

BROMELIACEAE

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NAVIA GRAFII

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland

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

*Postal Address: P.O. Box 565,
Fortitude Valley,
Australia, Q, 4006*

Patron: Mr. H. Caulfield

President: Mr. John Higgins Phone 800 2561

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Committee: Mrs. P. Hobbs, Mrs. P. O'Dea, Mrs. O. Trevor,

Messrs. D. Hobbs, M. O'Dea, D. Upton, L. Trevor, L. Butt.

PROGRAMME

- SEPTEMBER, 20th: General Meeting
 Combating Pin Spot Scale by Len Butt
 Commentary by Lorraine Wilton
 Old Favourites - Members Choice
- OCTOBER, 6th: Bus Trip - Bill & Margaret Patterson & Keith Golinski
- OCTOBER, 12th: Royal Horticultural Show - Set up
 13th: - Stewarding
 14th: - Stewarding
- OCTOBER, 18th: General Meeting
 Slides from 1985 Conference - Noel Chopping
 Commentary - Phyllis Hobbs & Olive Trevor
 Old Favourites - Quesnelia
- NOVEMBER, 15th: Xmas Breakup Meeting
 Usual good entertainment and food
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EDITORIAL

Well members, it's time again! Time for what do you ask?

It will be the Bromeliad Society of Queensland's turn to host the Australian Bromeliad Conference in Brisbane at Easter, 1993. You may think I am jumping the gun somewhat in reminding you of this fact, but for our conference to be a success, planning has to start now.

The ideal situation would be for our Society to have the basic framework of the conference together BEFORE Easter, 1991 when the 6th Australian Bromeliad Conference takes place in Sydney.

This would give our Society a chance to make a small presentation at that conference of what Bromelians around Australia can expect in Brisbane in 1993.

Members should be hatching ideas and making suggestions to your President and committee on what you would like to see on the programme at our conference. Maybe you would like to see a programme similar to our last conference in Brisbane, or perhaps something radically different. This is up to you all, and I would hope the ideas will start to flow in the next few months.

Greg Stewart

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BUS TRIP 6th OCTOBER, 1990

The bus will depart the meeting hall at 7.30 a.m. sharp and will pick up at the garage in front of K-Mart at Chermside at 7.45 a.m.

The bus will go straight to the Pattersons at Gympie then back to Golinski's for lunch. Keith will supply tea, milk and sugar, but it will be up to members to bring their own food and chairs.

The bus should arrive back at our meeting hall at approx. 4.30 p.m.

Any members wishing to go on this trip, please ring Bob Paulsen or see Val Urquhart at the September meeting. Cost \$15.00 per person.

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QUESNELIA

QUESNELIA belongs to the sub-family BROMELIOIDEAE. They are native to the east-central part of Brazil, where they grow in large colonies along the shoreline with the sea lapping their feet. They also grow in nearby swamps in wet and sandy soils, and flooded parts of the foothills. They are mostly terrestrial, but a few are found growing as epiphytes in the mountains bordering the coast line.

The genus QUESNELIA is subdivided into 2 subgenera - (1) QUESNELIA and (2) BILLBERGIOPSIS. Both the species *quesnelia arvensis* and *Q. quesneliana* pertain to the subgenus QUESNELIA.

In 1844 the eminent French botanist, Charles Gaudichaud Beaupre was asked by his friend M. Quesnel, who was at that time French Consul stationed in Cayenne, French Guiana, to describe a plant he had collected. Gaudichaud Beaupre named the plant QUESNELIA in honour of his friend.

Quesnelias are mostly stoloniferous, with stiff spiny leaves. The inflorescences have only one spike with bracts of vivid rose-red colours, and rose and blue petals, except in the of *Q. liboniana* which has bright orange bracts and navy blue flowers. This Quesnelia, looking very much like a Billbergia when not in flower, is common in the states of Bahia and Rio de Janeiro, where it is found in forests growing mostly on rocks from near sea level to an altitude of 4,500 feet.

