Bromeliaceae

VOLUME XXXIV — No. 2 — MARCH / APRIL, 2001

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 regularly at the gardens of members as advised in this journal.
MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family $20, Single $15—payable on January 1.

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HOST and HOSTESS	Mr Len Trevor and Mrs Joy Upton	
HALL STEWARDS	Mr David Brown and Mr Bob Paulsen	
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COMBINED SHOW COMMITTEE	Ms B. Rowe, Ms N. Tucker, Mr. B. Cross, Mr D. Brown, Mr N. Ryan, Mr D. Upton	
LIFE MEMBERS	Mrs Grace Goode, Mr Peter Paroz, Mr Bert Wilson	

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Tillandsia x correalei, Luther, hyb. nov.

Hybrida naturalis e *Tillandsia fasciculata* Sw.
et T. *hondurensi* Rauh inter parentes media.

Plant stemless, flowering to 26 cm high, leaves very densely rosulate, sheaths ample, elliptic-ovate, castaneous toward the base; blades narrowly triangular, 1.2 to 1.5 cm wide, stiffly spreading; scape erect, scape bracts much exceeding the internodes, the lower foliaceous, the upper broadly ovate; inflorescence digitate with 2 few-flowered spikes, the lateral spike distichous flowered, the apical spike polystichous flowered; floral bracts rather thin, nerved, yellow tipped red, lepidote toward their apex, floral bracts of the lateral spike carinate, 3.5 cm long, floral bracts of the apical spike ecarinate, 2.8 to 3.4 cm long, sepals to 3 cm long, posteriorly carinate, connate about half the length; corolla tubular to 5.5 cm long, purple; stamens and style exserted.

Etymology; The specific name honors the collector, Steve Correale, of Miami, Florida, who first discovered this plant.

Type: *HONDURAS:* MORAZON. Valley of the Angels, alt. ca. 7000 feet. March 1982. *S. A. Correale s.n.* (Holotype: SEL).

This interesting plant is nearly intermediate between its supposed parents which are sympatric at the type locality (! S. Correale). The relatively small, densely foliaged rosette most resembles *Tillandsia hondurensis* Raub in habit but is somewhat larger than the average for this species. The inflorescence differs from *T. hondurensis* by being branched and much exserted from the rosette and by having at least the lateral spike with distichously arranged flowers. From *T. fasciculata* Sw. this plant can be contrasted by the partially polystichously flowered inflorescence and shortened, few-flowered spikes.

Description from 'Selbyana'

Plant grown by: DOUG AND JOY UPTON.

Photographed by DOUG UPTON

See Page 13 for the description of the plant on the back cover.

CONTENTS

PUBLICATION DEADLINES for *Bromeliaceae*

May / June, 2001 Edition ..... April 21, 2001
July / August, 2001 Edition ..... June 21, 2001

Please send all contributions to:

The Editor, Peter Paroz, 3 Derribong St., Boondall, Qld. 4034.
Phone (07) 3265 1547

Let's Go Intergeneric

By DOUG UPTON

JANUARY 27, the first Study Group meeting for 2001, was totally enjoyable. Over breakfast we spoke of wonderful Christmas holidays with family and friends, the excessive humid weather, and of course bromeliads.

There wasn't a planned programme for the meeting. In fact, we hadn't scheduled a project for any of this year's meetings. So now was the time to contemplate and organise. Suggestions quickly followed and programming began.

Driving home some hours later, my wife and I talked about the proposed agenda for future Study Group meetings.

Two of the most interesting programme suggestions were: Selective pollinating to acquire that certain hybrid (Bob Cross); and bigeneric crosses (Chester Cutcliffe). I'm sure members will not object to being named as their suggestions initiated informative discussions.

Bob Smythe spoke of the dominant and recessive traits of bromeliads and difficulties in the transference of genetic characteristics.

With intergenerics, if one could cross *Aechmea chantinii* with a multi-coloured neoregelia and know that the progeny would be heavily banded like the aechmea with the riot of colour from the neoregelia, this would be a beautiful bromeliad. But it just doesn't work like that. For the hybridist, there is no system to pre-determine what characteristics are going to dominate. Certainly we should be selective rather that crossing indiscriminately. Choose each parent plant for a particular feature that might be carried through to the progeny, and then maybe — just maybe!

