

Bromeliaceae



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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

P.O. BOX 565, FORTITUDE VALLEY
QUEENSLAND, 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. Classes for Beginners commence at 7.30 p.m. and the General Meeting at 8 p.m.

FIELD DAYS are held bi-monthly at the gardens of members as advised in this journal.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family \$20, Single \$15—payable on January 1.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

FRONT:

***Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'**, a cultivar of *Quesnelia marmorata*, would surely enhance the collection of most enthusiasts. Surprisingly, it has been around for some years but can only be found in a few collections.

The photographed plant was placed among a mass of other bromeliads, each flaunting large flowering bracts, in this year's Bromeliad Society of Queensland's "Ekka" display in the Royal National Horticultural Pavilion.

Our society's display created genuine interest. Visitors kept stewards busy asking the usual questions about the society, the availability of plants and, "I just have to have THAT classical plant with the curled leaves".

The judging panel's accreditation of our display was a second place, but the general public voted *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman' No. 1.

Plant grown by BOB CROSS.

Photographed by DOUG UPTON.

BACK:

***Aechmea* 'Wardell' alias *alopecurus*:** Keith Bradtberg brought a plant to a meeting of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia for investigation. I was able to prove it was not *A. alopecurus* (as labelled) which was the easy part! Was it a hybrid or a species with another name or even a new species? From the characteristics of the inflorescence, the plant seemed to be in the *Pothuava* subgenus of *Aechmea*, which narrowed the search.

Photos and measurements were taken. Differences from *A. alopecurus* included leaf shape and spine length, shape of floral bracts and length of terminal spine, colour of sepals and colour of petals. The scape bracts were numerous and narrow with much overlapping; the petals were pale blue, slightly hooded; floral bracts entire; and the spike 4 cm long and 2.5 cm diameter with a topknot.

Keith Bradtberg's plant came from John Catlan in Queensland, who had got his plant from Pinegrove Nursery in New South Wales in 1992 under their number of FN 136. The trail ends there but clearly in the 1980s, very few knew the identity of plants in this group.

Elton Leme has now seen photos of this plant and assures me it must be a hybrid with a possibility of one parent being *Aechmea nudicaulis* because of the arrangement of the scape bracts. The plant is not impressive but could move around Australia and cause headaches in future years with the name of *Aechmea alopecurus* and I suggest it be called 'Wardell' which is its point of arrival in Australia. If this plant originated from Seidel in Brazil, which I suspect, it is possible it may be in the USA with the name of *Aechmea alopecurus*!

The name will be listed in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry and a photo of this plant will be in <http://fcbs.org>.

Story and photograph contributed by DEREK BUTCHER.

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*Please send all contributions to:***The Editor, Ray Nicholson, 11 Malory St, Balmoral, Qld. 4171.****Phone (07) 3399 5296**

Brisbane — Full of Surprises

By DEREK BUTCHER

MY VISIT TO BRISBANE in August 2000 answered some of my queries and I was able to have discussions on queries the Brisbanites had. Needless to say they were on identification and should be openly discussed. If a plant is worth growing it is worthy of a name.

When you raise plants from seed you should interpret the results as Bill Morris always pointed out. This applies to not only when you think you have a hybrid but also when you think you do not have a hybrid.

Tillandsias are always on the menu when I visit Neville Ryan and we have different experiences to make things worth discussing. It must be 30 years ago that I started to collect tillandsias from Karel Knize in Peru and therefore plants directly from the wild. This trend continued with Len Colgan making trips to Argentina and Bolivia and later with Renate Ehlers and her Mexican trips. Neville has experience with tillandsias from nurseries and notably Rolly Reilly where he had to decipher the intricacies of hybridising whether intentional or accidental. So there is always something to discuss.

As you may be aware, I now seek a photograph as the minimum requirement before listing a cultivar name and some of the decisions we made are on hold. However, one plant obliged and was captured on film. This plant has an interesting history because it will be around Queensland under the name *Tillandsia concolor* v. *rubra*. Neville came across this plant some 10 years ago when he acquired an offset from Heather Sullivan from Beenleigh way. Heather then moved to Roma and lost interest in bromeliads but to continue the link the name 'Roma' was suggested as the cultivar name. Neville believed that *T. concolor* had no part in the equation but that one parent had to be *Tillandsia flabellata* v. *rubra* (this could be where the 'rubra' came from!) and possibly *T. fasciculata*. I agree, but if you know this plant or look at its photo on the web site fcbs.org you can make your own suggestions.

We spent a whole day at Jacobs Well and had a marvellous time wandering around the collection of John and Genny. Margaret was looking for spare offsets and I was photographing. I'll just have to tell you about *Neoregelia* 'Anna 38' which has a doubtful career but shows how Skotak hybrids sport and sometimes for the better. This clone did not show particular promise but one offset turned out to be almost identical to Grace Goode's famed *Neoregelia* 'Charrn'. This continued for a number of years or so and a further sport produced 'Absolutely

Fabulous'. I captured this on film and will make mention of it in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry. It may be a fleeting glimpse but then it may not — might settle down. The pessimist in me suggests I was correct in taking its picture NOW! Why is it absolutely fabulous? Well, imagine a *N.* 'Charm' with narrow dark brown edges to the leaves! The closest you are likely to get to this plant in the immediate future is to check it out on <http://fcb.org> where its photograph will be displayed.

A plant that impressed had the dull name of *N. cruenta variegata* on the label. If Americans can name 'Sun King' as a species clone of *N. cruenta*, this plant deserves a better name. Under Brisbane conditions, even juvenile plants have wide yellow leaves with the narrowest of green margins and the obligatory blood-red tip. Shane Zaghini is involved with this puzzle and the plant seems to have originated in the USA. Interestingly this outstanding plant does not feature in Shane's books. All suggested leads in the USA have been contacted but everyone, so far, has denied any involvement but want an offset! If you will bear with us, it will be in the BCR update with the name 'Goldilocks'.

