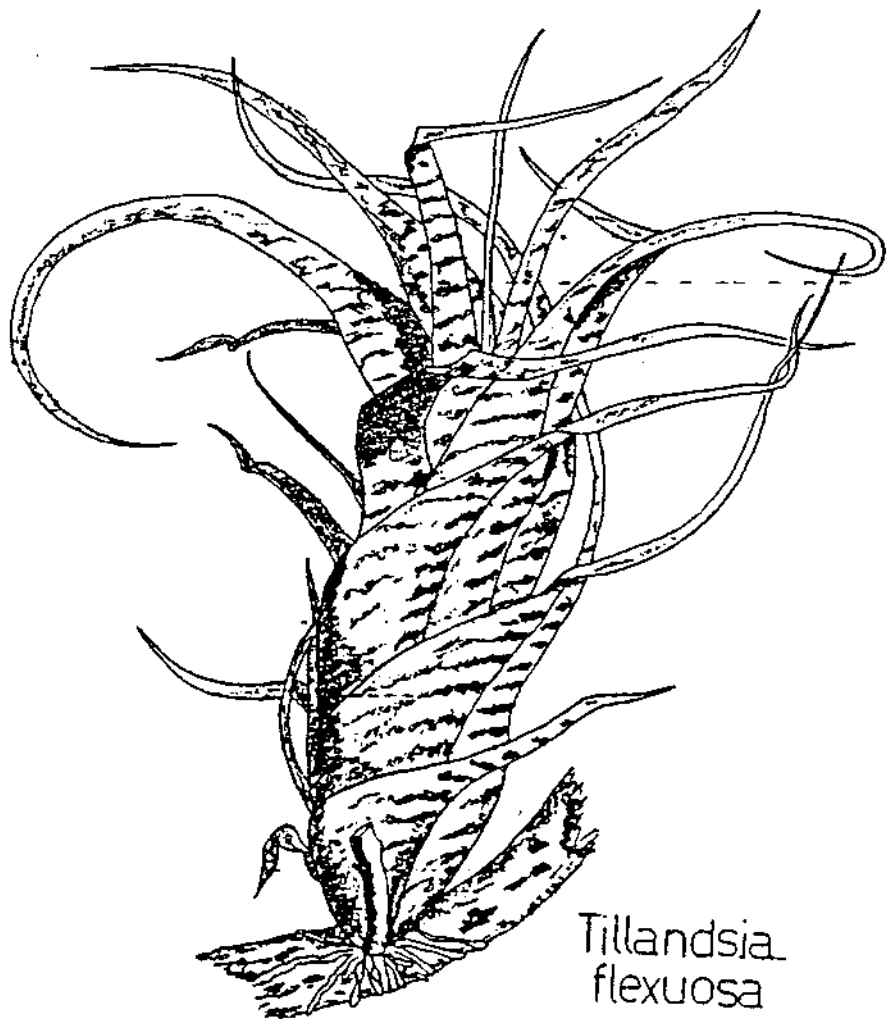


Bromeliaceae

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Tillandsia
flexuosa

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND:

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 565,
FORTITUDE VALLEY, Q. 4006

PATRON: Mr. H. Caulfield
PRESIDENT: Mr. R. Paulsen Ph. 297 0415
SECRETARY: Mr. M. O'Dea Ph. 399 2669
TREASURER: Mr. G. Stewart Ph. 277 9965
EDITOR: Mr. L. Butt Ph. 848 3515

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm commencing at 7.30 pm.

-oOo-

PROGRAMME The November meeting is our last for the current year and will take the form of a Christmas party with appearance of the festive gentleman with gifts for children of members.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

January meeting, 1989 at 7.30 pm. third Thursday of that month. We hope for member participation in bringing plants for display tables as commentary is on *Vriesias* and *Tillandsias*, Olive Trevor and Rolly Reilly.

February A.G.M. meeting, third Thursday in February, 1989. Plant commentary on *Billbergias* by Len Butt.

Annual Subscriptions are due as from 1st January, 1989.

\$7.00 Single member \$10.00 family

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EDITORIAL

The Royal Horticultural Society of Queensland had their show at Mt. Coot-tha Gardens on 8th and 9th October. Instead of our usual display we were heavily involved this time to the point of having half the hall, and a big portion of the plant selling area as well. The quality of bromeliads used in the long display could only be described as really excellent. Three well furnished bromeliad trees to take the eye, and *neoregelias* showing in the best colour performance. Toward the far end the *vriesias* and tall spike *tillandsias* held sway.

