

BROMELIACEAE

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Ananias comosus

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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 pm.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P O Box 565,
Fortitude Valley,
AUSTRALIA Q 4006

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PATRON: Mr. Harold Caulfield

PRESIDENT: Mr. Len Trevor

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TREASURER: Mr. Bob Paulson

EDITOR: Mr. Len Butt

SHOW ORGANISER: Mr. Don Hobbs

COMMITTEE: Mr. Neville Ryan, Mr. Bob Paulson, Mr. Bob Cross, Mr. Michael O'Dea, Mrs. Patricia O'Dea, Mr. Paul Bird, Mr. Barry Gen, Mrs. Olive Trevor.

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PROGRAMMES:

March - Workshop Round Robin,
Potting mixes; Watering; Feeding
and maintenance.

Mr. Don Hobbs, Mr. Len Trevor
Mr. Greg Stewart

Plant Commentary - Mr. Bob Paulson

April - Involvement of members on staging a
display.

Plant Commentary - Mr. Len Butt

Subscription fees - \$7.00 single; \$10.00 Family.

EDITORIAL January meeting had it's highlights, the two main items being the excellent commentary given by Des Anderson, on the tabled plants, plus the showing of slides, some from our past archives, to a very appreciative audience.

Among these were photos taken at a very early combined show, of Mrs. Mary Grasselli, Carlo Grasselli and an old member from the past, Mrs. Brouggy. The actual transparencies were of a quite high quality, and well presented orally by John Higgins.

Further to this was the announcement of our 25th Silver Anniversary year and plans being in preparation for it.

February meeting was held on 20th at the same address and it was our Annual General Meeting. A large display of plants was on the trade table and some quite good clones emerged.

The commentary was given by Mr. John Higgins, and a very interesting and descriptive one it was. In particular about a group of species, varieties that were tabled in and around *Aechmea nudicaulis*, and also comments on the two forms of *Tillandsia* (Rocket and Red Rocket) plus a few Oooh's and Aah's on the huge basket of flowering *Tillandsia cyanea* presented.

There were quite a few changes in our new Committee as can be seen by the front of this Bulletin, Mrs. Trevor now emerging as the new chief Judge. Awards were then given for the point awards for the year on Advanced and Novice displays. The Advanced award went to Ruth Wilson. Six people tied for the Novice Award and each was given a small trophy. The winners were Bob Paulson, Patricia O'Dea, Len Butt, N. Ryan, D. Upton and J. Ketelars.

The interesting part of the evening came when a small show incentive talk was arranged between Mrs. Olive Trevor and Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs concerning a talk-back by a Judge and an Exhibitor.

Points on Show presentation were given by Mrs. Hobbs and criticism by Mrs. Trevor. Many questions were asked by the audience which showed the interest created.

Meeting closed about 10.30 pm.

Len P. Butt (Editor)

1993 BROMELIADS VII - Bromeliad Conference - Easter 1993 in Brisbane, Queensland.

Already the excitement is starting to build. The talk, the discussion, the suggestions are just now starting to turn into realities. We have been looking at the possibility of having an overseas speaker. Guess what? We have two prominent names and are considering having them both! We have had discussions on suitable venues for the Conference. We now have appointments to review. The pieces and details are starting to come together. Places to visit are being thoroughly discussed also.

In the very near future we will be going into decision mode. If you have suggestions, you should be putting them to our Co-ordinator, Mr. Don Hobbs of Blake Street, Cleveland.

Make your decisions now, decide that you will not miss out on Bromeliads VII at Easter, 1993 in Brisbane, Queensland.

Len Trevor (President)

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THE BROMELIADS I LIVE WITH by Len Butt from Bromelletter,
July-August, 1983

The bromeliaceae and I have been firm friends since 1950, but it took me ten more years before I tried to grow them epiphytically. Teething problems exist in many genera and I found my share with the bromeliads. Most frustrating of these was the realisation that one variety would take to its tree home with little effort, but the same variety obtained from a different source just tried to be difficult.

I developed a theory that I have expounded before at Bromeliad Society of Queensland meetings, that one source may have come from tree grown stock and the other from a humus grown terrestrial. Plants dislodged from the trees by animals or wind and re-established on the jungle floor or in rock crevices for many generations. This may only be fanciful, but I did notice that my difficulties could be overcome by simply tying my pot on to the tree and allowing the bromeliad to stolon back onto the tree trunk naturally.

I now use this method to establish most of my bromeliad family on to tree hosts.