Doug Upton had a challenge in the shape of a so-called *Tillandsia caput-medusae* hybrid which seems to have a bit of *T. seleriana* in it. It had hybrid vigour but I had to consider the conditions it grew under because it could well grow much smaller under Adelaide conditions! This clone seems destined to continue to be in circulation for years to come (after all, Neville is impressed by it!) and perhaps should be given a cultivar name. Doug is on notice to take its photograph next time it flowers, provided he stands well back to get all the plant in the frame!

The Olive Branch was just as exciting as Jacobs Well but from a different point of view. Not only did I see the hybrids done by the Study Group but found many other different plants I had not seen.

One problem I could now solve revolved around a *Hohenbergiopsis guatemalensis* that, when grown in Western Australia, has no scape to the inflorescence. This had me worried because *Hohenbergia* and *Hohenbergiopsis* have rather tall inflorescences. The only real difference I can find between these two genera is that *Hohenbergiopsis* does not have appendages at the base of the petals. So you cannot really tell the difference without a bit of poking about! Anyway, Olive confessed that her *Hohenbergia guatemalensis* didn't have a scape either but she was convinced that this had been caused by a neoregelia somewhere. She had obtained seedlings from Pinegrove Nursery in NSW and had even sold a few before they flowered. Clearly a neoregelia had supplied pollen when it was thought self-pollination had occurred. This combination is

unique. We will need to think up a new nothogenera to accommodate this rarity. The rules that apply for naming such nothogenera restricts us to a rather cumbersome *xNeobergiopsis*. To remind us of its origins we decided to call it *xNeobergiopsis* 'Pinegrove'.

I have friendly rivalry on the Internet as to who grows the proper *Hohenbergiopsis guatemalensis* and the Californians are ahead with a somewhat depauperate specimen. I am keen to be in a winning position so if anyone has a photo of the real plant I would be grateful.

Another bigeneric that impressed at Olive's place was *xGuzvriesea* 'Marian' although on my return I realised it is registered as *xGuzvriesea* 'Marian Oppenheimer'. This full name should prevail. What I can't understand is why I hadn't seen this plant before as it has been in the USA for almost 30 years. It is described in the Cultivar Registry as "A tight cluster of vibrant round branches forming a long-lasting torch-like inflorescence". Perhaps its availability has been slowed by its reluctance to offset because it should be on many people's "want" list.

Perhaps the most exciting find was in some back corner where I saw these crimson flames. On closer inspection of the label I read *A. dealbata* 'Sam Smith'. I have *A. dealbata* allegedly collected by Mulford Foster and an *A. dealbata* collected as *A. esseri* but this vivid crimson colour in the primary bracts was out of the box! If we remember that Lyman Smith had difficulty in separating *A. dealbata* and *A. fasciata*, you will perhaps excuse my doubts about the species of this plant! I contacted Sam and Hattie-Lou Smith who collected the plant some 10 years ago in possibly Espirito Santo, Brazil. They tell me they have this plant growing wild in their garden. We agreed it was unique in the bract colour We also agreed on the name 'Fireman Sam'. Olive was at a bit of a loss regarding this name but even Len Colgan in Adelaide knows of the exploits of Postman Pat and Fireman Sam on children's television. A bit quirky but an easy name to remember!


Editorial

IN WISHING ALL MEMBERS the Compliments of the season, I would also like to sincerely thank those who contributed articles or letters to *Bromeliaceae* during the past year. Without the support of those members, *Bromeliaceae* would not exist.

Our treasurer is another person who requires the assistance of members at this time of the year. You would make life much easier for him if you paid your annual subscriptions before the due date. See the notice in "Society Diary" and the enclosed payment slip.—RAY NICKO.

NATURE AND NURTURE: Some Unusual Neoregelias

By GEOFF LAWN

 OF THE CURRENT 56 bromeliad genera, neoregelias are easily the most hybridised, judging by their 158 pages listed in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (1998), comprising over 1600 entries. Unregistered cultivars, including hybrids, would probably push that figure conservatively into 10,000 different types, so it is indeed difficult to describe and separate from the pack some unusual clones but here are a few.

Of course, the subtleties of their foliage colour and markings, rosette form and growth habit are greatly influenced more by maximum and/or optimum light available than any other factor in their culture, together with the genetic make-up. Many of their photos are on the Website <http://fcb.org> under the Menu's photo index.

N. 'Wild Cherry', a Richard Oeser hybrid of unknown parentage from the '60s or '70s, is a stocky broad-leaved miniature to 20 cm tall. The pinkish-green leaves are so heavily spotted and blotched cherry-red, the rosette looks like it has the measles! *N. 'Wild Cherry'* is close clumping and soon fills a small basket where it shows to best effect.

N. 'Goodnight', newly named by Geoff Lawn, was imported by Perth grower Ken Shaw in 1983 under its parentage *N. concentrica* X 'Irene', from Florida nurseryman Charles Coolbaugh's Exotic Bromeliads nursery. The hybridist is unknown and as expected from such parentage *N. 'Goodnight'* is large and broad-leaved, to 90 cm diameter. The basal foliage tone of pinkish-putty is inherited from *N. 'Irene'* which is a select form of what used to be incorrectly known and grown as *N. johannis* 'Rubra'. Concentrica-like reddish crossbands and blotches complement its lavender-purple nest.

N. 'Shelldance', named and imported by Don and Alice Woods from Shelldance Nursery (San Francisco), is one of the F2 progeny of *N. 'Fairy Paint'*, Ed Hummel's original cross of unknown parentage. Raised from seed by Michael Rothenberg, *N. 'Shelldance'* is a rather freakish-looking bronze green rosette to 50 cm across with wavy brown margined leaves. As with some other variegates, the outer leaves' stripes fade at maturity, but still produces a red-flushed centre.