Down the driveway at No.101 we are home, and within minutes I'm in the shadehouse talking to a tray of bromeliad seedlings telling then they are different by modification, dissimilar to their parents, and each of them will mature, displaying only the most distinctive qualities and features of their progenitors. Don't laugh! I've read many an article where the author admits not only speaking to plants but piping soft music to the growing area and covering them against the chill of winter.

If, by chance, the reader should come across the Bulletins, *Bromeliad Study Group of Northern California*, settle yourself into a comfortable chair and be prepared to enjoy the writings of its Editor, Kathy Dorr. This remarkable lady has never admitted talking to her plants; however she acknowledged her love of bromeliads throughout her prolific writing career.

Kathy Dorr wrote on hybridization, particularly intergeneric crosses and after Chester suggested intergeneric crosses could be included to our Study Group programme, I immediately thought of Kathy's articles. Much of the following is taken from articles written by Kathy for the Bromeliad Study Group of Northern California.

Kathy worked more with cryptanthus in creating bigenerics and therefore she had, a more personal knowledge of the characteristics these plants carry. In crossing cryptanthus, the experience had been that if the cryptanthus was the seed parent, the ensuing progeny are almost clear cut in their likeness and form, although not necessarily in colour or growth habit.

Kathy tells us not every plant is receptive to hybridization. For example, using *Neoregelia concentrica* as the pollen plant, she pollinized 20 different billbergias. Several produced only three to six seeds each. The exception was *Billbergia pyramidalis* var *concolor*. Each flower took and produced seed.

After seed has been produced the battle is never over—percentages fail to germinate. Kathy knew this only too well. However, with obvious delight, Kathy wrote, "I have over 50 bigenerics using *Billbergia pyramidalis* var *concolor* as the seed parent."

After germination, further problems persist—deficiencies one must combat. Some seedlings are too weak to survive, others reach a certain size and never grow further or do anything. There can also be distorted plants which seem to reach a particular stage and then die. Among a tray of six-month-old bigeneric crosses, several seedlings were approximately 3 cm across and not visably growing. The others, of the same cross, the same age, were as much as three times larger. "Why?" Kathy asked. Why should this happen? There is much work to be done as these deficiencies seem to occur whether one is trying to produce a bigeneric or a new hybrid.

I'm quite sure Kathy's experiences would never discourage or restrain our Study Group from a hybridizing programme and, should bigenerics be included to that which has already been accomplished, so much the better.

An interesting paragraph from Kathy, word for word: "It is not uncommon for the seed to have a deformed appearance. For example, some of the billbergia-cryptanthus crosses looked as though they were only half a seed. As a matter of fact, no two seeds seemed to be the same. In my experience this refers only to bigeneric crosses. A cross within the same genus does not produce this particular phenomena."

Terminology *From PETER PAROZ*

IN THIS ARTICLE, Peter Paroz explains the meanings of some of the common, but sometimes difficult-to-understand meanings of terms used in plant breeding.

Hybrid: The result of a cross between parents that are genetically unalike. Traditional breeding procedures have required that there was also some degree of relationship between the parents. In the case of bromeliads, there are a number of intergeneric hybrids registered but none that I am aware of that cross sub-family boundaries.

F_1 (first filial generation): Offspring resulting from a cross between two species. Also a Primary Hybrid. Plants are expected to be fairly uniform in appearance, with characteristics intermediate between the parents.

F_2 (second filial generation): Offspring resulting from crossing members of the F_1 generation among themselves. Plants are expected to show considerable variation; in a large population, a range from one parent to the other.

Hybrids with a complex parentage such as *Aechmea* 'Dennis' would show a great variation in appearance.

Primary hybrids are formed by crossing two *species*. This raises a potential problem where a species is reclassified to varietal status.

Cultivar (cv): The equivalent of a botanical variety as applied to a cultivated plant or hybrid. Plants of the same cultivar name should show identical characteristics.

Gene: The basic unit of inheritance which determines a particular characteristic. Genes are located at particular locations on chromosomes.

GM / GMO (genetic modification / genetically modified organism): An organism which has had its genetic composition modified other than by means of fertilisation. Genetic modification is not constrained by the limitations of traditional breeding practices. Because the transfer of genetic material is achieved by artificial means, genes from any source can be transferred to any other living organism. (There was controversy recently regarding the transfer of the human growth gene into pigs!)

Genetic modification falls roughly into three areas:

1. Insertion of a new gene
2. Turning off an existing gene
3. Deletion of a gene

Wanted: Len Butts' Bromeliad Photos

DEREK BUTCHER is looking for photos and slides from the late Len Butt. He wants to do a talk on the "Golden Oldies" at the Illawarra Conference later this year and our late member's collection of photos of the early hybrids would be ideal.