Difficulties arose at first in establishing Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) in a natural way. Other growers like Neslie Misso and

Peter Paroz, had ropes of it and mine was a spindly mass of bits.

As my garden progressed, and the rain forest aspect broadened, so too did my ability to grow Spanish Moss. Perhaps, the filtered summer sunlight, or maybe my growing conditions improved with my rain forest. Suddenly it became easy to handle and I now have it in drapes on my carport and hanging from many trees.

My garden has its share of birds, but they do not plague the Spanish Moss. However, my son, in another district, loses all of his to the birds, for nesting material.

Established on my *Baeckea virgata* tree, I have a few well grown tillandsias, which in winter only get broken sunlight. The same native tree grows both *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Ae. Bert* to perfection.

Billbergias successfully established on trees are *B. leptopoda*, *B. Nez Misso*, *B. Hoelscheriana* (Rainbow Hybrid), *B. amoena v. viridis*, *B. Muriel Waterman*, *B. Kahibah*, *B. euphemiae*, *B. horrida*, *B. horrida v. tigrina*, *B. pyramidalis v. concolor*, *B. pyramidalis v. striata*, *B. kuhlmanni*, *B. Catherine Wilson* and *B. chlorantha*. We now have many more lovely hybrids in Queensland and I am looking forward to using some of these in an epiphytic situation also.

Aechmeas have established well on my trees and *Quesnelias* such as *humilis* and *marmorata*. *Q. humilis* will form large clusters, right around a tree trunk if given adequate light. Tree needed is one without a dense crown.

Yeronga, Queensland

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AN AMATEUR'S GUIDE TO THE GREYISH LEAVED TILLANDSIOIDIAE Derek Butcher
This is a limited first edition of some 80 pages compiled by Derek because he was having so much trouble using other keys to check up on the names of his Tillandsias. It is easy to understand with a glossary at the beginning to let you know what to look for.

It is based on colour of petals of plants which are fairly common in Australian collections. Please contact the compiler if you consider any worthwhile species have been omitted.

At \$9.00 including packing and postage this is a good buy for the discerning grower of the Tillandsias. Send to Derek Butcher, 25 Grace Road, Fulham, South Australia 5024.

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GROWING BROMELIADS OTHER THAN IN POTS by L.P. Butt
from Queensland Garden, 1973

Firstly, let me say that these views are my own, and are based on how I have found Bromeliad growing here at home.

Many of the epiphyte bromels are much harder to adjust to tree life than are others. This I believe may be because these species have adapted themselves to the rich humus composts of the rain forest floor rather than the harder-to-get food in a high tree.

The easiest types I have found are the stoloniferous species that tend to crawl out along a branch and attach as they go. *Aechmea weilbaehii* and the *Neo. ampullacea* group are ideal and typical of this. The *Quesnelia* family adjust and grow truly epiphytic on my trees.

I do not consider a plant is growing epiphytic until it leaves its man-made medium and actually attaches to the host tree.

Some prefer forest floor

There are exceptions, of course, and these are species that grow in crotches and sections of hollow trees in nature. They are growing mostly in fallen leaf mould anyway. These species generally wind up on the forest floor, caused by tree-climbing animals, or high winds and rain. So the cycle continues, and as always the plants multiply much faster on the humus-rich jungle carpet.

Growing these colourful plants of the family Bromeliaceae is a fascinating hobby, which is enriched 100-fold if the plants are studied and grown as near to nature as possible.

If you grow any Bromeliads, have a good look at your plants, then go to a nursery or private collector who has them in a heated glasshouse under mist spray. You would hardly recognise your plant as being the same as the misted specimens.

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If you grow any Bromeliads, have a good look at your plants, then go to a nursery or private collector who has them in a heated glasshouse under mist spray. You would hardly recognise your plants as being the same as the misted specimens.

This is only an extreme example to show just how some of these plants revel in rain forest conditions.

How to create a forest atmosphere

Most home gardeners do not have these conditions, but it is possible to grow them as close to nature as possible with the use of small hollow stumps, small logs, red sandstone sea rocks, hunks of dead coral, or even wooden rafts and baskets such as are used in orchid culture.

Considering the large proportions reached by some of the epiphytic species, it is easy to understand how they are dislodged by nature. The plant must therefore be firmly secured on its tree to give it every chance of forming a good root system that should eventually attach to the tree.