The "Mother" of a new generation of red-lined variegates is *N. 'Rosea Striata'*, also known as 'Rosea Lineata' and 'Rubra Lineatum'.

The debate is to identify which clone keys out to *N. carolinae* and which to *N. farinosa*. Regardless, a select sport or hybrid of reputedly the *N. carolinae* form is *N. 'Bird Rock'*, imported by D. and A. Woods from Pamela Koide's Californian nursery. Medium sized to 60 cm diameter, the broad bronze-green leaves are lustrous on the obverse side and farinose on the reverse with pronounced central burgundy stripes. Cup colour is a rich fuchsia-pink.

In similar mould is *N. 'Burgundy'*, parentage and hybridist unknown, but possibly identical to a clone Olwen Ferris used to sell as *N. carolinae rosea-lineata* 'Red Form'. The strap-like maroon leaves are finely striated red, which is more evident in lower light. Cup colour is pinkish-red which suffuses into the foliage 50 cm to 60 cm across.

A largish miniature to 25 cm diameter was distributed around Australia from Bill Morris as *N. chlorosticta* but its solid garnet-red foliage with minute darker spots is so different to other clones. Derek Butcher tried keying out this cultivar and it is closely allied to *N. camorimiana*, so the label became "*N. aff. camorimiana*". Our cultivar does not have a coloured heart as with this species but nevertheless makes an attractive basket specimen. (Under Adelaide culture this plant has a crimson centre, Exotica #32 — Typist's comment!)

In an increasingly-saturated market of more genetically complex hybrids and cultivars, one wonders which will remain distinctive and popular with the gardening public. Not as clear as Olympic gold medal winners, long-term survival of particular cultivars could be determined by such factors as:

1. Hardiness and adaptability to a range of cultural conditions.
2. Availability, determined by relative vigour at reproducing (unless tissue cultured en masse) and consumer demand.
3. Price, variable by factors 1 and 2 plus the local economy.
4. Individual appeal, that intangible personalised quality where the grower simply likes the look of the plant or its overall use in the garden, shadehouse, patio, indoors. etc.

For a specialist grower, a clone's uniqueness may include:

- A. Its rarity value (Collector's item);
- B. An interesting botanical history; or
- C. The challenge to grow to perfection and realise the full potential beauty of a particularly demanding bromeliad.

PLEASE NOTE: The society goes into Christmas recess after the November meeting. First meeting in 2001 is on January 18.

Cultivar Registrations

By PETER HUDDY

IN THE ARTICLE "Cultivar Corner", BSI Journal Vol. 50 No. 2 page 84 by the new Registrar of Bromeliad Cultivars, Derek Butcher, he states that grex formulae are not acceptable for registration, nor should they be permitted on the show bench. Despite these rulings, at the recent World Conference the top prize went to a plant with a grex formula. Obviously the Yanks make the rules but only for everybody else. I believe they have now been told by the "quiet one".

As I have personally amassed a fairly large collection of vriesea cultivars and have found several other nice collections in South Australia, it is obvious that there is a number of plants circulating with the wrong name, grex formula or nothing at all.

It would be a travesty if these lovely plants were to lose their place in collections due to the lack of foresight of the hybridist to honour them with a name. Since I developed the 'H' number system for cataloguing vriesea cultivars which groups those with similar appearance together, it seems a natural progression to describe, name, photograph and register as many of these waifs as possible. Why not become part of this process?

Below is a list of the information received, where forthcoming and the name I have attached to them. Some may not be impressed by my name selections but it is a start. The task will be fairly long term as with the local collections there are both long held plants and new acquisitions and naturally they don't all flower at once.

DATA	NAME
Belgian hybrid <i>x rodigasiana</i>	'Mags'
<i>rodigasiana</i> hybrid	'Margaret B'
<i>platynema x saundersii</i>	'Shiraz'
<i>saundersii x platynema</i>	'RoRo'
<i>bituminosa x saundersii</i>	'Highway Beauty'
<i>erythrodactylon</i> hybrid	'Lois'
<i>saundersii x 'Vigeri'</i>	'O'hiss'
<i>saundersii x 'Grande'</i>	'Pete's first'
<i>philippocoburgii x ensiformis</i>	'Atacruf'
<i>scalaris</i> large form <i>x 'Red Baron'</i>	'April's Fire'
<i>fenestralis x erythrodactylon</i>	'Dinah'
<i>saundersii x 'Rubin'</i>	'Saucy Ruby'

Three plants with unknown parentage are named 'BeeBee', 'Patola' and 'Gaylia'. (continued next page)

The thoughts behind some of these names are probably misguided but are names no less. Some are after family members or other collectors *ie* 'RoRo' or 'Margaret B'; locations *ie* 'Patola'. Others refer to colour *ie* red = 'Shiraz'; or parent references *ie* *bituminosa* bitumen, 'Highway Beauty' or *saundersii* x 'Rubin' 'Saucy Ruby'.

My main drive is on those plants that have a formula but are worthy of recording and should therefore be given a name even if the unknown hybridist was not prepared to do so. Please take note of what I have done so far and if you have difficulty in identifying a plant I have already named please let me know. If you are aware of any other formulae plants you think worthy of naming why not contact Derek Butcher direct just to check it has not been named before.

Bromeliads at Mount Tamborine

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, was a red-letter day at Mount Tamborine when Beaudesert Shire Mayor Munn officially opened the new Broadwalk and the Phyllis and Don Hobbs' Bromeliad Garden in the Mount Tamborine Botanic Gardens.