Daphne Butt said she gave Len's photos and slides to some local growers but she can't remember who she gave them to.

After using the photos at the conference, Derek would like to put a pictorial memorial to Len on the Internet.

If anyone has these historic pictures and would like to loan them to Derek for these two worthwhile projects, please phone him on (08) 8356 7728 or Neville Ryan (07) 3343 2267.

Introducing: *Portea alatisepala*

By *HARRY E. LUTHER*

(Reprinted from *The Journal* of the B.S.I., Vol. 50, No. 5, 2000)

JUST DESCRIBED SCIENTIFICALLY by David Philcox at the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, in 1992, *Portea alatisepala* is a relative newcomer. By the mid 1990s, a number of American collectors had secured examples of this attractive and variable taxon. Queries began to be received at the Bromeliad Identification Centre as to their identity.

Portea alatisepala somewhat resembles the commonly cultivated *P. petropolitana* but generally is smaller with broader, softer, often somewhat undulate leaves. Leaf colour varies from green to red and the redder clones resemble *P. kermesina*. The inflorescence is usually shorter than *P. petropolitana* (approximately 25 x 15 cm) and the sepals are shorter, but the petals are longer. For growers with restricted space, *P. alatisepala* is probably a better choice than *P. petropolitana* and its varieties.

Another related plant is *P. silveirae*. I've not seen this (or I don't recognise it) in cultivation but it should be easily distinguished by its densely furfuraceous (scurfy; covered with bran-like scales or powder) inflorescence.

Portea alatisepala has been found in a number of locations in coastal Bahia, Brazil. I have seen it in deep shade in a flooded forest. Wally Berg and John Anderson collected in a bright and open restinga forest. It is probably somewhat tender to freezing.

Living With Bromeliads

By PERRY CRAWFORD

BROMELIADS have many varied descriptive terms placed on them by avid collectors, and otherwise, with gorgeous, stunning, rotten mongrel (when spikey ones get you) coming to mind, but never dull and uninteresting.

Those few members who were unable to attend the January, 2001, meeting missed a night of beautiful plants, informative commentaries, with the feature "An Evening with Particia O'Dea" showing how much enjoyable/entertaining wealth of knowledge there is in the society's senior (but young—nearly in trouble) past presidents and keen members. May we enjoy this treat on a more frequent basis.

To press the point of interest content further, I have a couple of calendars depicting some inhabitants of South American bromeliads—frogs. These are not the usual ones which most of us are aware of; no, these drop dead beautiful little frogs are for looking at and definitely not touching, for if you did you may indeed drop dead!

The skin secretion is very poisonous, with the locals using it for 'tipping' their blow-gun darts for hunting, etc. The 'etc' in the wild old days of pioneering plant collectors may have been a worry!

Frogs of any type, I am sorry to say, rarely grace the plants in my shadehouse.

While not quite as dramatic, my own bromeliads each have resident spiders (small and large). One very large Wolf Spider showed her displeasure when I stuck my fingers into her mouth (?) and bit me, leaving me with a painful pinky for a few hours. St Andrew's Cross and in particular the beautiful Golden Orb spider web in the shadehouse offer great support for quite a few Tillandsia seeds to grow into plants.

When I've left the door open, our local butcher birds cull the spider population. Skinks scaveng all over the place and lay their eggs in the bark potting mix, while blue tongued lizards (the very glossy silver-blue type) munch any snails, etc. Our resident (s ?) Yellow Faced Whip Snake, in for a drink I presume, has given me a couple of moments of heart starters when I thought it to be one of its very nasty cousins. What has me rather curious is why *only* my *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favourite' and *nudicaulis* support colonies of VERY aggressive black ants (8 mm long). This has been so for when I resided at Wynnum, Brisbane, and now at Morayfield (66 km apart). This type of ant is common to both areas. When I forsee a need to handle these plants I give them a

dosing of chlorpyrifos. The *A.* 'Foster's Favourite' may not grow lush, but they always flowered. *A. nudicaulis* is not adversely affected at all. A number of months later, these ants move back in and still not into any of the other genera/species. 'Why is this so?' to steal a phrase!

Would/could this be a symbolic relationship (ants/plants, not ants/me), or just a chance convenience of nature? Does any one else have this occurring with the above plants or a particular species?