The *Tillandsia* and *Vriesia* species are best grown epiphytically or in natural containers. The former will take full sun, or sardon cover equivalent to cattleya orchids, and is definitely best if grown onto fibrous material such as coconut fibre, untreated rope, pine cones filled with fibre, or tree fern rafts.

Generally the smaller plants can be sewn onto the medium.

The latter needs a good fibrous loam, plenty of drainage, and at least 50% shading from midday sun. They are ideal for small logs, stumps or basket plantings.

Both species are native to the dwindling Florida Everglades, and seem to be the only vegetation there that is likely to survive.

Grow them on rocks

Growing bromels in cavities of rocks is not practised successfully in U.S.A., according to correspondence I have received (I refer of course, to rocks from the seashore). Here in Queensland we have used rocks with great success, and the quaint receptacle can be moved about the garden or used as a house plant.

Cryptanthus species, which are known as "earth stars" because of their bizarre colouring and similarity to starfish, grow naturally in rock crevices in South America, and can be used in shaded rockeries with some effect. Too much sun will cause tip burns on the *Cryptanthus*, so remember - bright, mottled sunlight only is best to retain the colour.

To sum up, the best mediums for bromel growing in Queensland are the

fibrous orchid mixtures, and, of course, the commercially known cymbid mixture. When securing your plant in a receptacle other than a pot use these mixtures rather than soil mixtures. Cryptanthus prefer German peat moss and sand in equal parts, with additives like perlite.

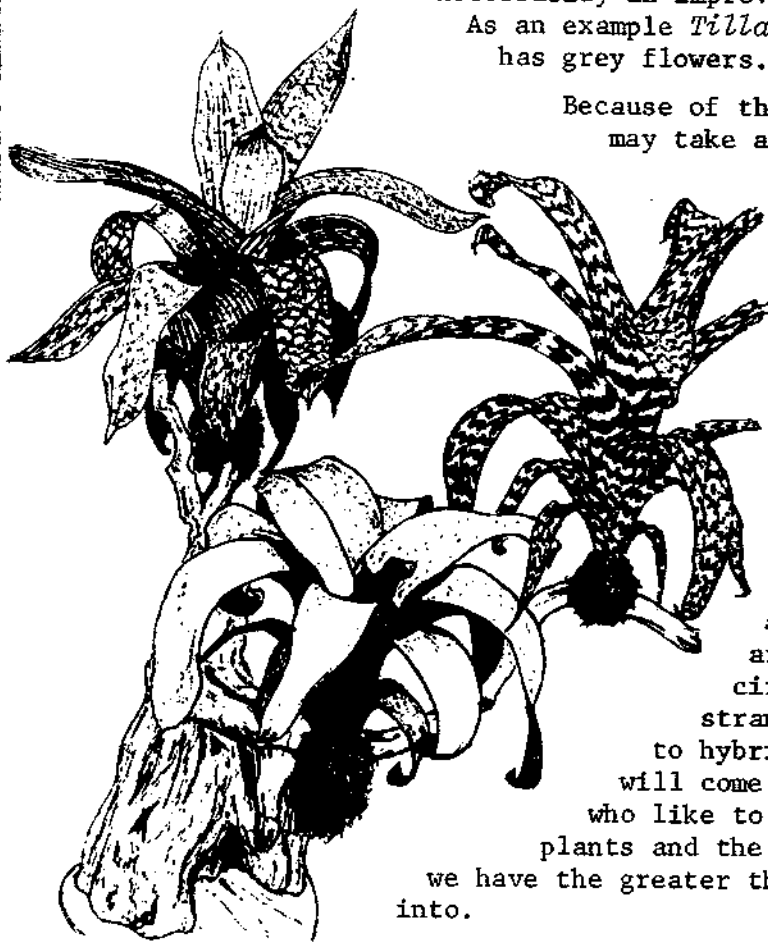
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TILLANDSIA TOPICS by Derek Butcher

You will have noticed in my 3rd Edition of Australian Hybrids that there has been a surge in the number of Tillandsia hybrids and I am not sure if it is a good trend. There now appears to be a slowing down possibly because it is being realised that the hybrids are not

necessarily an improvement on either parent.

As an example *Tillandsia ixioides* x *stricta* has grey flowers.



Because of the slowness in growth it may take a few years for this trend to work itself out. We in Australia, are at least keeping tabs on these hybrids but in the U.S.A. things are not so rosy. In the latest cultivar listing from the B.S.I. for example there are 48 unnamed Tillandsia hybrids done by one person alone. No doubt many others will have intentionally hybridised but told no-one about them. When there are say 400 species in circulation, it does seem strange that there is a need to hybridise. The difficulty will come in future years for those who like to have "properly" named plants and the more man-made hybrids we have the greater the muddle we will get into.