The group of outstanding individual plants that really shone were *Tillandsia deppiana*, *Aechmea tessmannii* and *Aechmea dycklamidea trinitensis*.

This being a bicentennial event, the ladies of the R.H.S. of Qld. were suitably dressed in period costume complete with bonnet caps.

Co-operative effort in putting out this *Bromeliaceae* has been a little better than is usual. However, it must continue if we are to give our reader members something of botanical interest to read.

-oOo-

HISTORY OF EARLY BROMELIANS - Len Butt

In those early days of our society, when quality membership and dedication were very important, there emerged to the fore two enthusiasts in 1969. Mr. John Wilkins and his wife Nita. Apparently, conversations with our first President Neslie Misso, aroused their interest in the young society, so they became members. They also are members of the B.S.I. America and the B.S.A. in Sydney.

As a plant growing team their expertise was much appreciated by all. John, as the managing director of the then Consolidated Fertilizers had a great knowledge of horticultural products, which served in good stead to all of us. Nita, John's right arm grew cryptanthus and african violets to perfection, and together their collection of bromeliads was a joy and education to visit.

During three trips to America, they visited many bromelians' homes, and became friends with the plant explorers Nat de Leon and Mulford Foster. John recalls several visits to their gardens, and especially Foster's garden 'Bromela'. They also were at the Orlando Conference on bromeliads. Many new plants were brought back, new to us, and so eventually augmented our collections.

John was our official auditor for fifteen years, and also for several years, with Barclay Billie and Les Joyce helped to stage a bromeliad display in the Queensland Tourist Bureau. They were always helpful and contributed to our RNA annual display. Being regular attenders and great helpers at our regular meetings, their enthusiasm has never waned. Unfortunately Nita's deteriorating health keeps them absent from our meetings at the present time.

-oOo-

TILLANDSIA SOMNIANS IN MY COLLECTION - Rolly Reilly

An unusual plant not unlike a *priesea* in early growth and form. Grows quite well under 70% shade in all seasons. At maturity leaf colouring changes from brownish green to a beautiful amaranth shade. A canelike scape rises up to almost 450 cm. arching over slightly to a bipinnate inflorescence. Towards the end of the flowering cycle offsets begin to emerge at the scape bracts numbering up to six with one only forming at the mother plant. With the weight of the offsets arching the scape over at about six months growth presents a very striking sight. Unusual, yes, but beautiful.

Reference:

Smith L.B. *Tillandsia somnians* Peru, 1935.

-oOo-

ATTENTION Please do not forget to keep Easter 1989 free. Bromeliads V is in Melbourne, Victoria over Easter 1989. The Conference is to be held on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday with informal activities on the Friday evening.

Save your money and if possible stay at the main venue, so you do not miss any of the activities organised for our benefit. For more information contact Honorary Secretary, B.S. of Victoria, Mr. John Sneevjagt, 79 Muir Street, Mt. Waverley, Vic. 3149

FURTHER INFORMATION ON CATOPSIS by Len Butt

The genus *Catopsis* has never been prevalent in Queensland collections. However, information published in *Bromeliaceae* XXII No. 9 came from Dr. F.C. Craighead's Florida book on the everglades; "Air Plants of the Everglades". Dr. Frank Craighead, explorer and plant researcher of that area, unfurls a wealth of information on "air-plants" and has long been cited as an authority.

However as the information is several years old now, Harry Luther of the Mary Selby Tropical Gardens, Florida, hastens to correct some of it, and to offer newest information on this genus.

The genus *Catopsis* now contains 21 described species in addition to the 19 listed by Lyman B. Smith in his *Flora Neotropica*. *Catopsis minimiflora*, Matuda 1975, and *Catopsis pisiformis*, Raugh 1983 must be added. The genus is widespread in the neotropics but the greatest concentration of species is to be found in Mexico and Central America.

Most species of *Catopsis* have small (tiny) white flowers of little interest to collectors but the illustrated species is an exception with large bright yellow petals especially on the female and perfect-flowered plants, the males usually have smaller flowers. *Catopsis nutans* is a night bloomer and the flowers must be appreciated after dark when they are sweetly fragrant. By mid-morning the petals have usually begun to collapse and appear much smaller.

Catopsis perteroniana is not tiny. A healthy specimen is normally at least a metre tall in flower and two metres tall is not a record. This *Catopsis* is now recorded as being carnivorous in a very primitive way. The loose, waxy powder on the leaves serves to attract and trap flying and crawling insects.

The smallest species of *Catopsis* are probably the previously mentioned *C. pisiformis* and small forms of *C. sessiliflora*.