Q. quesneliana (the original Quesnelia) is found along the shore in the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro. Growing in sand almost at the ocean edge, it forms impenetrable mats 3-4 feet deep covering the seaside area. It is also found growing on trees in open pasture land. *Q. quesneliana* has an open rosette of lettuce green leaves banded gray underneath, and the gray flower spike may reach a height of 3 ft, bearing a cone-shaped head of shingled crepe-paper like rose bracts with white lepidote (small scurfy scales - trichomes) and looks like a torch. The flowers are white with lavender blue edges.

Q. humilis (low growing dwarf) is one of the smallest members of the genus. It is a tubular plant 8-10" high, with plain blue-green leaves. Its clusters of flowers are glowing cerise,

the calyx is brilliant red, the petals are deepest rose. The plant has a semi-trailing or creeping habit, sending out long stolons and can cover a considerable area.

Q. marmorata (marbled) is a highly decorative plant, and is sometimes referred to as the "Grecian Urn Plant". It is found in the low coastal regions of Southern Brazil, where it grows epiphytically or on rocks from near sea level to an elevation of 2,300 ft. It differs from other bromeliads in that the stiff upright leaves, 18-20" high and 2" wide, fan out from each side and does not form a spiral rosette. The foliage is light blue-green with a mottling of maroon spots. An unusual feature of this plant is the fruity fragrance given off from the centre a few weeks before flowering. The flowers themselves are without perfume. The inflorescence tends to droop slightly, is branched and has colourful rose-pink bracts and tubular blue petalled flowers.

The inflorescence of the *Quesnelia* is very spectacular, but like the *Billbergia* is short lived. The seed is naked and contained in the berry which forms after flowering.

Compiled by Patricia O'Dea

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THIS IS A STORY ABOUT FOUR PEOPLE NAMED EVERYBODY,
SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, AND NOBODY.

THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT JOB TO BE DONE AND EVERYBODY WAS
SURE THAT SOMEBODY WOULD DO IT. ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE
IT, BUT NOBODY DID IT - SOMEBODY GOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT
BECAUSE IT WAS EVERYBODY'S JOB. EVERYBODY THOUGHT THAT
ANYBODY COULD DO IT, BUT NOBODY REALISED THAT EVERYBODY
WOULDN'T DO IT.

IT ENDED UP THAT EVERYBODY BLAMED SOMEBODY WHEN NOBODY DID
WHAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE.

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THE HYBRID DETECTIVE

Those who went to the Melbourne Conference will be aware that in 8 minutes of uninterrupted fast speaking, I was able to link articles in Bromeletter, B.S.I. Journal and W.A.'s Bromelink to the one hybrid *Billbergia Red Surprise*. It was complicated and some of the audience fell asleep!

These articles had the same author but were written over a period of a few years and the names of the parent plants differed in each of the articles although there were tenuous links. It was a case of not giving a common name to a hybrid but trying to work out the correct parentage before giving it a common name.

Let us look at a similar problem where a hybrid has been named and registered but the various clones or cultivars have not been named. Also we have various articles on the same hybrid asserting different parentage but without reference.

Let us look at *Billbergia Kahibah*.

It all started in Bromeletter Vol 1 Nov-Dec 1963 where Dr. R.D. Johnston, Society Registrar of Cultivars, wrote on "New Combination in *Billbergia*" - "At recent meetings of the Society we have seen specimen plants resulting from the pollination of *Billbergia saundersii* x *amoena* with pollen from the commonly grown *B. nutans*. The originator of this hybrid is Mrs. Win Reid of Kahibah (near Newcastle) who is to be congratulated on the production of a very attractive group of plants.

As would be expected from the parentage there is a considerable diversity amongst the new plants. Leaf shape varies from very narrowly triangular (up to 20 inches x .5 inch) to strap shaped and shorter (to 12 inches x 1 inch), the broader leaves tending to form a short tube. The margins of the leaves are finely and distinctly toothed. Leaf colour varies from uniformly dark green to pale green with random yellow-green spots, and some plants show the ability to turn red under conditions of high light and low nitrogen supply.

The inflorescence may be erect or nodding, and has scape bracts which vary in colour from pink through salmon to bright red, on different plants. All flowers seen so far have had green petals with dark blue borders, the blue border is regarded as a noticeable trait of *B. nutans* and its hybrids.

