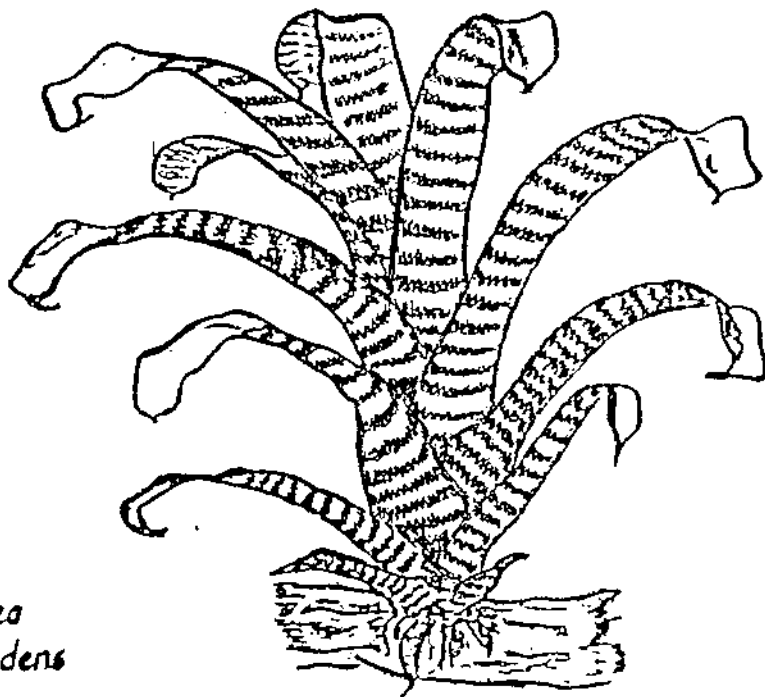


# Bromeliaceae

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565  
Fortitude Valley Qld. 4006

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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1989



*Vriesea  
splendens*

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Rd., New Farm, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565,  
Fortitude Valley,  
AUSTRALIA. 4006

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PATRON: Mr. H. Caulfield

PRESIDENT: Mr. John Higgins 8002561  
SECRETARY: Mr. Greg Stewart 2779965  
TREASURER: Mrs. Lorraine Wilton 3901266  
EDITOR: To be appointed  
COMMITTEE: Mrs. P. Hobbs, Mrs. P. O'Dea, Messrs L. Butt,  
D. Hobbs, M. O'Dea, N. Ryan

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PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER, 19th: Special Meeting - Lecture and slides by  
Dr. Alfred Lau  
(Supper provided, members free, visitors  
\$4.00)

SEPTEMBER, 21st: General Meeting  
. Moisture Management in Bromeliads  
by Peter Paroz  
. Plant Commentary by Lorraine Wilton

SEPTEMBER, 30th: Garden Visit to Bob & Mavis Paulsen (B.B.Q.)  
from 3.00 p.m.  
15A Friar St., Park Ridge Ph: 2970415

OCTOBER, 7th &  
OCTOBER, 8th: Royal Horticultural Society Show  
Mt. Coot-tha (Society Display)  
Set-up Friday, 6th October from 2.00 p.m.

OCTOBER, 19th: General Meeting  
. Mini Show (see Competition Schedule this  
issue)

EDITORIAL

The R.N.A. Show has now passed and the Society extends its appreciation to those stalwart members who again assisted with the erection of the stand, the placement of the plants and manning the Roster. Elsewhere in this issue, comments from our Society Secretary raise serious questions about the future of this activity and call for serious debate on this issue. In order to provide a formal basis for this debate, a questionnaire is included in this issue for members to record their thoughts. Any additional comments on this matter, either verbal or written, are welcomed by the Committee to enable a thorough review of this question. Finally, a decision will be required from the general membership in response to the invitation from the R.N.A. to stage a display in 1990.

The Royal Horticultural Society will again stage a combined show at Mt. Coot-tha on October 7th and 8th, and members are invited to support our Society display with plants and attendance as stewards.

A special opportunity is available to members on September 19th to meet and hear the famous Dr. Alfred Lau at our normal meeting venue at 7.30 p.m. Entry is free to members and a supper will be provided. Guests are welcome at a nominal fee of \$4.00 each. Our Society will be supporting Dr. Lau with a cash donation and it is hoped that a good roll-up of members and guests will attend. For those interested in cacti and succulents, Dr. Lau will be speaking on these plants on September 18th and 20th at the same venue.

With the transition from winter into spring, our plants are beginning to re-awaken and we can now look forward to signs of fresh growth and flowering. This is one of the most enjoyable periods of the year as we experience the first ever flowering of some of our plants.

Good growing and best wishes to all members.

John Higgins

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

JULY: 48 members and visitors, and our Patron Harold Caulfield and his wife Pauline attended.

New members welcomed were David & Laurel Galloway and A.H. Coombs.

The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$1569.52 as at 31.6.89.

Members were reminded of the Field Day at the home of Bob & Mavis Paulsen on 30.9.89, and were asked to bring a salad for the B.B.Q. The Society will provide the steak, bread rolls, plates and cutlery. The Field Day will commence at 3.00 p.m. with the B.B.Q. at approx 5.00 p.m. Please, no alcohol request.

