

MURRAY

# *Bromeliaceae*



*Volume XXVIII. Number 6. November / December 1995*



## BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

P.O.Box 565,  
FORTITUDE VALLEY,  
QLD. 4006  
AUSTRALIA

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

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*Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and may not reflect the opinions of the Editorial Committee or the Society.*

'Bromeliaceae' is the Journal of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc, and is published bimonthly.

PRINT POST NUMBER: P.P.434327/0002

VOL XXVIII

Number 6

Price: \$3.50

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Available to members and interested persons at \$30.00 per one-third of a page per annum (six issues of 'Bromeliaceae')

Application should be in writing, should include all required copy for the advertisement, and should include payment by cash or cheque.

The first advertisement will appear in the next available issue of 'Bromeliaceae' after payment is received.

Copy may be updated at any time if supplied in writing, otherwise last available copy will be used.

It is regretted that no photographs can be included in advertisements at this time.

The Society reserves the right to refuse publication of any advertisement.

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*Publication Deadlines for 'Bromeliaceae'*

All articles, competition results, programme details and other items of interest for publication must be in the hands of the Editorial Committee by the following dates -

January - February, 1996 edition  
March - April, 1996 edition  
May - June, 1996

21st December, 1995  
15th February, 1996  
21st April, 1996

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## *Guest Editorial*

*Phyl Hobbs*

### *Be Involved*

Stewarding on our display at the 'Ekka' gives me the opportunity to talk with lots of country people and it is surprising to find how many of them are growing bromeliads. Some of the conditions are a challenge - severe frosts, extreme heat, shortage of water to name a few, but they all seem to be very happy with the performance of these very co-operative plants.

I was hoping that members of our Society who live too far away to be able to attend meetings could become involved by writing and telling us how you cope with whatever conditions you have locally, what range of genera you grow, and which ones you have the most success with.

This exchange of growing experiences is always of interest, and can be of great help to other growers.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

p.s.: Should any member be visiting Brisbane and would like to see a bromeliad collection, they will be very welcome.

Just give us a phone call on (07) 32864156.

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## ***Cover Photograph - Front***

### ***Ursulaea macvaughii***

This plant was previously classified as belonging to the genus *Aechmea*, and recently transferred to the new genus *Ursulaea* which has been named in honour of Ursula Baensch, noted horticulturist and author. The species was originally collected growing as an epiphyte at about 500-600 metres in tropical forest in the State of Jalisco, Mexico.

It is a large plant with leaves to a metre long and 12-16cm wide, at maturity up to a metre high. The inflorescence is pendulous, the primary bracts a pale rose, the scape and pedicels covered with densely fuzzy silver white scales. The overall appearance is very dramatic.

This particular plant was grown at sea level in Cleveland, Queensland, in an outdoors, north facing location, partly sheltered under a garden tree.

GROWN BY: Don & Phyl Hobbs

PHOTOGRAPH BY: Don Hobbs

## ***Cover Photograph - Back***

### ***Tillandsia pamelae***

The original plants were collected by Pamela Koide of Birdrock Tropicals fame in 1984 and described by Werner Rauh in 1986. It was found growing on and among rocks (saxicolous) in the central area of the State of Jalisco, Mexico, and has since been found in many localities in that fairly remote area. It also grows epiphytically in a couple of locations.

A spectacular species, it grows easily in cultivation producing a large upright rosette of many erect fleshy yellow-green leaves, often with pink suffusions in bright light. When it is ready a huge pendulous bright pink inflorescence emerges with numerous lateral branches supporting inflated imbricate bracts. Typical of Mexican *Tillandsias* the tubular flowers are dark purple with stamen and pistil much exerted past the petals. Flowering lasts many months. Usually the plant produces a few adventitious pups during its life and if any buds are left at maturity these will quickly form solid pups.

In Repton, NSW, *Tillandsia pamelae* grows in clay pots with rocks and bark or fibre in bright light with temperatures occasionally exceeding 40 degrees centigrade in summer and often approaching 0 degrees in winter. In bloom it needs support before it falls over and sustains damage.

GROWN BY: Peter Tristram

PHOTOGRAPH BY: Peter Tristram

## *Preparing a Plant for Competition*

*Doug Upton*

The question may be asked "Why do we bother to show our plants on a competition or show bench table?". Answers will certainly vary between most of our members, and this is as it should be within any society. I believe showing plants is just one facet of becoming involved, a way in which to contribute, a way of fulfilling our obligation of membership.