Let us put into writing some findings on seed raising that Rolly Reilly from Brisbane has come across because this will help collectors in the future to perhaps understand some of the anomalies. For those who may not be aware Rolly absolutely adores growing *Tillandsias* from seed and has had some great successes. Whilst the great majority of his plants are species some are hybrids.

Tillandsia pseudobaileyi is much more common in Australian collections (other than Queensland) than its almost namesake *Tillandsia baileyi*. This is probably because of importation from Paul Isley of Rainforest Flora. There are still many plants around named *T. baileyi* but are really *T. pseudobaileyi* so please get to know the differences. Let us now forget about the common one (from Adelaide's point of view) and concentrate on its rarer cousin. In a batch of imported *T. baileyi* Rolly found that one had a peculiar habit. It was viviparous which means it offset where some of the flowers should have been. In this case the spike produces offsets except for the top most flower which actually flowers. This phenomenon has been commented on at length with some forms of *T. latifolia* but not that I can recall with *T. baileyi*. This particular form is being called Halley's Comet just to remind Rolly of the time when he first noted this variation. It has nothing to do with cosmic dust as far as we are aware!

Let us now look at the so called natural hybrids which are appearing with increasing regularity in scientific botanical papers and I have yet to get a satisfactory explanation for this trend and find it hard to understand that they are treated as hybrids rather than emerging species. Let us say that in the wild amongst a batch of *T. juncea* and a batch of *T. schiedeana* there are plants that look somewhere between these two species. These plants are treated as putative natural hybrids and the parents are accepted as being the nearest species in proximity. But, how do you decide who was Mother!

This particular problem starts with a mention in B.S.I. Journal, 1978, page 216 where Meilleur mentions a natural hybrid *T. juncea* x *schiedeana*. A plant came into Rolly's collection from Krauspe in California and it flowered and set seed. We can only assume that it was either self set or caused by some foreign pollen. Whatever the situation one would expect some progeny to look like *T. juncea* and some like *T. schiedeana* if the seed parent was in fact an F1 hybrid. This did not occur and the progeny did resemble the seed parent.

Not to be outdone Rolly did his own crossing using *T. juncea* and pollen from *T. schiedeana* but the progeny bear no similarity to the so called natural hybrid and are much smaller. Could it be that the natural hybrid father was the 'major' form of *T. schiedeana*? Or could it be a reverse cross? The investigation continues.

Still keeping busy and on the same theme Rolly used *T. schiedeana* as a seed parent with pollen from the 'natural' hybrid. There were two discernable types of seedlings. One which could be considered to be within the range of the species *T. schiedeana* but with the improvement of having more than one flower opening at the one time. The other had that bicolor flower which always seems to arise when one of those purple flowered Mexican Tillandsias is crossed with *T. schiedeana*, whitish at the top and purplish at the base. This is being called Tooshi.

Other hybrids currently being released include *T. xerographica* x *tricolor*, *T. tenuifolia* x *striata* and *T. bergeri* x *tenuifolia*. Names will be given to these crosses when they flower and we see their true potential. In the meantime if you happen to get hold of any of these please note the stable (Reilly/Stewart) that produces them. When names are given you will at least know what we are talking about.

All the plants mentioned in this article are worthy novelties but please do not lose the label.

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GLOSSARY OF BOTANICAL TERMS from Queensland Garden, January, 1973

acicular - stiff and pointed like a needle.

aculeate - armed with prickles, as in the stem of a rose.

acuminate - tapering gradually to a point.

acute - distinctly and sharply pointed, but not drawn out in a long point.

alternate - when only one branch or leaf proceeds from each node, one on each side and the next above or below on the opposite side of the stem.

amplexicaul - when the sessile base of the leaf clasps the stem horizontally.

anther - the portion of a stamen containing the pollen.

apetalous - without petals.