-o0o-

In the January/February issue of *Bromeliaceae* I wrote an article on offset growth of Tillandsias if seed has been set on them.

I have since had some feedback from Mark Dimmitt, a very well known horticulturist and Tillandsia grower from the United States and I would like you to read his comments on the article.

Greg Stewart

OFFSETS OR SEEDS?

In the last four years, I have been concentrating on setting seed on my Tillandsias for the purpose of growing from seed.

I have been very successful on most plants in setting a good crop of viable seed, especially on some of the rarer varieties, (i.e. *Tillandsia duratti*, *T. deappeana*, *T. venusta*, *T. viridiflora* *Variegata*, *T. dyeriana*, to name a few). I have two clones of most species, so self sterile plants don't worry me, as I have an alternative pollen supply.

One thing, however, that worries me, is that since I have been setting seed, my offset production and quality has fallen away remarkably. Some of the offsets on the silver varieties of Tillandsia have been reaching only half their growth potential before flowering, and I must put this down to the seed the plant was carrying prior to, or during pupping. The larger, greener Tillandsias are not affected so much as the silver and grey varieties, but it is still a little disconcerting, as it is always better to have nice robust offsets. Any plants which I have not set seed on seem to be producing normal large offsets, with no stunting effect.

In summary, I must say that somewhere along the line, a decision must be made to either go with the setting of seed and risk reduced offset size, or don't set seed, or on self fertile varieties cut the inflorescence off directly after the plant has finished flowering. The ideal situation of course, is having two clones of each variety and set seed on only one, leaving one for offset production only. I am now working toward this goal.

Greg Stewart

COMMENTS RE ARTICLE

Here are my comments on the article from Greg Stewart.

I am pleased that people are getting into seed propagation; there will come a day when many of these plants will no longer be available from the wild.

I have not observed in my plants any decrease in vegetative offshoots of grey-leaved species that have set lots of seed capsules. Since I am notorious for heavy fertilizing, my first suggestion would be to ask Mr. Stewart to add a paragraph to the article about his culture techniques. I suspect that he is using the traditional "hard-growing" method, in which case more frequent fertilizing should alleviate the problem. (I feed almost every week with about 1/3 strength solution).

If he is feeding no more than once a month, I would not be surprised to see a decline in growth during seed production, as reproduction is known to require a significant part of a plant's energy budget. He may quote me on my experience if he sees fit to do so.

If seed production retards vegetative growth even with increased feeding, seeds are still a much faster way to increase a species, because many thousands of seeds are produced by the energy needed to produce two or three offsets.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Dimmitt, Ph.D.
Curator of Plants
The Arizona-Sonora Desert
Museum, Tucson

-o0o-

GROWING BROMELIADS Re-printed from B.S. of Australia Inc., Sept.-
Oct., 1988.

This book has been written by a dedicated and experienced group of B.S.A. members.

Consisting of 112 pages and containing almost 100 colour plates as well as black and white illustrations. It provides a clear insight into bromeliads from a practical viewpoint.

The information given includes an overview of the bromeliad family and its generic members, the environment and conditions of their native habitats for an understanding of their growing requirements, where and how to grow the popular species, biology, propagation and hybridisation.

It has been printed and B.S.A. members' price for single books is \$12.95 less 20% (\$10.50) plus \$2.00 P.& P. The latter will cost the B.S.A. about \$2.50 per book for interstate delivery but we have decided to subsidise it for members.

B.S.A. prices to other societies (with discounts for quantities are such that their members could probably obtain lower prices through such sources. This is of course governed by an individual society's price to its members.

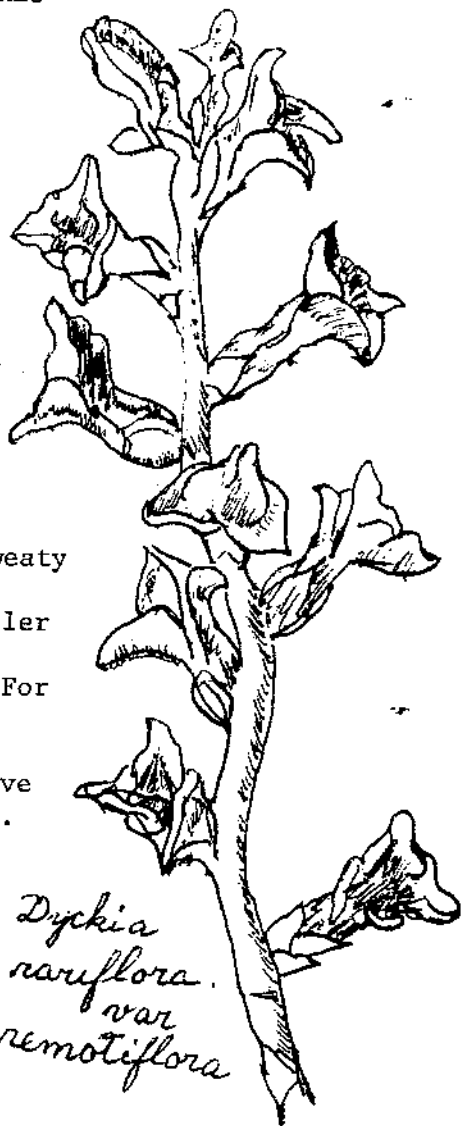
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POINTS OF INTEREST Succulent bromeliads in pots - i.e. *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* - do not need a lot of water because they are natives of arid areas. **WRONG.** These plants will certainly survive very dry growing conditions, but to grow the plants well without leaf tip dieback a continuous even supply of moisture is required. Paul Clarke made this observation some years ago and it has subsequently been confirmed by a number of other growers.