Personally I enjoy presenting a plant to be judged, and when asked to submit an article for 'Bromeliaceae' I found the subject choice not at all daunting.

Preparing a plant should begin when an offshoot is first planted. A good potting mix is essential, it should retain moisture but should never become waterlogged. My potting mix consists of 70% very coarse nuggets of bark, 25% forest bark, 5% polystyrene and a quantity of blood and bone. After these ingredients are thoroughly mixed together, the mass is then dampened with water. While still damp, it is bagged and left to permeate for at least two weeks before use. When first planting an offshoot I use a small pot, I do not incorporate a slow release fertiliser at this time. During the growing period plants are transferred into larger pots, and with some species I will then apply slow release fertiliser. Apart from general care my plants receive no other special growing treatment.

General care consists of placing plants in the correct light situation. Plants are turned regularly, hopefully to achieve a balanced symmetrical shape. I constantly check the moisture level of the potting mix. I also mist plants with a 'Phostrogen' foliage fertiliser - once a week in summer in the late afternoon, less often in winter.

Like all bromeliad collectors, I try to obtain only the best clone of all plants in my collection. At most times good clones repeatedly produce quality offshoots, therefore tangible continuity is maintained. Even after rational consideration, it can sometimes be difficult to discard plants that continue to produce disappointing results. However, when I come across a better clone the decision to discard is certainly easier. In the time ahead, characteristics of the better clone unfold. These include good symmetrical structure, brighter colouration, quality bracts, etc.

### ***Preparing a Plant for Competition (cont)***

At any given time I am aware of a few plants in my collection that have developed with some potential. I perhaps give these plants a little more attention, nurtured so to speak for future competition.

The overall excitement of a visually beautiful bromeliad has to be shared with other enthusiasts, inevitably a competition or show bench table comes to mind. The decision to show a plant involves much more attention to detail than general care previously provided.

The plant must be clean, free from dust and grime. Leaves should be sponged to remove stains and water marks, taking care not to damage the banded markings on some species. Leaves can also be trimmed of damage. Remove all water from the plant. An upright or cylindrical plant should be in a central position within the container. If slightly off centre, some gentle manoeuvring can be effective. Should it become necessary to repot, why not replace the old container with something more decorative. A glazed or painted pot, a polished urn, a naturally shaped or carved wood piece. Whatever is chosen should always complement the plant, never obscure or detract from the plant's structural formation.

Good presentation will never take away the natural beauty of the bromeliad. Good presentation can only highlight this horticultural wonder.

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### ***Errata - 'Bromeliaceae', September - October, 1995***

In the previous issue of 'Bromeliaceae' (Sept-Oct, 95), in spite of the proof reader's best efforts, some gremlins found their way into the word processor and certain typographical errors, and errors of omission, escaped unnoticed. With apologies to the authors, prize winners and plant growers we seek here to correct these errors.

- Cover Photograph - Front / *Aechmea fasciata*  
GROWN BY: Laurie & Thelma Muller

(Errata continued on Page 9)



# NEWSLETTER

~ Forthcoming Events ~ Members' Forum ~ Show Reports ~  
 ~ Society News ~

## Forthcoming Events:

### Plant of the Month:

No 'Plant of the month' will be conducted in November because the Meeting will be devoted to End of Year celebrations and activities

The next Plant of the Month will be conducted at the February monthly meeting following the Christmas recess from 17th November 1995 to 17th January 1996, and the January Monthly meeting Mini Show on 18th January.

Next Plant of the month:  
15th February 1996:

H' Genera, including *Hechtia*,  
*Hohenbergia* etc.

### Monthly Meetings:

16th November:

- Final meeting of the year.
- Break-up celebration.
- Mammoth plant raffle.
- Open plant display
- Plant commentary

December: No meeting

18th January.

- Mini Show (year 2 classes)
- CLASS 1: *Billbergia* species and Hybrids
- CLASS 2: *Vriesea* species only
- CLASS 3: *Pitcairnia* species and hybrids

### Study Group:

Meetings: 7:00am, 18th November.  
7:00am, 20th January.

