

BROMELIACEAE

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

Registered by Australia Post March-April 1993

Publication No. QBH 1849. VOLUME XXVI NO. 2



Canistrum aurantiacum

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 p.m.

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

-oOo-

PATRON: *Mr Harold Caulfield*

PRESIDENT: *Mr Len Trevor* Ph. 351 1203
SECRETARY: *Mrs Val Urquhart* Ph. 824 0627
VICE-PRESIDENT: *Mrs Phyllis Hobbs* Ph. 286 4156
TREASURER: *Mr Bob Paulsen* Ph. 074 93 3677
EDITOR: *Mr Len Butt* Ph. 848 3515
SHOW ORGANIZER: Ph.

COMMITTEE: *Mr Neville Ryan, Mr Bob Paulsen, Mr Bob Cross,
Mr Laurie Muller, Mrs Thelma Muller, Mr Doug
Upton, Mrs Joy Upton, Mrs Olive Trevor, Mr Don
Hobbs*

PROGRAMMES

THE COMING CONFERENCE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT
- SO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Remember the date - EASTER, ROBERTSON MOTEL:
BROMELIADS VII, QUEENSLAND -
NOT TO BE MISSED.

ALL 1993 SUBS. ARE NOW DUE - \$7 SINGLE; \$10 FAMILY

EDITORIAL

First meeting for the year, and a very interesting one, to boot. A well-filled sales bench, and also a very well furnished display bench. Owing to ill health our President and Secretary were absent. These positions for the night were filled by Mr Michael O'Dea and Mrs Phyllis Hobbs.

Mr Neville Ryan and Mr Len Butt were appointed to do the plant commentary, which went for some little time because of the content of the exhibits. Outstanding among these were such plants as a really well grown and huge *Vriesia splendens* 'the flaming sword' inflorescence of which was all of 60 cms tall and the plant, one of the biggest single plants of the species I have yet seen.

Another *Vriesia* rarely seen being equally fine, a flowering plant of *Vriesia heliconioides*, the upright and very colorful inflorescence looking very like some heliconias I have seen.

Really unique plants were in the display, all very worthy of a mention. Such as the really colorful specimen plant of *Aechmea X Bert*, and the several other *vriesias* and *gusmanias*. Suffice to say, let us keep this standard up.

A really interesting showing of colour transparencies followed, by our guest speaker and fellow member, Arno King.

Rio de Janeiro, its lovely beaches and the famous sugar-loaf mountain that dominates that bay, then up the mountain slopes to look at bromels growing in habitat.

All in all a very well presented and interesting showing and to Arno's delight many plants could be identified and named.

At this point I would like to apologise to Mr and Mrs Muller of Brisbane Bromeliad Centre for omitting their advertisement the past two months. This was due to a clerical error during printing.

February meeting, 18 February 1993

As this was our A.G.M. EVENING surprisingly we had a good attendance as well as a very well filled trade table. Novice and Advanced competitive sections for 1992 were won by Mr Neville Ryan in Novice and by Mr and Mrs Wilson in Advanced.

Officers and Committee elections were held with Mr Len Trevor being re-elected for 1993, and Mr and Mrs Muller joining our Committee panel. Mr and Mrs O'Dea declined this year because of heavy commitments with the management of The Royal Horticultural Society of Queensland. Mr Len Trevor's presidential address was well received as he spoke of glowing events of 1992, with the central feature being the 25th Annual Anniversary Dinner held in August at the Carindale Hotel/Motel.

Honoured guests at that Dinner being Mr Harold Caulfield, Mr Len Butt and Mr Peter Paroz.

The written history of the Society over the past 25 years was researched by Mr Peter Paroz and all financial members received a copy.

- oo00oo -

The commentary on the tabled display was done by Des Anderson and some time was taken perusing unusual or outstanding plants such as a Vriesia phillipo-coburgii coming into full inflorescence, etc.

Time, as always, caught up with us so I had to cram a half hour beginner talk into a 15 minute time slot which ended our evening.