Peter Paroz was presented with his Life Membership Badge to acclamation

## POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED: *Tillandsia tectorum* Phyllis Hobbs

NOVICE: *Tillandsia complanata* Jan Lausson

JUDGES CHOICE: The above 2 plants tied

PROGRAMME: Members were treated to an extremely interesting talk by our Patron Harold Caulfield on his life with bromeliads all over Australia.

COMMENTARY: Patricia O'Dea gave her usual entertaining commentary.

.....

AUGUST: 39 members and 4 visitors attended, the numbers being down due to the R.N.A. Show and a cold wet night.

The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$3661.98 as at 31.7.89.

Members were reminded of the lecture and slides to be given by Dr. Alfred Lau, the noted South American missionary and plantsman, on September 19th.

The matter of a contact phone number being placed in the Brisbane telephone book was raised, and was passed to the Committee for discussion.

## POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED: *Tillandsia sprengeliana* Greg Stewart

NOVICE: *Tillandsia pendulisa* Laurie Muller

JUDGES CHOICE: *Tillandsia sprengeliana*

cont.

**PROGRAMME:** Len Butt gave a slide showing on a wide range of bromeliads he has photographed over the years.

**COMMENTARY:** Bob Paulsen gave a very accomplished commentary on the display table.

#### OCTOBER MINI SHOW

The Society's General Meeting on October 19th will feature a competitive show, incorporating six (6) classes of bromeliads. This will be the major activity for the evening and members are asked to support the show with plants. The show will provide an opportunity for our Society Judges and Show Stewards to further their experience.

The Show Schedule will be available at the September General Meeting, and is reproduced here for the advance consideration of members.

#### SHOW SCHEDULE - OCTOBER MINI SHOW

CLASS 1 :	NEOREGELIA, UNDER 20cms	_____
CLASS 2 :	NEOREGELIA, OTHER THAN PROVIDED FOR	_____
CLASS 3 :	BILLBERGIA	_____
CLASS 4 :	CRYPTANTHUS	_____
CLASS 5 :	DYKIA	_____
CLASS 6 :	ANY OTHER GENERA	_____

PROPAGATION OF CAULESCENT TILLANDSIAS

When I first started growing these plants, I felt sure there would be some way of using the long stem to get a lot of offsets. After experimenting for some years, I find there is no general rule. Some plants offset freely, others very sparingly; some respond to sectioning, others do not. The following is a summary of my observations and I hope these will be of some use to the newer growers.

*T. latifolia* var. *divaricata* (large and small forms), *duratii* var. *saxatilis*... These plants do not offset freely and I have not been able to force offsetting by cutting off sections of the old stem, even sections with functioning leaves. Close inspection of the leaf axils showed that the dormant eyes looked dry and dead. Application of an auxin cream failed to produce any results.

*T. albida* offsets freely from the base of the flower spike and will produce additional offsets from sections of stem (150mm long).

*T. edithae* and *T. funckiana* offset from the base of the flower spike and occasionally from the oldest (leafless) part of the stem. These latter have a very soft attachment to the plant while small, and are easily dislodged. While I don't recommend removing these very small plants, I have saved ones only 15mm long accidentally knocked off. Allow the base to dry and treat as small seedlings.

*T. heteromorpha* offsets freely along the length of the live stem. Since the stem is small and thin, I have not tried to cut the stem.

*T. palacea* offsets sparingly from the older part of the stem. I have not flowered this plant nor tried to section it.

*T. tenuifolia* seems to offset only from the base of the spike and sectioning the old stem has done no more than dry it up.

*T. incarnata* offsets very freely at maturity along the part of the stem which has functioning leaves.

*T. purpurea* has not flowered or produced any offsets and as the plant is not large, I have not experimented with it.

*T. araujei* offsets sparingly from the base of the flower spike. Sectioning has not been successful.

Adequate nutrition is essential for good offset production. Plants which do not have a good reserve of nutrients cannot support a large number of offsets.

HOOP PINE BARK

The following soil analysis conducted on Hoop Pine Bark is reproduced here for the interest of members. Our appreciation is extended to Mr. Ron Bassett for permission to reproduce this information (Ed).

## HOOP BARK CONTENT

## AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

Nitrogen	1.0	20
Phosphorus	10	60
Potassium	60	150
Calcium	250	600
Magnesium	180	200
Zinc	2.3	2.0
Iron	95	80
Copper	3.5	1 to 5
Manganese	40	10 to 40
Chloride	55	below 60
Sodium	60	below 80
pH	6.6	6.0 to 6.5
Organic Carbon	-	1 to 4
Conductivity	0.06	below 0.3
Boron	45	

REMARKS: Total salt content of this material is low, which would allow it to be used around any plants and not a cause salinity problem. Boron is also at an acceptable level.

THE R.N.A.

As a society, the time has come to finally come to grips with the R.N.A. show display as a promotional vehicle for our Society.