Venue: 232 Canvey Rd.,  
Ferry Grove.  
PH: (07)33511203

## End of Year Break Up

**Members are requested to bring a  
plate of food to the November  
meeting to assist with the  
catering.**

## Show Reports:

### Popular Vote Results:

21st September

#### Advanced -

1. *Neoregelia meyerendorffii* cv. *Flandria*  
L.&O. Trevor
2. *Vriesea rauhii* (small form) D.&P. Hobbs

#### Intermediate -

1. *Tillandsia bulbosa* D.&J. Upton
2. *Canistrum fosterianum* D.&J. Upton

#### Novice-

1. *Canistrum fosterianum* N.&L. Weir
2. *Aechmea gracilis* N.&L. Weir

### Mini Show:

19th October

#### Advanced -

CLASS 1: *Nidularium* species and Hybrids

1. *N. (Nat de Leon)* L.&O. Trevor
2. *N. billbergioides* L.&O. Trevor

CLASS 2: *Tillandsia* species and hybrids

1. *T. fasciculata* cv. *Nandorfa*  
D.&P. Hobbs
2. *T. scheideana* D. Andersen

CLASS 3: *Hechtia* species and hybrids

1. No award given
2. *H. texensis* D. Andersen

#### Intermediate-

CLASS 1:

1. *N. fulgens* D.&J. Upton

**Mini show (cont)****CLASS 2:**

- |                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <i>T. streptophylla</i> | R.&M. Paulsen |
| 2. <i>T. concolor</i>      | D.&J. Upton   |

CLASS 3: No entries

**Novice-**

CLASS 1: No entries

**CLASS 2:**

- |                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1. <i>T. compressa</i> | N.&E. Weir |
| 2. <i>T. vicentina</i> | N.&E. Weir |

CLASS 3: No entries

**New/Renewing Members**

The Society extends a warm welcome to the following new members and renewing members

Ruth Feige	Karragarra Is.
Ros Proud	Karragarra Is.
Val Scott	Wynnum West
Keith and Betty Pohlmann	Bundaberg
Jenny Anderson	Eight Mile Plains
I. & J. Kropp	Jindalee
John Willows	Murwillumbah
K. Greenway	Black River
J. Simpson	Tannum Sands
D. Jenkins	Pacific Paradise
A. & A. Lowe	Toowong
G. Alderson	New Zealand
K. Stubbs	Mt. Morgan
J. & N. Rehak	Miranda
Mr & Mrs B. Huggard	Coorparoo
Debra Mitaros	Yeppoon
Perry Smith	Everton Park
B. West/L. Muller	Bridgeman Downs
Shaun McKenzie	Rochedale
Matt Smith	Rochedale
Joan Selnes	Moorooka

**Letter to the Editor**

24 Sept. 1995

Dear Editorial Committee,  
First I would like to congratulate you on the new format of 'Bromeliaceae'. It is a very attractive magazine.

What especially caught my attention was the unidentified *aechmea* on page 10 (July-August 1995 edition Ed.) This appears to be *Aechmea latifolia* (Willd. ex Schult.) Klotzsch ex Baker. A later synonym is *A. columnaris* Andre. It has been treated as a synonym of *A. paniculigera* (Sw.) Griseb. *Aechmea latifolia* is endemic to medium elev. (1000-2000 m) forests in Colombia. *Aechmea paniculigera* is found at generally lower elevations in Jamaica and Venezuela. The two species differ in many technical details but can be immediately distinguished by overall colour: Yellow and white in *A. latifolia*; Rose, blue and purple in *A. paniculigera*. Both are in cultivation in the USA but the latter appears to be much more common, especially in Florida.

Sincerely,  
Harry E. Luther  
Director, BIC;  
Curator of Living Collections

( the Editorial Committee appreciates the assistance provided by Harry Luther in identifying this plant Ed.)

**Combined Show Committee for 1996**

The new committee has been formed and Officers for 1996 have been elected:

Chairperson:	Marie D. Alton (CSSQ)
Secretary:	John Higgins (CSSQ)
Treasurer	Merv. Whitehouse (CSSQ)
Sales Steward:	Nev. Ryan (BSQ)
Publicity:	John & Ruth Higgins (CSSQ)
Catering:	Heather Clarke (CSSQ)
Auditor:	George Lawson (CSSQ)

## ***Study Group Meeting - Bill Morris' Visit***

*Liz Weir*

(Bill Morris visited the Study Group for their Saturday seed raising activity and offered some comments to, and guidance for, the group. Ed)

What a way to start a Saturday morning - 7.00 am, a cup of coffee, a lively discussion on pesticides, fertilisers and plants in general! This was Bill Morris' introduction to our Study Group.