This editorial would not be complete without mentioning that our own Olwen Ferris from Paradise Point managed to be with us also.

1993 still sees me as your Editor and, as such, I will endeavour to give of my best as always to keep this magazine running, but I have also made it evident this will be my last year in this capacity.

EDITOR.

TILLANDSIAS

by L.P. Butt

Of the many fascinating epiphytes that comprise the large Bromeliad family of plants, perhaps the most versatile in form is the genus *Tillandsia*.

Truly an "air plant" in all ways, every member of this intriguing group of epiphytes is worth possessing, and a real challenge to grow successfully.

From the tiny twisted formations that hang in dense clusters from swamp trees, known as Spanish moss, to the spectacular large specimens such as *T. imperialis* and *T. grandis*, every plant is a collector's item.

Growing high in the branches of their host trees, these plants have developed the ability to survive with a minimum of roots, and indeed in cultivation specimens may even flower without forming any root system of note.

The inflorescence of most *Tillandsias* is a delight to the eye, and well worth the effort to grow and flower them. In cultivation I have seen many cultural methods tried, about the most successful being the use of orchid fibres as a growing medium, with the plants grown in a good filtered sunlight position.

One bromel grower secures his *Tillandsias* to a 'bromel tree' which is first closely banded with a coarse rope or hairy twine, and exposes them under about 64% shade cloth cover. This grower has had really great success, and has flowered a number of the species.

Another enthusiast literally 'sews' his specimens to small rafts of staghorn peat or todea fibre, and attaches this to the side of the bromel tree.

Tillandsias can be treated as potted specimens, but remembering the small root system, adequate drainage must be provided for each plant, and the essential good light provided.

To the bromeliad enthusiast, plants of the species Tillandsias are regarded as the ultimate in the flowering bromeliads. Many forms are twisted and slightly grotesque, many take the traditional 'pineapple' formation, but all have that certain intriguing 'something' that goes to make a plant worth growing.

The flowering inflorescence of Tillandsias can be quaint and insignificant as in *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss), but generally it is breathtaking in its beauty, as in *Tillandsia cyanea* or *T. imperialis*.

Listed below are a few of the more spectacular species, with emphasis on the brilliant flowering types:-

Tillandsia lindeni (Peru): A thin leafed rosette of recurving and channeled leaves traced with reddish brown stripings. A long fan-like flat spike of rose bracts with single royal blue flowers forming around the edges.

Tillandsia ionantha: Stiff curved leafed miniature rosette forming dense clumps. The thick, succulent type leaves attain a rosy tinting in good light, with a sessile inflorescence and violet flowers.

Tillandsia cyanea: Similar in formation to *T. lindenii*, but more compact in every way. Inflorescence of broad, clear pink fan shaped bracts with violet blue single flowers.

Tillandsia geminiflora: A small, symmetrical, many leafed rosette, with purplish grey pointed leaves and pendant racemes of coppery bracts and lavender and yellow flowers.

Tillandsia viridiflora: Presents a formal, flaring rosette of larger leaves, glossy green and dotted. The long inflorescence has green bracts and white flowers.

Tillandsia fasciculata clavispica (Cuba): This variety has a long branched inflorescence of slender red club-like bracts. The leaves are thin and channeled.

Tillandsia bulbosa, *T. butzii*, and *T. caput medusae*, are all of the twisted form with bulb like base of onion-like appearance. These plants have attractive markings of red with brown striping or silvery scurf scales. As well as their rather grotesque beauty, the flowering stem of all three is very attractive.

Tillandsia capitata: This is a really fascinating plant, with a rosette of leathery, tapering leaves light grey, with a silver coating over the whole leaf, and leaf margins purple. A green, fist-size inflorescence appears at flowering time, and the foliage takes on a rosy hue.

Tillandsia pruinosa: A rather cute grotesquely twisted bulbous form with leaves twisting at many angles with a stubby, spear type inflorescence of pink bracts and violet flowers.

