unusual and rather different aspect was the two Rio de Janeiro films shown by Ruby Ryde, complemented by many slides of Ruby and adventures around Rio.

One main thing that seems to come out of these get-togethers is the great friendly spirit that dominates them.

Next conference, Bromeliads V, is to be held once more in Victoria.

Len Butt

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Delegates to the 1985 Bromeliads III Conference that I have spoken to all say the proceedings notes were well worth the waiting for.
Ed.

BACK TO THE SPECIES

Hybridisation in the Bromeliaceae is now reaching such a peak, it is time to stop and ask ourselves just where we are heading.

The Bromelioideae are not alone in these happenings, as it seems the known plant world is caught up in this ploy. The Orchinaceae came to this conclusion several years ago and now there are a number of Species organisations in most countries, fighting to resurrect the originals before it is too late.

In the very colourful world of the plants we admire, there is now a variegated version in close on every species, and now inter-generic crosses between many types. Also, in countries where the patenting of plants is compulsory, these laws are already causing terrible head-aches in the world of food and grain production.

Time will come when only hybrid seed producing 'mule' plants will be available. The intergeneric bromeliads are generally 'mules' also seed of them is doubtful.

What we must remember is that species are the genetic building blocks of plants, and without them we are back to square 1.

Best suggestion I have heard yet came from a plant biologist who said that for every hybrid produced, the hybridiser should endeavour to put out a straight species, or actively collect seed of species so they are ever with us.

Len Butt

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