Don't handle bromeliad seed with sweaty hands. The perspiration can provide enough nutrients to allow fungus growth and the smaller the seed the greater the risk. Prior to handling seed wash your hands and dry them. For extra protection dust your hands with talc.

Seed from tillandsioideae should have a coma (hairy parachute) which is fluffed out. If the coma looks limp with the individual hairs stuck together, the seed is unlikely to be viable and is best discarded. If the seed is rare or valuable, it is worth putting it down to grow but germination is unlikely to be very good.

I managed to partially strangle



Dyckia
raufflora
var
remotiflora

a plant of *T. duratii* var. *saxatilis*. These plants grow at odd angles if left to their own devices so I usually tie it to a stick and hang it. In this case, I tied the top tie too tight and three leaves have gone to that big compost heap in the sky. Fortunately, the rest of the plant is O.K. but it will be a long time before it sees a show bench. Moral is to use a wide tie and tie it just tight enough to support the plant.

Peter Paroz

-o0o-

OCTOBER MINI SHOW RESULTS

- Class 1 - *Neoregelia* species
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. <i>Neo. tristis</i> | B. Paulsen |
| 2. <i>Neo. ampulacea</i> | B. Paulsen |
- Class 2 - *Neoregelia* Hybrid
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>Neo. Fireball</i> | D. Reilly |
| 2. <i>Neo. Claret Concentrica</i> | G. & W. Besgrove |
| 3. <i>Neo. Punctatissima</i> | P.O'Dea |
- Class 3 *Hechtia* - *Dyckia*
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. <i>D. Silver Fosteriana X</i>
<i>Fosteriana Rubra</i> | L. Butt |
| 2. <i>Dyckia</i> unknown | V. Burton |
| 3. <i>Hechtia Glomerata</i> | V. Burton |
- Class 4 - *Pitcairnia*
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <i>Pit.</i> unknown | P. O'Dea |
| 2. <i>Pit. Tabulaformis</i> | N. Ryan |
| 3. <i>Pit. Alstenstenia</i> | P. Hobbs. |

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A GARDEN OF GOOD GRACE

When I wake in the early morn
And gaze from my window there,
I see the most wonderful colour
And beauty beyond compare.

The curtains of *Usinoides*
And broms up in the trees,
The Neo crosses made by Grace
Are a sight that's sure to please.

This is a garden of great joy,
Of solitude and peace,
And the ever changing colour
Never seems to cease.

Those Neo crosses made by Grace
Are an amazing sight,
She sure knows how to do it
And get those colours right.

The birds drink from the Neo cups
When the weather's dry,
Then fly up to feed on honey
In the treetops high.

I love this garden of Grace Goode's
It is a peaceful place,
It's nice to come and rest awhile
Away from the mad rat-race.

With all this beauty here on show
Who needs to listen to Radio?
With all this beauty here to see
Why watch commercials on T.V.?

Oh yes, this is a Garden of Good Grace
It is a calm relaxing place,
So give a thought if you would
To this garden that's owned by our Grace Goode.

Ruth Wilson

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GUSMANIAS: Rare species and hybrids.

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8000 different species and hybrids. Large S.A.E. for mail
order list.

-oOo-

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species and VARIEGATES from mostly imported stock.

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Proprietor Peter TRISTRAM Mail order list - send S.A.E.
c/- REPTON, N.S.W. 2454

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NEWSFLASH!!!

The Bromeliad Conference '89 - "Having Fun With
Bromeliads" will be held from March 24 to March
27, 1989, at the Town House Hotel.

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