Years ago, as an avid cactus collector, I had decided that not all outstanding plant beauty is really 'beautiful', as "beauty is in the eye of the beholder". This applies well to the Tillandsias, where again and again it is proven that these plants of unique twisted formation are so individualistic in body and plant form that one can only say the challenge is to grow a few yourself to realise their true worth.

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BROMELIADS VII MOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have been able to secure only limited accommodation of 22 rooms at the site of the Conference - Robertson Gardens Motel.

However, additional rooms have been booked at the Sunnybank Star, Sunnybank and the Coopers Colonial, Acacia Ridge. These motels are both of a high standard and are located only a short distance from Robertson.

For the convenience of delegates desiring the service, transport to and from the motel will be provided at all times. As well, delegates arriving by Air, Bus or whatever will be met at their point of arrival.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience in accommodation arrangements and wish to assure all concerned that we will do our utmost to overcome all possible problems and to ensure delegates' enjoyment of what we feel will be an excellent conference programme.

Don Hobbs

Convenor

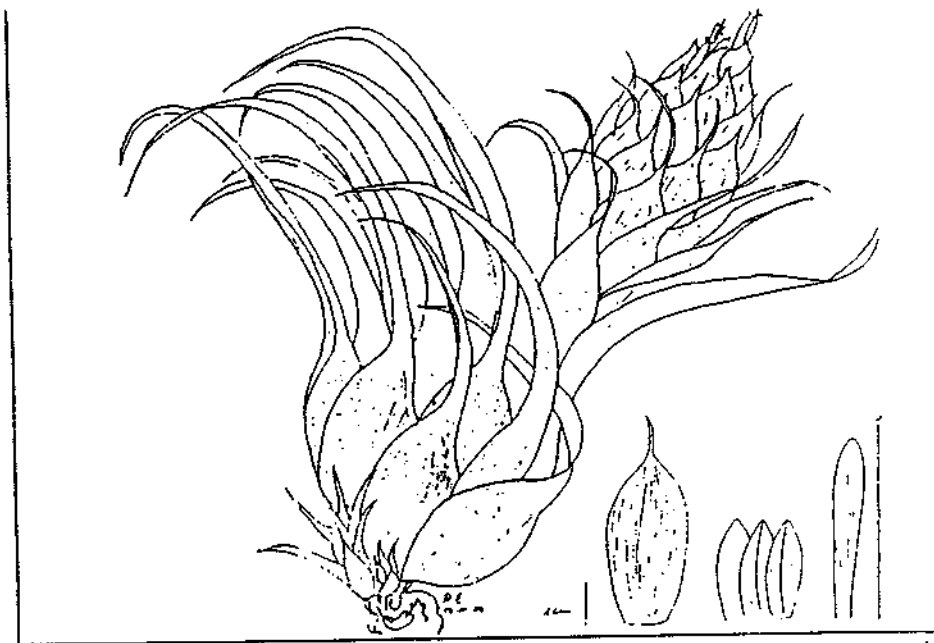


Fig. 6. *Tillandsia oaxacana* L.B. Smith, collected by the author (EM 882 near Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca; 1650 m.