This group has been named *Billbergia Kahibah* cross. It is anticipated that selected cultivars will be available from Mrs. Reid in the near future.

Congratulations "Win" on being the first member to step forward and declare your hybrid. This is a significant milestone, and really should be copied by us all if there is to be some record kept of the many crosses made recently and the 100's yet to come; it will be a great help in identification later. Unfortunately many of the hybrids are similar in all respects, with minute differences detectable in flower measurements. This really is important."

HINDSIGHT - What is missing is the naming of the various cultivars and the other hybrids done. Please note that I have not been the only Australian to urge hybridists to write it down and tell us all.

In Bromeletter May-June 1966, Don Hanna of Rockdale, N.S.W. wrote -

"This summer I flowered a *Billbergia 'Kahibah cross'*. I don't know if it's the official name. In form of plant and flower it closely resembles the common *B. nutans*. However this hybrid has very bright red bracts in place of the pink ones of *B. nutans* and is a real little eyecatcher

Mrs. Win Reid of Newcastle N.S.W. made this hybrid between *Billbergia saundersii* and *Billbergia nutans*. The leaves are also attractively blotched with yellow, which no doubt comes from *B. saundersii*".

HINDSIGHT - wrong parentage given which is confusing to the new reader or an old reader with a normal memory.

In Bromeletter Sep-Oct 1967 we find "The History of *B. x Kahibah*" but without the author.

"*B. x Kahibah*, the only hybrid so far registered with the Society (There are several pending but these have to prove their worth and have their names checked to see if (1) the parents are correctly named and (2) the cross may be a repeat and already have a name).

B.S.Q./Q.S.S. COMBINED SHOW -

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>\$</u>
Balance B/forward	1796.65
Interest - I.B.D.	225.28
- General Account	6.46
Entrance Fees	1594.50
Catering Profit	329.87
Sales Commission - B.S.Q.	2548.10
- Q.S.S.	791.90
Sales Area Overs	73.55

\$ 7366.31

Cash on Hand - Bank	27.26
Investment - C.B.A. Term Deposit (Cert. No. 023882)	2100.00
Stores Equip - Signs/Banner/Weldmesh Less 10% Depreciation	365.00

I hereby certify that these figures represent a true & accurate


.....
G. LAWSON (AUDITOR) 2/18/90


.....
G. STEWART

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1990

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>\$</u>
Hire	
- Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium	242.00
- Tables	265.63
Transport costs	50.00
Trophies	133.52
Prize Ribbons	56.10
Insurance	260.50
Advertising	181.26
Banner alterations	50.00
Morning Teas - Officials/Stewards	86.77
Printing Dodgers	50.00
Miscellaneous - Table Covering, etc.	174.82
Judges Honorariums	90.00
Sales Commission - B.S.Q.	2548.10
- Q.S.S.	791.90
Donation to Courier Mail Childrens Fund	250.00
Fed. Govt Tax	8.45
	<hr/>
	5239.05
Excess Income/Expenditure	2127.26
	<hr/>
	\$ 7366.31
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financial record of the Combined Show Committee of 1989/90.

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 (TREASURER)

M. D'Alton

 M. D'ALTON (CHAIRMAN)

cont. from page 7

This cross was made by Win Reid and she has sent the following information.

"The cross was made between *B. nutans* and *B. 'glimiana*" now considered a *B. saundersii* hybrid. The plants I grew from this cross were very varied, no two exactly alike, which seems to indicate that both parents were already hybrids.

From about 4 dozen plants I selected two that I thought worth keeping. One is of *B. nutans* shape but with more and broader leaves that colour pink in summer and have some spots. The flowers and bracts are red. The other plant is upright and more tubular than *B. nutans*, leaves green heavily spotted. The flowers are white and bracts pink. Both plants carry few flowers. I have repeatedly tried to make a back cross between these *B. x Kahibah* plants but all appear sterile. Now I will try a cross between *B. x Kahibah* red flower and the original *B. saundersii* hybrid *B. x "glimiana"*.