Some two years ago, Bromeliad Society of Queensland members Phyllis and Don Hobbs were asked by the Mount Tamborine Garden Club president, Mrs Dineice Wylie, to give a talk on bromeliads at a Garden Club meeting. They accepted the invitation and later were taken to see the fledgling Botanic Gardens. Phyllis and Don asked Mrs Wylie if she would like them to plant some bromeliads in the gardens.

Their offer was accepted and, like Topsy, the idea just grew and grew! For two years, Phyllis and Don, ably assisted by another BSQ member Mike Symmons, cleared the lantana-infested site and, with the help of the council, carted and placed logs, large stones and boulders.

Responding to Mayor Munn's speech at the official opening, Phyllis said the project was "interesting and enjoyable". A bronze plaque mounted on a boulder and set in a beautiful display of their bromeliads, acknowledges the Hobbs' contribution of their work and gift of bromeliads.

Planting additional bromeliads and maintenance are on-going projects which will keep Phyllis and Don occupied for some years.

The Mount Tamborine Botanic Gardens are located in a natural amphitheatre at Eagle Heights, only a short distance from the Tamborine-Oxenford Road.

Cultivar Nomenclature Re-revisited

By MIKE SYMMONS

IT IS UNFORTUNATE that Derek Butcher's negative vibes spilled over completely into his response to my article. If it was seen by him as a personal attack then I apologise.

Before handing my article to the Editor I showed it to several experienced members of our society and asked whether they considered (a) it raised valid points for which an explanation would be valuable; and (b) it could be seen as too personal. The response was (a) yes and (b) no.

Derek chose personal criticism rather than any attempt to address the points I raised. I doubt any subject in the nomenclature debate has caused as much, often heated, discussion as that of showing cultivar name alone for species. I thought I had put up a reasonable argument for the retention of the species name *eg Aechmea lueddmanniana* 'Mend' and hoped that Derek, or some other learned enthusiast, would reply with an explanation of, and argument for, its omission.

It is also unfortunate that his criticism of my exhibition plants came just when, as Show Steward, I have been trying to encourage more participation. As Registrar and with the photographs from *Bromeliaceae* it would have been helpful if he had indicated what he thought the labels should have read rather than just criticise my labelling. I have never yet seen a plant of *Vriesea (bituminosa x saundersii)* with a cultivar name though it is in many collections. If registration of *Neoregelia* 'Thelma's Choice' was delayed awaiting confirmation of parentage by Chester Skotak it is hardly my fault nor could I be expected to know, if registration was pending. Did Derek question the name used by growers during his recent trip to northern NSW and Queensland?

Unless as a red-herring, I do not understand Derek's decision to bring my orchid collection and the orchid rules into his article. The suggestion that I would claim that ALL my orchid hybrids are correctly registered with the IRAOH is absurd in the extreme. Even the most amateur of growers would know that there are many thousands of hybrids that are never registered. Their labels carry their parentage. It would be a brave man who would suggest that all these unregistered plants be destroyed; after all, is a plant's worth not in the eye of the owner? It may sit for decades before being registered. Indeed, I have registered very old hybrids, with no knowledge of originator or date, but

plants I used for breeding. I am sure it is the same with our bromeliads, we will always have many unregistered plants whose labels show their parentage.

It is rather absurd to say that *Vriesea* (*bituminosa* x *saundersii*) would not be a suitable permanent epithet under orchid rules. How could it be under any rules? It is not an epithet (name); it is a label showing an unregistered hybrid or one where the owner is unaware of registration. That *Neoregelia* 'Thelma's Choice' would be unsuitable under orchid rules is obvious. The orchid rules register the grex.

Derek's claim that I was not interested enough to obtain or read the ICNCP rules goes too far. It is not true.

On the subject of the ICNCP rules, I have to wonder, how is it that it says:

- 16.1 Plants brought from the wild into cultivation retain the names that are applied to the same taxa in nature.
- 16.3 Plants of a species or other infraspecific taxon brought into cultivation may not demonstrate the range of variations associated with that taxon in the wild and therefore cannot be said to be coextensive, if an assemblage of those individual plants has one or more attributes that make it worthwhile distinguishing, it may be given a cultivar name.
- 17.1 The full name of a cultivar is the accepted botanical name in Latin form of the taxon to which it is assigned, followed by the cultivar epithet.

Aechmea lueddemanniana 'Mend' is a perfect example of Articles 16.3 and 17.1.

How then can Derek say "cultivar names should be able to stand alone and *Aechmea lueddemanniana* 'Mend' is frowned upon because we should be writing *Aechmea* 'Mend'?"

I do not intend pursuing this matter further in this forum.

Like all good debates, they come to an end. Both parties have put forward their views and members can only benefit. As I said, all good things come to an end and we will now call a halt to this particular discussion.—EDITOR.

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND PRESENTS? See the Librarian's stock of Bromeliad postcards and books . . . or see the Secretary for our society's badges.

Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society

By BOB PAULSEN

THE SAYING "rushed off your feet" was all but true on Saturday, September 16 at the Buderim Spring Flower Show when our fledgling society staged its first display and sale of plants.

Seven members contributed stunning neoregelias and guzmanias, flowering vreseas, orthophytums and a beautiful *Aechmea biflorus*. These were mounted on mesh in a corner of the hall and arranged on the floor. The effect was very colourful and the bromeliad corner became the centre of attention for hundreds of people who visited the show over the weekend. A display like this had never been seen by many visitors.

We are grateful to Joy and Doug Upton and Cheryl Basic who did a great job showing the plants to advantage. The willing co-operation and enthusiastic help of our members was, for me, one of the most notable features of this first venture of its kind for us.

* * * *

THE FIRST GATHERING of people interested in bromeliads from the Sunshine Coast was held in November 1999 at Grace Goode's garden. Since then, those enthusiasts meet on the third Saturday afternoon of each month in the gardens of members or in the beautiful gardens of good friends in the Buderim area.