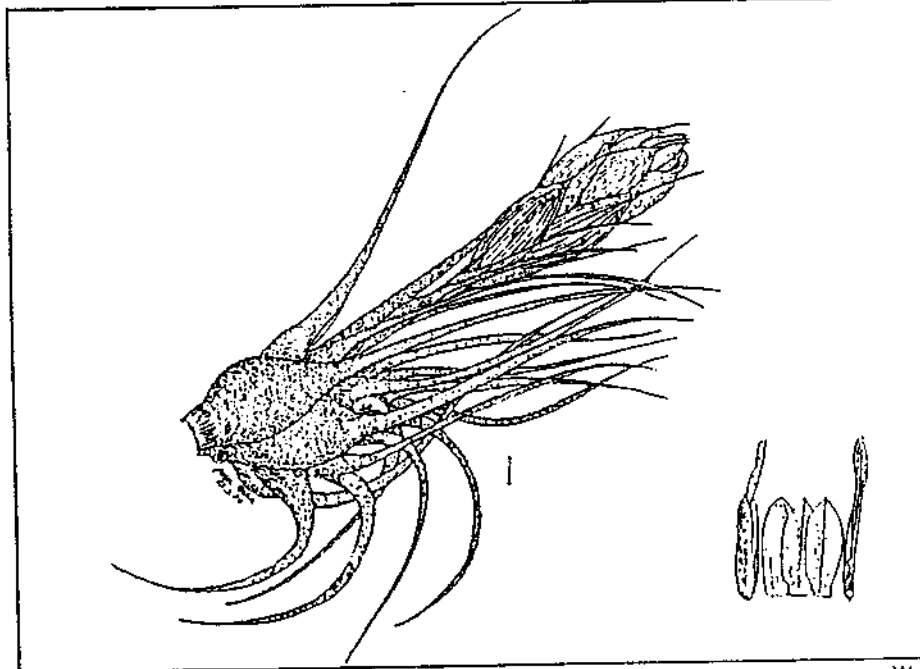


Fig. 7. *Tillandsia maddougallii* identified by Wilhelm Weber in 1980 from Halle (East Germany) Herbarium specimen HAL 45541, collected L.B. Karwinski, 1830. The centimeter scale has been added.

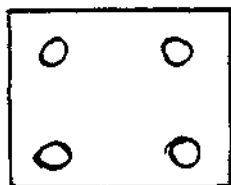
Determining Air Content of a Potting Mix

Having read N.T. Catlan's article on "Air & Potted Bromeliads" in Bromeliaceae July-Aug, 1992 and the follow-up "Your Own Potting Mix" in the Sept-Oct publication some members may now be saying to themselves how can I determine if this new mix of mine will have the air porosity needed for these particular Broms or other plants.

Remembering that the air porosity of a potting mix is not only determined by the mix itself, but also by the height of the pot (which was well illustrated in July-Aug publication) it is therefore necessary to carry this test out for the different pot heights in which you may be using the same mix.

For those plant enthusiasts who like to dabble and mix their own potting medium, or would like to check out the mix which they have purchased to determine its suitability for the plants they wish to grow in it, then here is a simple method I have seen demonstrated by C.S.I.R.O. soil's expert, Kevin Handreok (S.A.) to determine air porosity of a potting mix.

Punch 4 holes of approximately 8 mm (5/16 ") into the bottom of a 600 ml milk carton Fig.1

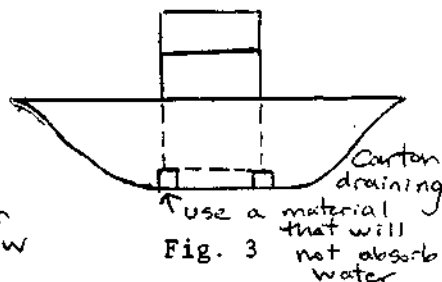
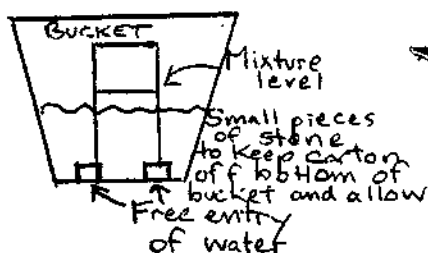


Base of carton
(Fig 1)

These holes are positioned so your fingers can cover them whilst holding the carton in an upright position between your hands.

- Fill the carton with your pre-moistened potting mix to the equivalent level for the size pot e.g. [125 mm (5") dia.] you intend to use, this is approximately the same level as 600 ml of mix would occupy.
- Tap the carton on the table or bench top to help settle the mix (which would normally occur with watering) then top up to the original level.
- Next slowly lower carton into a partially filled 9-10 litre bucket as in Fig. 2, then top up water until it appears at the same level as the potting mix. Caution needs to be observed that the mix does not float up.
- Raise the carton up slowly and allow to drain. Repeat this process 2 or 3 times to allow for further settlement.