- apiculate - with a sharp, short, but not a stiff point.
appressed - closely and flatly pressed against.
aristate - with a fine point like a hair or bristle.
aristate - with a fine point like a hair or bristle.
ascending - with the branches spreading horizontally, or nearly so,
at the base and then turning upwards and becoming erect.
asepalous - without sepals.
axillary - in the angle formed by a leaf and branchlet.
bifid - two lobed.
bifoliate - having two leaflets.
bipinnate - when both primary and secondary divisions of a leaf are
pinnate.
bisexual - having both male and female reproductive parts in the
same flower.
bract - a modified leaf in whose axil a flower arises.
bracteole - a secondary bract at the base of a flower; a bractlet.
bristle - a stiff hair or any slender body which may be likened to
a hog's bristle.
calyx - the lower or outermost whorl in a flower.
campanulate - bell-shaped or cup-shaped (usually applied to the
corolla).
canescent - having hairs so short as not readily to be distinguished
by the naked eye, yet giving a grey or whitish colour to
the surface.
capitate - having several sessile or nearly sessile flowers collected
into a compact head-like cluster.
carpel - one of the foliar units of a compound pistil or ovary; a
simple pistil has one carpel.
ciliate - fringed with fine hairs.
clavate - club-shaped; thickened towards the apex.
compound leaf - entirely divided into separate leaflets.
cordate - (heart-shaped) with two broad rounded lobes at the base of
the leaf, and a gradually tapering apex.
coriaceous - firm and tough in texture, or very tough of the
consistency of leather.
corolla - that part of a flower which is usually coloured, and of a
more delicate texture than the calyx.
crenate - with blunt rounded teeth; scalloped.
cuneate - wedge-shaped, broadest above the middle and tapering
towards the base.

- decurrent** - having the edge of the leaf continued down the stem so as to form raised lines or narrow appendages called wings.
- decumbent** - reclining but with the summit ascending.
- decussate** - having opposite leaves with each pair placed at right angles to the next pair above or below them.
- dentate** - toothed; teeth rather sharp, not pointing forwards.
- denticulate** - minutely toothed.
- dichotomous** - forking into more or less equal pairs of branches.
- diffuse** - open loosely-spreading habit.
- digitate** - having several leaflets, segments, lobes or veins diverging from the same point, like the fingers of a hand.
- dioecious** - having male and female flowers on distinct plants.
- distichous** - having opposite leaves arranged one above another in two opposite rows, one on each side of the stem.
- elliptical** - shaped like an ellipse, a regular oval.
- emarginate** - with a notch cut out at the apex.
- entire** - with an unbroken margin.
- erect** - upright.
- exserted** - projecting beyond, as when the stamens and style project outside a corolla.
- falcate** - curved like the blade of a sickle.
- filament** - the stalk of a stamen at whose top the anther is attached.
- floccose** - with woolly hairs in tufts which can be easily detached like a fleece.
- glabrous** - without hairs.
- glaucous** - pale bluish-green, often covered with a fine whitish or bluish "bloom".
- globose** - nearly spherical.
- gynaecium** - the female portion of a flower.
- hastate** - shaped like an arrow-head with the two basal lobes diverging horizontally.
- hirsute** - hairy, with dense not very stiff hairs.
- hispid** - with rigid or stiff bristles or bristle-like hairs.
- imbricate** - overlapping, as when the margins of petals overlap within the bud.
- inflorescence** - the disposition of the flowers on the floral axis.
- involucre** - one or more whorls of bracts at the base of a single flower or flower cluster.
- involute** - with margins rolled towards the upper surface.
- labellum** - a lip; applied specifically to the third petal of orchids which is generally different from the others and appears to be on the lower side.

- lamina - the flat expanded portion of a leaf.
- lanceolate - shaped like the head of a lance; three or more times as long as broad, broadest below the middle and tapering towards the tip.
- leaf-opposed - opposite to a stem leaf.
- linear - long and narrow, with parallel sides, at least four or five times as long as broad.
- mealy - with hairs which are extremely short and white, having the appearance of a meal or dust and coming off readily.
- membranous - pliable and thin and not stiff.
- monoecious - with distinct male and female flowers on the same plant.
- mucronate - possessing a short and straight sharp terminal point.
- muriculate - roughened by short, hard protuberances.
- nectary - an organ in which nectar is secreted.
- node - the part of a stem at which one or more leaves arise.
- oblong - much longer than broad, with nearly parallel sides.
- obovate - in shape like a longitudinal section of an egg, with the broadest part above the middle.
- obtuse - blunt or rounded at the end.
- opposite - when two branches or leaves proceed from the same node on opposite sides of the stem.
- orbicular - flat with a circular outline.
- ovary - ovule-bearing part of a pistil.
- ovate - in shape like the longitudinal section of an egg, up to twice as long as broad, with the broadest part below the middle.
- palmate - lobed or divided so that the sinuses point to the apex of the petiole.
- panicle - a branched inflorescence, each branch bearing two or more flowers.
- pappus - thistledown; tufts or hairs or scales at the top of a fruit.
- pedicel - the last branch of an inflorescence, supporting a single flower.
- peduncle - the main stalk of an inflorescence.
- peltate - with the petiole inserted on the underside of the leaf some distance from the margin.
- perianth - the collective term for the calyx and corolla of a flower.
- petal - one segment of the corolla.
- petiole - the stalk which attaches the leaf blade to the stem.
- petiolule - the stalk of each leaflet in a compound leaf.
- pinna - the primary division of a pinnate leaf.
- pinnate - with leaflets arranged on each side of a common petiole in a featherlike fashion.