There is a lively interest in bromeliads throughout the district. People are coming from the area extending from Morayfield to Gympie. Average attendance is about 25.

This society held its first trip to Gympie in October and it was most successful with a full coach and several cars.

The last activity for the year will be on November 18 with a visit to Buderim's "Shady Tree" for a special catered luncheon at 12 noon in the beautiful garden setting which features a display of bromeliads. This will conclude an enjoyable and worthwhile year learning, sharing and making new friends.

Our society's sincere thanks are extended to members of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland, the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society and Lyn Hudson (Cairns) for their help and encouragement in the formation of our society.

The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society's secretary is Mrs Phyl Eckersley, 17 Coachwood Street, Buderim, 4556 (phone 5445 1984).

How Good Are Your Plants? PART 7

Edited extracts from the BSI's Handbook for Judges

Criteria for judging the Genus Neoregelia

NEOREGELIA is a relatively small genus of about 70 recognized species from eastern Brazil, Columbia, and Peru. Named after the 19th century botanist, Eduard von Regel, superintendent of the Botanical Garden in St Petersburg, Russia, they underwent several name changes before getting their present classification. The French botanist, Charles Lemaire, created the name *Regelia* in honor of von Regel, not knowing it had already been given to plants in the Myrtaceae family. Later the German botanist, O. Kuntze, changed *Regelia* to *Aregelia*. It was accepted by Carl Mez in his monograph on the Bromeliaceae in 1935. In 1954 or 1955, Dr. Lyman B. Smith, the noted American authority on bromeliads, renamed these plants *Neoregelia*.

Plant collectors returned from the Americas with bromeliads as early as 1700. By 1753, fourteen species had been classified by Carolus Linnaeus in his *Species Plantarum*, several of which were *neoregelias*.

In native habitats, neoregelias grow near the lower level of the rain forest, on fallen trees or lower branches. They are found from sea level to 5000 foot altitudes. Many grow saxicolously in full sun on the sandy, rocky seashore, while others are epiphytes which demand shade.

The plants vary from 6 inches tall to as large as 4 feet in diameter. Leaves may be shiny green, frosted with silver scales, mahogany-banded, spotted, striped, or marbled. Some species have slender, pointed leaves; others have broad, rounded leaves. The flower head is always deep in the center of the rosette. Flower stems are very short and the main stem is extremely shortened so that all flowers stand in a level plane. The three-petaled flowers vary from white to blue and violet. Some petals are white, tipped with blue. The sepals are usually green.

All members of the *Neoregelia* genus have an inferior ovary and fruit that is a berry. *Neoregelias* can be distinguished from *nidulariums* in three ways:

1. *Neoregelia* flower petals often twist closed when they are finished blooming. *Nidularium* petals usually remain straight when closed.
2. *Neoregelia* blooms nest in the center without bracts. *Nidulariums* have several rows of flowers separated by colorful bracts.
3. *Neoregelias* *always* bloom low in the cup. This is not true for all *nidulariums*.

Neoregelias can be divided into two groups— simple inflorescences and compound inflorescences. In this handbook, they will be divided into six categories to enable a judge to refer quickly to the proper group when an unfamiliar species is encountered.

Group 1—Colored Centers

Members of this group such as *N. carolinae forma carolinae*, *N. farinosa*, *N. johannis*, and *N. concentrica* usually grow in a lovely rosette, with center leaves rather upright until maturity, then becoming quite colorful. Intense coloring is usually limited to inner leaves (bracts) and the colors may vary from pink to red, violet and purple.

Although the flower petals last only one day, the blooming period may last three to four weeks. Inner bracts on many neoregelias remain colorful for six to twelve months. The spent petals in the pincushion inflorescence should be carefully removed with sharp scissors. When grown in good light, outer leaves also assume a rosy, copper, or lavender flush.

Some species and hybrids of Group 1 have naturally narrow leaves. *Neoregelia pineliana*, *N. princeps* and a few others in this complex group remain slender-leaved no matter how excellent the growing conditions are and should not be penalized for not being compact.

Neoregelia concentrica, *N. coriacea*, *N. johannis*, etc, become very robust, compact, and symmetrical in good light. The judges should use experience and discretion in grading this group that may have green, floppy, overgrown leaves. In cultivation, startling results have been obtained growing neoregelias in poor potting mixes and exposing them to optimal light. This usually makes the plant more compact, and intensifies its natural color.

Group 2—Non-Coloring Centers

The second group of neoregelias show no color change at blooming time, such as *N. marmorata*, *N. mooreana*, *N. spectabilis*, etc. Leaves of these rosette-shaped plants are fairly stiff and covered with gray or white scales on one or both sides.

Group 2 includes plants with prominent mottling, spotting, or banding on the leaves. Colors range from light yellow-green with mahogany barring to purple leaves with light green marbling. They often have red tips at the leaf's apex.

The judging panel should consider symmetry, size, and cleanliness in this group with perhaps additional emphasis on horticultural perfection since the bloom is insignificant. (continued next page)

Group 3—Miniatures

This group is composed of miniatures such as *N. ampullacea*, *N. hoehneana*, *N. punctatissima*, and *N. pauciflora* which are 5 to 8 inches tall and are usually tubular rosettes. Often they are very stoloniferous such as *N. pendula* var. *pendula*, which propagates itself on 39 inch stolons. Miniatures are suited for hanging tree fern baskets and are attractive in clusters. Care should be taken to check all plants are in perfect condition and overall presentation is symmetrical.

In miniatures, one may find that some leaf bracts become colorful when the inflorescence appears, and many do not. The leaves may be smooth, shiny green, spotted, banded, or barred as in Groups 1 and 2.