HINDSIGHT - The parents are changing names again and we first hear about *B. glimiana*. I found this a very helpful link. In 1967 it would have been confusing. Secondly don't be too worried about whether the parents are correctly named. Give it a name now and worry about correct names for parents later - remember the problems with *B. Red Surprise* in my opening paragraph. Thirdly there appears to be over 40 plants in the grex and yet we are aware of only 2 unnamed clones. Are there others? Fourthly I have since been able to find out that flowers mean sepals.

In Bromeletter Nov 1969 we read

"Max Mackay a nurseryman at Macksville had a number of bromeliads for sale and one of these was Win Reid's hybrid *B. x Kahibah*. Win Reid grew the first hybrid to be sent for registration with the B.S. of A. The cross *B. saundersii x nutans* is called *B. x Kahibah*".

And in Bromeletter Jan-Feb 1970 we have a correction

"This should read *B. saundersii x B. nutans* (the plant known to most of us in Australia as *B. "glymiana"*) crossed with *B. nutans*".

HINDSIGHT - *B. nutans* now becomes part of the seed parent which is an assumption not a fact.

The reader and current Editor may think I am being critical of previous Bromeletters but this is not the case. If the articles had not been printed then I would have had no trail to follow. Just think of the number of plants "out there" which are deserving of a story but it is ALL IN THE MIND of somebody else! This problem of naming caused me to compile my first Checklist in 1982 and my update in 1986. These should be kept in every Brom Society's library for reference purposes. I do know that other Societies do refer to the Checklist because of how names are expressed in their bulletins and this gives me a warm fuzzy feeling.

There is a further update in the pipeline and I am seeking input on new material and corrections and comments on my previous efforts.

If you have been hybridising or know someone who has and is reticent, please let me know -

DEREK BUTCHER, 25 GRACE RD., FULHAM, 5024

p.s. If you want to hear the next exciting instalment about the "true parents" of *B. Kahibah* I'm afraid you'll have to wait for your next Newsletter.

Derek Butcher

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REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CRYPTANTHUS SHOW. If you are interested please contact our Secretary for forms.



Acadiana Bromeliad Society
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA
Affiliate: The Bromeliad Society, Inc. and The Cryptanthus Society
SPECIALISTS
Les Étoiles Du Sud
3rd International Cryptanthus Show
In conjunction with
FESTIVAL DES FLEURS DE LOUISIANE
Blackburn Coliseum • 2300 Johnson Street • Lafayette
April 4-7, 1991

Les Étoiles Du Sud (Southern Stars)

Reservation (per individual)
Early Bird* — Before November 1, 1990.....\$50.00
Regular — November 1, 1990 to February 28, 1991.....\$60.00
Late — After March 1, 1991.....\$70.00

*An Early Bird Reservation entitles you to one table ticket for a special drawing just for you.

A Reservation entitles you to participate in:

- the 3rd International Cryptanthus Show
- the 10th Annual Acadiana Bromeliad Show
- a Crawfish Party
- a Banquet
- Unlimited entry into Festival des Fleurs
- Special Tours
- Home Garden Tours
- Tours of the USL Horticultural Greenhouse
- and all the other functions and activities.

REGISTER TODAY

Please Print
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Make Check payable to: Acadiana Bromeliad Society

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Lafayette, Louisiana 70505

Please fill out questionnaire on back.

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USA Toll Free 1-800-825-8380
Special Room Rates \$48.00 single/double
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QUESTIONNAIRE

We will provide registrants with more information on the following activities later.

1. Will you enter plants in the show? Yes No
 3rd International Cryptanthus Show
 Acadiana Bromeliad Society Show
2. Would you like to sell plants? Yes No
 Commercial booth
 Membership sales booth
3. Will you attend the Friday night Crawfish Party (kassab' weay) and Cajun Dance? Yes No
4. Will you attend the Saturday night Banquet (cock and the reqeuee) with special guest speaker? Yes No
5. Check the tours you would like to attend.
 Special Tour — Vermillion Ville Fiddl Life Center
 Optional Tour — Live Oak Gardens at Jefferson Island
 Home Garden Tours — Lafayette area
 Post Conference Home Garden Tours look for information!
6. Do you plan to stay at the Host Hotel? Yes No

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MICHAEL YOUNG (504) 355-5408

Be sure to return your registration by November 1 to participate in the special Early Bird Reservation drawing.