Eleven members attended and Bill answered many general questions during breakfast. It was obvious that he would have to be very strong during the meeting part of the morning to keep the members on the track of seed raising and the problems encountered. Bill's great knowledge was much in demand and his advice greatly appreciated.

Our Study Group did not think it had great success in its first attempt at hybridising. Bob Cross appeared to be the only member to succeed in one of his crosses - that of *Neoregelia Gold Fever* x *N. Mars*. Even that is now in doubt, since we have heard that *N. Gold Fever* is one of the few *Neoregelias* which self pollinate. Some of us are growing these seedlings so it will be interesting to see what does eventuate. Bill Morris examined Olive Trevor's *Aechmea fasciata* cross which had been thought to be a failure, but he showed us how to look more closely to find the mature pods. This involved almost pulling the *Aechmea* flower head apart, so perhaps there are other successes sitting in other members greenhouses waiting to be discovered.

Following are points raised during the discussion on seed raising -

- *Neoregelias* in general are quite fertile.. They do not self pollinate but are easily pollinated by bird, bee and human hand, and the pollen remains viable for a considerable time.
- Patience is required in hybridising. do not just give up if the first cross is not successful.
- Do not only select plants for appearance, consider all qualities.

*Study Group* (cont)

- Always do the cross both ways and, if possible, at different times. If one plant is particularly good and is worth the effort, try crossing with several different plants. They are not all compatible and it is only trial and error which will produce viable seeds.
- Using species as parents does not necessarily produce better offspring. Selection for quality is a preferred option.
- Variegated plants are always popular. If used as a parent a percentage of seeds will produce variegation which can then be carefully selected for future reproduction.
- Do not be too quick to 'select the best and destroy the rest'. It can often take a couple of generations to produce the quality required.
- Bromeliads are low nutrient plants and can be damaged by too much fertiliser at seedling stage.
- Consideration be given to adding slow release fertilisers to bottom layer when planting out seedlings so that it would be available in smaller doses over a longer period. Once Neoregelias are established and growing to mature plants fertilising should no longer be required to produce colourful plants.
- Roots require oxygenation which must be considered when selecting suitable potting medium. Granulated polystyrene added to the mixture has a two-fold effect. It holds some moisture which encourages root growth and at the same time aerates the mixture.
- Fungi presents a problem in seed raising. Bill has found that when he used imported Vriesea seeds they were obviously not as fresh as his own stock and produced some spectacularly coloured fungi. This problem he overcame by cutting off the 'parachute' and only planted the seed.

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**Featuring colour photographs of Guzmania danielli, G. Orangeade, Vriesea Asahi, Vriesea Hybrids (group), Tillandsia bulbosa, T. duratii, Aechmea cucullata, A. servitensis v. exigua, Portea fosteriana, Neoregelia Hybrids (group).**

**Available from the Secretary at \$1.50 each (includes envelope,  
postage and packing)**

*Books for Sale*

	Member	Non Member
'Colourful Bromeliads' by Victoria Padilla	\$15.00	\$16.50
'Bromeliads' by Bill Seaborn	\$4.50	\$5.00
'Bromeliads for Everyone' by Bea Hansen	\$2.50	\$3.00
'Bromeliads for Everyone 2' by Bea Hansen	\$11.50	\$13.00
'Bromeliads in Australia' by Brom Society of NSW	\$2.00	\$3.00
'Growing Bromeliads' by Brom. Soc. Aust	\$11.00	\$12.50
'Genus Tillandsia' by Paul Isley III	\$3.00	\$3.50
'A Bromeliad Glossary' by B.S.I.	\$3.50	\$4.00
'Bromeliads - A Cultural Manual' by B.S.I.	\$4.00	\$4.50
'Bromeliads VII Conference Proceedings' by BSQ Inc. (1993)	\$20.00	\$22.00
'Bromeliads III Conference Proceedings' by BSQ Inc (1985)	\$10.00	\$11.00
'Distributional Checklist of the Genus Tillandsia' by Lloyd Kiff	\$23.00	\$25.50

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