Fig. 2



- Then with the carton still in the water place your hands on opposite sides of the carton so that your fingers can block off the drain holes.
- Lift the carton up slowly so the water level now is the same as the mixture being tested, then seal off the holes and carefully remove the carton from the bucket, allowing outside water to drip off.

· Then place carton into a tray as shown in Fig. 3, and allow water to drain from mix this may take 30 minutes or much longer depending on type of mix. DO NOT tilt or squeeze carton when removing from tray after drainage has ceased as this will result in water loss from the lower saturated area and gives a false result.

· Next measure the volume of water collected in the tray, this represents the volume of air which has entered the mix.

· As the carton held 600 ml of potting mix and if the water measured was, e.g. 150 ml.

$$\text{then } \frac{150}{600} \times 100 = 25\%$$

i.e. when draining had ceased 25% of the volume of mix within the carton was air.

----- Fairchild Tropical Garden -----

10901 Old Cutler Road · Miami, Florida 33156-4296

(305) 667-1651

Fax: (305) 661-8953

December 30, 1992

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland, Inc.
The Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society
c/o R.J. Paulsen
P.O. Box 565
Fortitude Valley
Queensland 4000, Australia

Dear Mr. Paulsen:

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, I gratefully acknowledge the contribution of \$284.08 to the Restoration Fund from The Bromeliad Society of Queensland, Inc. and the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society. This gift will help bring a new flowering to this tropical garden paradise. We deeply appreciate your timely and generous support of this effort.

Hurricane Andrew struck at 0300 on Monday, August 24; the first staff meeting following the storm was called for 0830 on Wednesday, August 26. The pathway to recovery was set forth at this first meeting; this was not to be simply a "clean-up operation." The highest priority was given to restoring the collection while retrieving as much scientific data from it as possible. At the same time we provided sound horticultural advice to the community through a newly established Hot Line. It was an approach to renewal that would require the immediate mobilization of the horticultural, botanical and gardening community as never before. Our call for help was answered in a most heart warming and generous way.

With this kind of staff determination, the leadership on the Board given by President James W. McLamore, and with the generous contributions of time and talent of colleagues throughout this country and abroad, we can all be confident that the Fairchild Garden will indeed see a new flowering. We are all resolved to build an even more beautiful and botanically richer Garden. This contribution does much to bolster that resolve.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season and our deepest thanks for responding to the call and joining the Fairchild Tropical Garden Restoration Team.

Sincerely,

(Signed)
William McK. Klein, Jr., Ph.D.
Director

(Handwritten)

We were touched by your note and encouraged by your desire to help.
Please convey our thanks and good wishes for the New Year to your members.

Bill.

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st December, 1992

<u>ACCUMULATED MEMBERS FUNDS 1991</u>	\$
Balance brought forward 1.1.91	36155.43
Purchase of Stock for Resale - Sales	
Stickers (nett)	654.76
Capital Purchases for Year - Library Books	650.32
- Library Video	60.00
- Display Equipment	50.00
Capital Equipment W/Off - Gestetner	(144.73)
Adjust Value Stock on Hand - Books	(1618.12)
- Badges	(37.50)
Adjust Value Trade Table	250.84
Adjust Equity Combined Show	58.20
Excess Income/Expenditure	<u>3128.00</u>
	39207.20
LESS Depreciation Adjustment	<u>(411.76)</u>
	38795.44
LESS Subscriptions in Advance	<u>(103.00)</u>
	<u>38692.44</u>

I hereby certify that this Balance Sheet represents a true and accurate record of the financial affairs of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Incorporated.