THE PROBLEMS OF TILLANDSIA MOUNTING AT THE COAST

I live on the coast at Caloundra. When I say on the coast, I mean the water's edge. The passage is just across the main golden Beach road, with the Pacific Ocean only a few hundred metres away. So you see my front swimming pool is quite large, in fact it stretches all the way to America.

This I think has presented me with a problem with my bromeliads, As far as I can see so far, the problem numbers only one - the mounting of tillandsias. I have in my collection of bromeliads 228 different tillandsias. The total number of Tillandsias I know not, but on to the problem.

As you know, most people fixed their tillandsias to mounts by using finely cut up threads of panty-hose. This effect is not the most appealing to the eye. Hurrah! the glue process. Great. Looks good - but is it? I spent one whole day mounting countless young tillandsias on their new homes by the glue process. I thought I had a wall which contained mounted specimens far superior in looks to the 'tied on' variety. Everything in the garden was rosy until quite a substantial rainfall. After this I was horrified when I went into the shed and found tillandsias lying everywhere. Those with numbers of roots attached to mountings were hanging at odd angles on their mounts. Not to be perturbed I considered I had done the job incorrectly so very carefully I remounted them again. Some months later the same result.

The falling off occurred with all types of glue I used, hot included. I found the only way to keep my tillandsias on mounts was to tie them on. I looked for a reason. My conclusion, right or wrong, was this - as we are constantly buffeted by salt spray, this spray with water managed somehow to break down the glues and release the plants. I have since been told that hot glues break down in sunlight. Whether this is true I do not know, so it is over to the experts. Can you shed light on this topic!

EPILOGUE

Tillandsias are remarkably hardy I find, especially as regards to mounting material. I suppose I am a born experimenter at heart, and I have found that they will grow on any media (a different growing care may be needed)

providing you don't use treated timbers as the copper in this wood will kill them as it will do to any of the bromeliad family. The different growing method I mention is usually the watering process. Note my tillandsia collection grows in a fibreglass shed while my surplus tillandsias are in an open shadecloth shed (Bromola) where I have my other bromeliads. The only difference in falling from mounts in the enclosed shed is that it takes slightly longer to happen. I concluded that this was due to the fact that the only water on them comes from my watering, usually daily in summer and about three times a week in winter.

Here's hoping this article can bring response for constructive criticism to be published in 'Bromeliaceae'.

Des Andersen

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We have received the following advice from the B.S.I. --

There is a new alphabetical list of bromeliad names compiled by Harry E. Luther, Director, Bromeliad Identification Center. The only current list of genera, species, varieties and forms. In binder, 55 pages with title page, introduction. US\$10.00 each, 3rd class or surface mail. For airmail U.S., Canada, Mexico add 0.50, other countries add US\$2.00. Order from -

Tom Lineham,
Editor,
B.S.I. Journal,
1508 Lake Shore Drive,
ORLANDO, FL 32803 U.S.A.

For information about tentative list of bromeliad cultivars, write to Don Beadle, P.O. Box 81464, Corpus Christi, TX 78464-1464

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BOOKS FOR SALE

'Colorful Bromeliads' by V. Padilla	15.00
'A Bromeliad Glossary' by Brom Society Inc.	3.50
'Bromeliads - A Cultural Handbook' by Brom Society Inc.	3.50
'International Checklist' by Brom Society Inc.	3.50
'Bromeliads for Everyone' by Bea Hansen	2.50
'Bromeliads' by Seaborn	3.50
'The Beauty of Bromeliads' by Tony Lea	4.50
'Bromeliads' by Walter Richter	2.50
'Bromeliads in Australia' by Brom Society N.S.W.	2.00
'Growing Bromelads' by Brom Society Aust.	11.00

Please contact our Librarian, Barbara Markwell if you wish purchase any of these publications.

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ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW - 12th, 13th and 14th October, 1990

Set up of the display will be from 12.00 noon on Friday, 12.10.90. Members are asked to bring in plants for the display. Stewards will also be required for the weekend. Sales plants are permitted if they comply with our Society's high standards - use our normal sales stickers.

Please give this show your support.

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