Group 4—Variegated Plants

This small group deserves merit because the few known species are so attractive. *N. carolinae* forma *tricolor*, *N. carolinae* 'Perfecta Tricolor' (a clone of the former: a patented plant and by far the most beautifully variegated), *N. carolinae* 'Meyendorffii Variegata' (in hort.), and *N. carolinae* 'Meyendorffii Albomarginata' (in hort.), *N. concentrica* var. *albomarginata* (in hort.), and *N. marmorata* var. *variegata* (in hort.) are the only ones known by the writer.

The *N. carolinae* forms have been favorites of nurserymen and hobbyists for many years and are always seen in bromeliad shows. This group benefits as do Groups 1, 2, and 3 from good growing conditions and maximum light.

Group 5—Neoregelias with Tubular Conformation

While the culture of this group is no different to that of others, their conformation is tubular and leaves are reflexed and abruptly bend down. This group contains plants such as *N. eleutheropetala*, some clones of *N. hatschbachii*, *N. pabstiana*, and *N. sarmentosa*. Inner leaves are often longer than the outer leaves. These two factors give them an unusual shape when viewed laterally as well as radially. They are an interesting group whose increasing appearance on show tables necessitates judges being aware of their different conformation.

Group 6—Hybrids

Many hybrids have been developed over the last 15 to 20 years to produce better leaf color and more compact rosettes. Neoregelias can be grown from seed to blooming size in three years which makes them natural candidates for hybridizing. It is unfortunate many hybridizers have pollinated plants indiscriminately and have not kept proper records of their crosses.

Group 7—Narrow-leaved *Neoregelia* Hybrids

While the majority of *Neoregelia* hybrids introduced in the trade in recent years consists of medium to broad-leaved plants, a judge should be familiar with many hybrids which are narrow-leaved by virtue of their parentage, in order to avoid injustices in judging by making the erroneous assumption that the narrow leaves reflect faulty culture.

Dr Richard Oeser and Howard Yamamoto, have hybridized some lovely narrow-leaved neoregelias. Dr. Oeser created *N. chlorosticta* X *N. pauciflora* hybrids, some of which have the rather narrow-leaved, tubular shape of *N. pauciflora*. These hybrids grow upright and vary from red or green foliage with green or red marbling, ovals, or flecks, respectively, to the delightful chartreuse leaved hybrid with deep maroon banding known in the trade as *N. pauciflora* 'Yellow.'

Dr. Oeser also produced other *N. chlorosticta* narrow-leaved hybrids which grow in a somewhat open rosette, one of which is known as *N.* 'Rot Chianti' and other strikingly colorful narrow leaved hybrids, the foliage of which has a pink flush with splotches of pale chartreuse. One of Yamamoto's hybrids which is narrow leaved is *N. carolinae* X 'Davis No. 2'.

Hummel also hybridized narrow-leaved crosses with *N. tristis* and *N. princeps* as parents. These are noted for their pink or lavender foliage suffused with green flecks. Richter's *N.* 'Feuerland' is an example of small, very colorful, narrow leaved plant. Yamamoto's *N. tristis* X *farinosa* falls into this latter group.

Cultural Perfection

As stated earlier, exhibitors should present entries spotlessly clean and meticulously groomed. Leaf cups should be free of algae, debris, mineral salts, and the plant should look healthy and robust. Special attention should be paid to glossy species such as *N. carolinae*, *N. princeps*, *N. pineliana*, etc., as these are often prone to pinpoint and an armored scale on the lower leaves of the rosette.

Conformation of Plant

Check symmetry from above and the side. Large tank neoregelias should be carefully checked to be sure the cup has not been pulled off center. If the plant is not perfectly upright, the weight of water in the cup will ruin the symmetry.

Though some argue that 'baby leaves' and/or juvenile growth reflect good culture, they detract from symmetry and should be removed. Neoregelias quite frequently show two stages of growth because of a change in the light level, and/or over fertilization.

Colour and Marking of Plant

Geographical location should be considered. Northern growers with long, dull, snowy days, never receive enough ultraviolet light for plants to color as vividly as they do in the south ('north' and 'south' refers to USA; the opposite applies in Australia). The judges should be aware of the color potential the plants are capable of attaining.

Personal preference for color should not affect point scoring. Color breaks, such as a solid green stripe on a leaf of a speckled variety, should be penalized here, as should lack of appropriate markings and/or prominent spines on those plants noted for these attributes.

Inflorescence—Size, Quality, Color, Quantity

Neoregelia inflorescences in Group 1, where the leaf bracts are vivid and colorful, are given more attention than Group 2 which have insignificant pincushions. Check the pincushion for old, spent flowers, freshness of sepals and bracts, and slimy residue that often results from having a depressed inflorescence.

Maturity of Plant

At maturity, size depends largely on the species or hybrid. Neoregelias, like most other genera, vary from 5 inches tall to 24 inches tall and from 2 inches to 4 feet in diameter. Know the plants and learn to recognize juvenile growth on offsets and seedlings.

Point Scoring

See Page 10 in the January/February, 2000, *Bromeliaceae*.

MEMBERS who were not at the October meeting are reminded to bring a plate of "eats" if attending the November Break-up.

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VISITORS WELCOME

Vriesea taritubensis

GEOFF LAWN responds to queries raised in Bromeliaceae during the year.

ORIGINALLY discovered near the Brazilian town of Tarituba, after which it was named, this species has two varieties. Botanists Pereira and Penna named and described var. *taritubensis* in "Bradea" (1983), published by the Herbarium Brodeanum (Rio de Janeiro), followed by var. *brevisepala* (meaning short sepals) in 1985. The holotype specimens are deposited in the Herbarium Brodeanum.