R. HIGGINS (AUDITOR)
R. PAULSEN (TREASURER)
L. TREVOR (PRESIDENT)

ASSETS

§

Typewriter #1	79.60	
#2	<u>75.58</u>	155.18
Cupboard		119.72
Display Equipment		755.83
P.A. System		87.36
B.S.I. Slides		60.80
Slide Library		175.10
Projector		548.27
Label Microphone		<u>156.55</u>
		2058.81
Library		2281.91
Goods for Resale - Books	4437.37	
- Sales Stickers	780.00	
- Society Badges	<u>436.76</u>	5654.13
N.A.B. A/c - as at 31.12.92		
General Funds	5682.23	
Brom VII	1585.60	
Subs in Advance	(65.00)	
Unpresented Cheque	<u>(13.08)</u>	7114.83
Term Deposits - Westpac	4400.00	
- N.A.B.	4420.00	
- ESANDA	4450.00	
- C.T.B.	<u>4440.00</u>	
	17710.00	
Investment Interest Rollover(Est)	<u>992.00</u>	18702.00
Advances - Secretary	50.00	
- Treasurer	50.00	
- Plant Sales	50.00	
- Trade Table	<u>1616.36</u>	1766.36
Share Equity Combined Show		<u>1526.16</u>
		39104.20
LESS Depreciation # at 20%		<u>(411.76)</u>
		<u>38692.44</u>

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1992

EXPENDITURE

1991		1992
300.00	Rental - Hall Meetings	330.00
150.00	- Floral Art Classes	.
200.00	- Property Storage	200.00
1014.06	Bromeliaceae	902.91
217.75	Officers Exp/Postage/Telephone	244.48
109.26	Stationery	169.22
35.00	P O Box Rental	37.00
742.33	Social Costs/Xmas Party (nett)	262.48
167.10	Bus Trips (nett)	.
39.38	Subscriptions - B.S.I.	41.92
8.00	- Royal Hort Soc Inc	8.00
.	- Cryptanthus Soc	36.57
.	- Q.C.G.C.	.
36.95	- European Brom Soc	.
.	- Selbyana 92/93	170.13
99.00	Display Expenses	78.00
72.35	Purchase of-Trophies/Prizes	95.60
27.00	-Door Prizes	22.90
318.47	-Display Equipment	50.00
2738.25	-Books	1599.44
195.69	-Microphone	.
108.00	-Letterheads	.
	-Library Books	650.32
	-Library Video	60.00
	-Calendars	428.20
	-Sales Stickers	763.14
32.03	Donations -Cryptanthus Soc	41.07
	-Fairchild Gardens	
	Restoration	374.88
483.18	Insurance	508.18
50.00	Comb Show -Gold Coast Display	.
50.00	Float -Plant Sales	.
327.20	Conference 93 -Promotion material	.
	25th Anniversary Dinner (nett)	811.60
	History -Printing/Binding/Post	658.00
18.85	Federal Govt Tax	19.70
7507.82		8563.74
2154.86	Excess Income/Expenditure	3128.00
<u>9662.68</u>		<u>11691.74</u>

INCOME

1991		1992
684.00	Subscriptions	754.00
65.00	Subscriptions in Advance	103.00
	Plant Sales Commission	
165.05	- Meetings	136.35
3447.10	- Combined Show	3175.00
.	- Mt Gravatt Show	56.70
194.75	- RHSQ Inc Show	152.60
335.00	Raffle Receipts (nett)	382.90
37.50	Sale of - Society Badges/Keyrings	37.50
2079.40	- Books	3217.56
184.50	- Sales Stickers	263.00
30.00	- Tea Towels/Aprons	20.00
100.00	Advertising	80.00
400.00	R.N.A. Show Contribution	
90.00	Floral Art Classes	
.	Donations	25.25
.	Bromeliads VII (nett)	1912.80
280.38	Interest - Bank A/c	243.08
	- Investments	
1570.00	1991 Adjust	140.00
	1992 Estimate	992.00
<u>9662.68</u>		<u>11691.74</u>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Len,

You asked for 100 words and I'm going to exceed your request. I refer to the Jan/Feb Bromeliaceae where you printed that letter from G.J. Velick. I suppose it was the mis-spelling of *T. oaxacana* that started me thinking. I realize the reproduction is not the best but the photo does not seem to be *T. oaxacana* but *T. feldhoffii*. See Bromeletter Jul/Aug 1991 where Robert Reid had translated an article by Renate Ehlers. This is but a start to what I believe is an intriguing saga that will continue on and on but which I find fascinating.