- procumbent - trailing or lying flat on the ground.
pubescent - covered with a short soft down.
raceme - simple inflorescence with stalked flowers along its length.
reniform - kidney-shaped, broader than long, slightly but broadly cordate at the base.
reticulate - forming a network.
retuse - with a narrow and shallow notch in an obtuse apex.
revolute - with margins rolled downward toward the lower surface.
rhachis - the axis of an inflorescence or a compound leaf.
rootstock - the lower part of the stem of an annual or perennial which is often entirely underground and assumes the appearance of a root.
rugose - covered with wrinkles.
sagittate - enlarged at the base into two straight lobes, with the points directed downwards, like the barbed head of an arrow.
sepal - one segment of the calyx.
serrate - with margins saw-toothed, the teeth pointing forwards.
sessile - without a petiole.
seta - a bristle.
sinus - the space between the lobes or teeth of a divided leaf.
spatulate - shaped like a spatula with a narrow tapering basal portion and a broad, shorter apex.
spike - an unbranched inflorescence with sessile flowers.
spur - a sac-like or tubular projection from a sepal or petal, frequently secreting nectar.
stamens - the male portion of a flower, comprising filament and anther.
staminode - an imperfect stamen in which the anther is either lacking, or does not contain pollen.
stigma - that part of the carpel which bears the pollen-receptive stigmatic tissue.
stipitate - borne on a stalk or stipe.
stipules - leaf-like or scale-like appendages at the base of the petiole, on each side of it.
striate - marked with parallel longitudinal lines.
style - the sterile part of a carpel connecting the stigma to the ovary.
terete - circular in transverse section, cylindrical and usually tapering.
terminal - at the end of a stem or leafy branch.
tomentose - densely covered with very short or matted soft hairs.
trifoliolate - with three leaflets.
truncate - appearing as though chopped off.
tubular - with the greater part of the corolla in the form of a tube.

- tuberculate - covered with small wart-like projections.
 umbel - an inflorescence in which a cluster of pedicels spring from the same point.
 valvate - with parts of a flowerbud meeting exactly without overlapping.
 verticillate - with several leaves arranged regularly around the stem of a node.
 villous - covered with fairly long soft hairs.
 viscid - covered with a sticky or clammy exudation.

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PLANTS WANTED

<i>Aechmea caesia</i>	<i>Hechtia stenocetala</i>
<i>Abrometiella brevifolia</i>	<i>Schogeria lindleyana</i>
<i>Bromelia antiacantha</i>	<i>Hechtia argentea</i>
<i>Bromelia serra</i>	<i>Hechtia glomerata</i>
<i>Bromelia balanse</i>	<i>Hechtia podancho</i>

Des Anderson, 25 Esplanade, Golden Beach, Caloundra Ph.074 922379.

BOOKS FOR SALE

<i>Colorful Bromeliads</i> by V. Padilla	15.00
<i>A Bromeliad Glossary</i> by Brm Society Inc.	3.50
<i>Bromeliads - A Cultural Handbook</i> by Brom. Soc. Inc.	3.50
<i>International Checklist</i> by Brom. Society Inc.	3.50
<i>Bromeliads for Everyone</i> by Bea Hansen	2.50
<i>Bromeliads</i> by Seaborn	3.50
<i>The Beauty of Bromeliads</i> by Tony Lea	4.50
<i>Bromeliads</i> by Walter Richter	2.50
<i>Bromeliads in Australia</i> by Brom. Society N.S.W.	2.00
<i>Growing Bromeliads</i> by Brom. Society Australia	11.00
<i>Hybridist's Handbook & Check List</i> by D. Butcher	6.00

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