The grower whose specimens were pictured in the May/June Bromeliaceae needs to locate and translate original full descriptions in Portuguese to verify and key out which variety he/she grows.

Derek Butcher informs me this particular clone was brought into Australia for Olive Trevor by Elton Leme during his 1993 visit.

References: (a) Bromeliad Binomials 1998 (Luther/Sieff); and (b) De Rebus Bromeliacearum I in Selbyana 15(1) [1994].

Thanks Geoff. The committee has decided to credit your account with two sweetsies!—Ed.

Annual Subscriptions

AS MEMBERS will read in "Society Diary", your annual fees are due at year's end. You can help your treasurer by completing the enclosed form and returning it to the society before December 31. Subscriptions remain at \$15 single, \$20 family and \$A20 overseas.

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Competition Schedule for 2001

*Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Sections in Each Class
of the Mini-Shows and in the Popular Vote*

- January 18: **MINI-SHOW** — Class 1: AECHMEA species and hybrids
Class 2: VRIESEA species and hybrids
Class 3: DYCKIA species and hybrids
Class 4: Any Other Mature Bromeliad *
- February 15: **POPULAR VOTE**, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid
- March 15: **POPULAR VOTE**, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid
- April 19: **MINI-SHOW** — Class 1: BROMELIOIDEAE not listed elsewhere
Class 2: GUZMANIA species and hybrids
Class 3: PITCAIRNIA species and hybrids
Class 4: Any Other Mature Bromeliad *
- May 17: **POPULAR VOTE**, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid
- June 21: **POPULAR VOTE**, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid
- July 19: **MINI-SHOW** — Class 1: BILLBERGIA species and hybrids
Class 2: TILLANDSIOIDEAE not listed elsewhere
Class 3: NEOREGELIA up to 200 mm when mature
Class 4: Any Other Mature Bromeliad *
- August 16: **POPULAR VOTE**, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid
- September 20: **POPULAR VOTE**, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid
- October 18: **MINI-SHOW** — Class 1: NEOREGELIA over 200 mm when mature
Class 2: TILLANDSIA species and hybrids
Class 3: PITCAIRNIOIDEAE not listed elsewhere
Class 4: Any Other Mature Bromeliad *
- *Class 4 is for any fully mature flowering bromeliad that would not be in its prime for the appropriate Mini-Show.

No competitions in November or December.

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September Meeting Report

CHERYL BASIC showed slides of the many beautiful bromeliads she saw at the San Francisco conference and her visit to Hawaii. The popular vote competition resulted:

NOVICE: 1st P. Kesby, *Tillandsia sprengellana*; 2nd V. and J. Duncan, *Canistrum fosterianum*.

INTERMEDIATE: 1st C. and D. Cutcliffe, *Tillandsia fasciculata*.

ADVANCED: 1st N. Ryan, *Tillandsia streptocarpa*; 2nd B. Genn, *Tillandsia umbellata*.

October Meeting Report

A REPRESENTATIVE from Horticultural Solutions gave the above-average attendance an interesting talk on his firm's fertilizers and bark treatments. Neville Ryan gave the judges' comments on the Mini-Show, which resulted as follows:

NOVICE — MINIATURE NEOREGELIAS: 1st P. Kesby, 'Fireball'.
 TILLANDSIA SPECIES: 1st P. Kesby, *tectorum*; 2nd P. Kesby, *juncea*. ANY
 OTHER SPECIES: 1st C. and J. Jacobs, *Aechmea fulgens*; 2nd C. and J. Jacobs, *Neoregelia* 'Extravaganza'.

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INTERMEDIATE — MINIATURE NEOREGELIA: 1ST P. Crawford, 'Pepper Royal'; 2ND D. and C. Cutcliffe, 'Fall In Love'.

ADVANCED — MINIATURE NEOREGELIA: 1ST N. and E. Weir, 'Mon Petite'; 2ND N. and E. Weir, 'Fireball' x *ampullacea*. TILLANDSIA SPECIES: R. and M. Paulsen, *chlorophylla*; 2ND R. and M. Paulsen, *acostae*. HECHTIA: R. and M. Paulsen, *tillandsioides*. ANY OTHER SPECIES: 1ST M. Symmons, *Canistrum fosterianum*; 2ND N. and E. Weir, *Billbergia* 'Domingo's Martens'.

November Meeting

THE LAST MEETING of the year is on November 16. After a very short meeting, it's party time—the annual Christmas social get-together. It was decided we would do our own catering this year and members have been delegated as to what food to bring. If you were not at the last meeting, please bring a plate of goodies. The yearly awards will be announced and winners will be presented with their trophies. The value of the monster rare plant raffle prizes has been increased to \$800.

As there will not be a meeting in December, Treasurer Noel will accept your 2001 annual subscription. Please bring the enclosed payment slip with you.

Annual Subscriptions

OUR FINANCIAL YEAR ends on December 31. To remain financial, your annual subs should be paid on or before that date. Whether you are paying at the November meeting or paying by mail, please fill in the enclosed payment slip and give to the treasurer or post to the society's address: P.O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley, Qld. 4006. Fees are the same as last year: Single \$15; Family \$20; Overseas \$20.

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October's Field Day

OLIVE AND LEN TREVOR hosted a most successful field day at their Olive Branch Nursery on October 28. About 130 members and visitors heard talks by Olive Trevor, Bob Cross and Doug Upton.

Olive and Len provided prizes for a raffle and held conducted tours through some of their shadehouses. Thanks to Nancy Kickbusch and her team for their efforts selling plants provided by members. Doug and Joy Upton and their team of helpers looked after the attendance book, raffle sales and the refreshment tent.

Study Group Meetings

LEN AND OLIVE TREVOR will host the Christmas meeting at their home, 232 Canvey Road, Upper Kedron (phone 3251 1203), on November 25. Besides bringing eats for brekkie, members are asked to bring a brom for the Christmas gift exchange. There will not be a meeting in December.