Do you have access to Luther's List? Did you notice in the May 1992 update that *T. feldhoffii* is now *T. velickiana* AND *T. velickiana* is now *T. matudae*. This is all the more peculiar when it appears plants are jumping from sub genus Allardtia to sub genus Tillandsia. All is not well in the State of Denmark!! Let us look at the Bromeletter translation. Here we find Feldhoff confirming Renate Ehlers opinion that the species in question was different from the Gudtemalan *T. velickiana* and providing her with original collection material and precise collection location. The plant was named *T. feldhoffii* and was the plant we in Australia had been growing for years as *T. oaxacana*.

There were no further references to *T. velickiana* as to where you could find it or how it differed from *T. feldhoffii*. In 1974 L.B. Smith named *T. velickiana* in Phytologia and in the Nov/Dec issue of the B.S.I. Journal 1974 the description was repeated and we have a black and white photograph of a plant that looks terribly like *T. matudae*. In any event the photo is of a compound distichous flower but the

description says "Simple". I was not able to find any errata in later issues. Thus it would appear that even Smith was confused as to what *T. velickiana* looked like. So how is it that Feldhoff was so certain he knew what the true *T. velickiana* looked like. No one as far as I can gather has checked Smith's description against the herbarium specimen.

As I understand the current situation it is:

- (1) *T. matudae* is still with us. It has a distichous compound inflorescence with white flowers.
- (2) *T. velickiana* will replace *T. feldhoffii* which needn't have been named anyway. It has a polystichous simple inflorescence of purplish flowers.

Eventually we will see a botanical paper explaining in more precise terms what the situation is.

In the meantime it is very puzzling that the person whose plant has caused so much discussion is not certain what plant was named after him. If you follow what I have said then the plant being held in the hand in the photo is in fact *T. velickiana*!!! Or is it?

Derek Butcher

"BROMAGIC" BROMELIAD NURSERY

One of Queensland's largest collections of bromeliads, including Tillandsias.

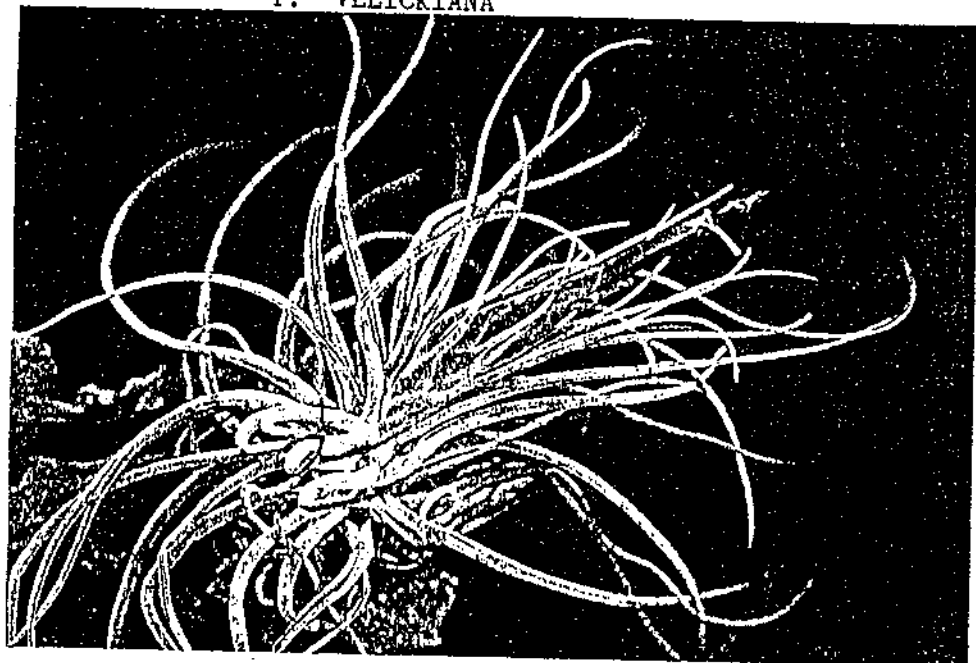
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