Membership participation has gradually waned over the years, to the stage where we cannot completely fill our show roster. In no way detracting from the time and effort these people who go on the roster give, the main requirement of the ten days is the foresight and effort needed to set up the display on the first Sunday morning and the bringing in and setting up of plants on the Wednesday evening. This is the area where we were grossly deficient this year, with only 3 members setting up on the Sunday morning, and only 4 couples and 2 individual members setting up on the Wednesday night.

cont.

As it turned out, only 3 grower families, excepting a few tillandsias from myself, provided all the plants in the display. The ten day duration of the show does nothing for the quality and health of these plants, and it is grossly unfair on these 3 families to have to supply a quantity of their best quality plants large enough to fill our display area.

There have been murmurings from the R.N.A. about our backdrop, and the way it is set up. It appears that next year an all new backdrop will be needed, and we will not be allowed to use our hessian as a display material. The above equation means lots of hard work by members, being co-ordinated by a Show Organiser. The problem here is that we do not even have a Show Organiser to do the co-ordination.

We had to pull the display down last Sunday after the Show, and the total attendance here was 5, with 3 of these people being primarily employed getting plants out of the pavilion. All the display gear had to be stacked away in its storage space late on Sunday morning.

My own personal opinion is that we cannot continue to try and support the R.N.A. in this vein, and quite frankly, I am sick to death of it. Investigation into the membership register over the last 5 years shows that we have picked up 2 new members in the months of September and October where we would expect to get members up from our show display.

In closing, I wish to stress these are my views and comments, and are in no way connected to Committee or membership, and I just hope I can start a sensible viable debate over the matter at our next meeting.

Greg Stewart

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BOOKS FOR SALE

For the benefit of members, the Society has available for sale a collection of cultural books. Anyone wishing to obtain any of the following may do so by contacting the Secretary.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE
"Tillandsia"	Bill Cole	50.00
"Growing Bromeliads"	Bob & Alice	11.00
"The Beauty of Bromeliads"	Tom Lee	4.00
"The Colorful Bromeliads"	William Padilla	15.00
"Bromeliads"	Robert Pinner	3.00
"A Bromeliad Glossary"	E.S.P.	3.00
"Handbook for Judges"	E.S.P.	40.00
"Bromeliads in Australia"	Bob & Alice	2.50
"Tillandsias - A Growers Guide"	Bob & Alice	5.00

Additional cost of postage and packaging available upon request

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

I have had a couple of enquiries recently regarding the parentage of the medium sized *Tillandsia* known locally as *T. Nez Misso Hyb.* (not to be confused with the cross *T. usenoides* x *malleonensis*). The fact is that Nez did not make this hybrid, but that he was probably one of his early importations and may have come from Japan.

Nez was a very meticulous person and I feel that if he had made this cross then there would have been some record in his notes. *Nez Misso Hyb.* is a definite *Tillandsia* and should be a means of identification.

Some years ago, I sent a plant to Bob Pinner for identification but he was not able to identify it. In recent times, it has been suggested that *T. usenoides* x *malleonensis* is one of the parents!! The plant appears to be self sterile so there is no chance of an F2 generation to assist identification.

If anyone has other information about this plant please contact myself or the Secretary.

CARNIVORY IN BROMELIADS

In last month's Bromeliaceae, Len Butt referred to an article in National Geographic (May '89) on the tepuis of Venezuela and their unusual flora. This is a fascinating article and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading about exploration in remote areas. The feature, by Uwe George, referred to Brocchinea reducta as a carnivorous plant without, unfortunately giving any information or background to support this statement. The question of carnivory in bromeliads is a much debated topic and one which does not appear to have been resolved. It's a question of great interest to me and I propose to write to the author to see what data he has to support this statement!!

For those readers who would like to read a little more on carnivory in bromeliads, I recommend pages 57, and 88-89 in Benzing's book "The Biology of Bromeliads" ..... Don't be put off by the title. Even though it is rather technical in places, it is a very readable book and contains a mine of information on a wide range of bromeliad topics. Benzing raises some interesting questions as to what conditions a plant needs to satisfy to be classed as a carnivore. Unfortunately, he is not consistent with regard to B. reducta..... on p. 57 he states that this plant is a carnivore, but on p. 89 he suggests that more study is required to confirm its carnivorous status????

Peter Paroz

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R.N.A. DISPLAY QUESTIONNAIRE

Members are requested to record their comments and forward this questionnaire to the Secretary by October, 19th.

Please place a tick in the square provided to register your choice.

1. I WOULD LIKE THE R.N.A. DISPLAY TO

(a) be continued

(b) be discontinued

2. I CAN SUPPORT THE SOCIETY IN THE STAGEING OF THE R.N.A. IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

(a) Setting up the stand (Sunday prior)

(b) Setting up the display plants (Wednesday)

(c) As a Steward

3. I AM UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY IN THE STAGING OF THE R.N.A. SHOW

4. COMMENTS

.....  
.....  
.....

SIGNED: .....

Information in this questionnaire is confidential and is for the purpose of planning the future activities of the Society. Completion of part or all of this questionnaire is not a pledge by any member.

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