Committee Meetings

NOVEMBER'S committee meeting will be Ray Nicholson's home, 11 Malory Street, Balmoral (phone 3399 5296), on Wednesday, November 15, at 7.30 p.m. There will not be a meeting in December.

Combined Show Committee Meetings

DATES for the Combined Show Committee meetings for 2001 at the home of John and Marie D'Alton, 39 Agnes Street, Torwood, are: February 27, March 27 and May 22. Mount Coot-tha set-up will be on June 8 and the show will be on June 9 and 10.

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Bundaberg Week-end

AFTER A FEW PICK-UPS, a full coach of members journeyed to Bundaberg on November 4. Members were greeted at the gardens of Bundy members Rhonda and Malcolm Symmonds. After lunch, and with Kevin Silcox acting as guide, we visited John Gamlin's home and then on to Russell and Karen Holzheimer's garden at South Kolan where we treated to afternoon tea.

Dinner was enjoyed in the company of our northern members and the Bundaberg Garden Club members.

Early on Sunday we visited the gardens of members Betty and Keith Pohlman before departing Bundaberg. At Bells Bridge, Linda Percival was our host before we travelled on to our lunch stop at Margaret and Bill Paterson's Gympie nursery.

Several raffles were conducted on the trip and our thanks go to those who supplied the prizes. To save any embarrassment, prizes and winners will not be recorded! Happy travellers arrived back in Brisbane late in the afternoon and voted this trip the best ever—six gardens inspected and all six were first class and all entirely different.

Sincere thanks are offered to our organisers and generous hosts.

Return Your Library Books

THE LIBRARIAN, Mavis Paulsen, reminds every member that all books must be returned at the November Meeting to allow her to complete the 2000 inventory.

*The President, Officials and Committee wish all members
a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.*

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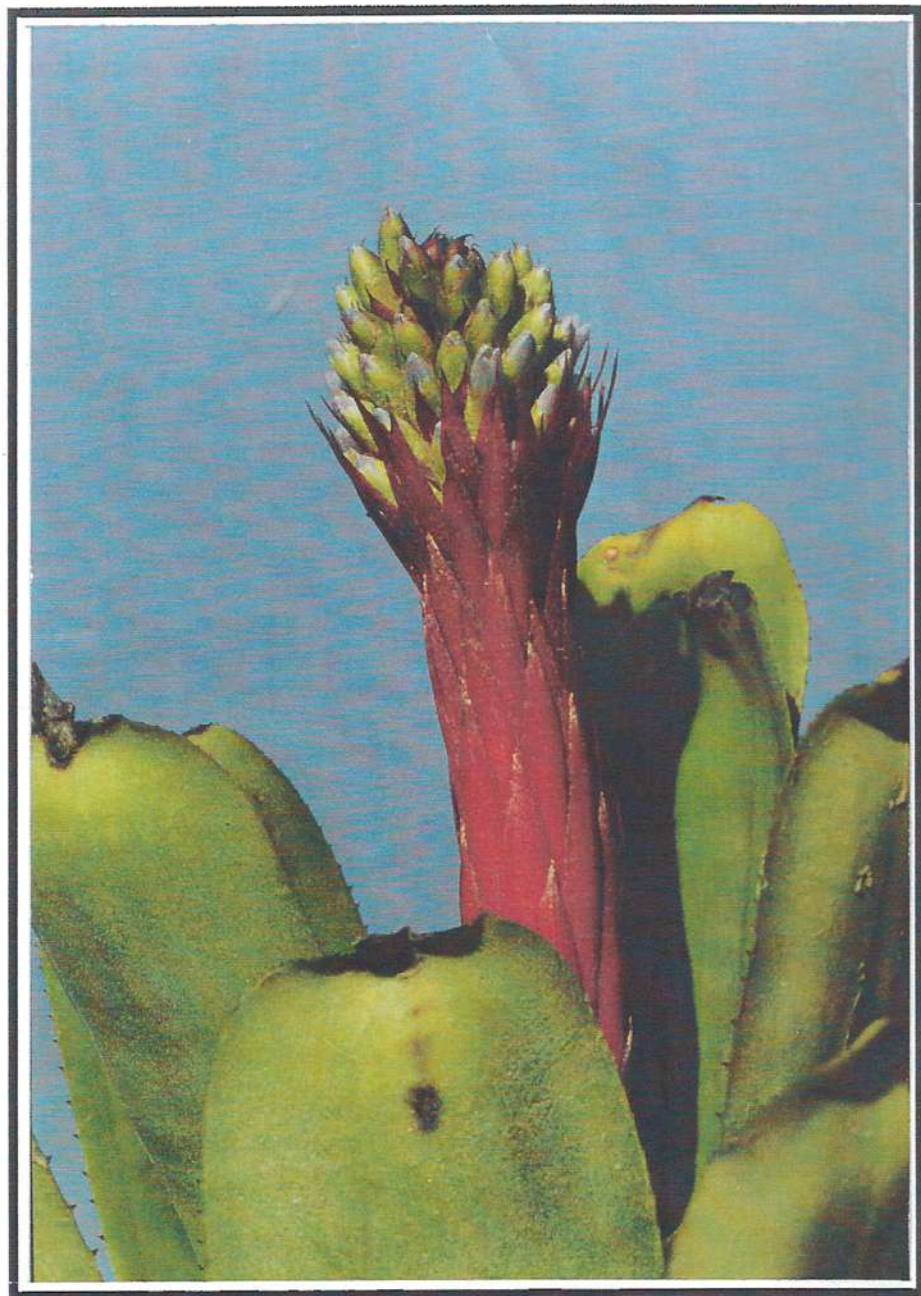
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