Bromeliaceae Competition

COMMENCING NEXT ISSUE, *Bromeliaceae* will conduct a "Best Article" competition in every issue until further notice. The prize is well worth having: Free membership, single or family, for the next year.

Rules for the competition are simple:

1. Must be signed by the writer whose name will be published.
2. Members (single or family) will be eligible to win only one prize each year but may submit as many articles as they wish.
3. Subject matter must be confined to all aspects of bromeliads or the society and its activities.
4. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence re such decision will be permitted.
5. The committee and/or the Editor reserves the right not to publish any letter if deemed not to be appropriate.
6. Letters to the Editor are included in the competition.

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December, 2000

	$	$
Current Assets		
Cash		
NAB Carindale 64 374-5401	8,906.15	6,769.03
Cash on hand	100.00	150.00
Inventories		
Stock on hand—at cost	3,878.85	2,912.95
Other		
NAB Term deposit 48 264 6495	25,000.00	25,003.57
Accrued interest on IBD	1,429.10	—.
Total current assets	39,314.10	34,835.55
Non-Current Assets		
Property Plant and Equipment		
Property plant and equipment	1,227.93	1,227.93
Plant and equipment—library	3,577.99	3,120.49
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,682.00)	(2,719.00)
Other		
Equity Combined Show	3,309.02	2,819.55
Total non-current assets	4,432.94	4,448.07
Total assets	43,747.04	39,284.52
Current Liabilities		
Borrowings		
Unsecured liabilities		
Subs in advance	1,540.00	390.00
Advertising in advance	90.00	—.
Total current liabilities	1,630.00	390.00
Total liabilities	1,630.00	390.00
Net Assets	**42,117.04**	**38,894.52**
Members' Funds		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	42,117.04	38,894.52
Total Members' Funds	**42,117.04**	**38,894.52**

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December, 2000

	2000 $	1999 $
Income		
Trading profit	1,169.31	1,104.17
Adjustment - Treasurer's float		50.00
Advertising	210.00	210.00
Cairns fund raising		184.00
Bus trip	3,875.00	310.00
Combined show—equity increase	489.47	32.79
Donation		10.00
Interest - bank	19.71	5.36
Interest - term deposits	1,524.68	1,125.15
Other income	17.00	540.00
Plant sales commission	4,553.05	3,099.50
Raffles receipts	2,019.95	1,448.65
RNA receipt	450.00	522.40
Subscriptions	2,350.00	2,095.00
Total income	16,678.17	10,737.02
Expenses		
Audit fees	255.00	250.00
Bank fees and charges	70.20	70.80
Bus trip expenses	3,885.70	442.60
Cairns contributions	—	190.00
Depreciation	963.00	910.00
Donations	180.00	50.00
Hire hall	482.00	540.00
Incorporation expenses	30.50	30.50
Insurance	405.00	345.00
Postage	302.00	506.03
Printing & stationery	4,362.48	3,425.25
Raffle expenses	828.40	638.00
Show expenses	175.95	443.62
Social costs	743.76	514.28
Subscriptions	341.51	116.38
Sundry expenses	29.75	16.50
Telephone	13.60	41.85
Trophies	386.80	152.60
Total expenses	13,455.65	8,683.41
Operating surplus before income tax	3,222.52	2,053.61
Income tax expense	—	—
Operating surplus after income tax	**3,222.52**	**2,053.61**
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year	38,894.52	36,840.91
Accumulated surplus at the end of the financial year	42,117.04	38,894.52

President's Annual Report

THE CENTENARY YEAR 2000 has been a busy, happy time for the Society with pretty well all of our activities going well. Monthly meetings have been good and entertaining which has resulted in improved attendance.

Our membership numbers are climbing steadily with now over 200 and that is a matter of great satisfaction to me.

This year we started day meetings as a trial, organising just four during the year. They have been successful, both in attendance and in additional members signing up. We will continue day meetings next year, with the next meeting at Nancy Kickbusch's property.

The programme for the year included a bus trip to Bundaberg. We had a full bus and it was a great success and enjoyed by all. It had been decided to subsidise the cost of this trip by up to $600 but when all of the costs and income were finalised we found that the total cost to the Society was $10 and a few cents. Our thanks to Doug Upton for a well organised trip and to those who provided raffle prizes for the trip.

Due to the excellent plants donated to the Society for the meeting nights, the sale of raffle tickets rose dramatically, resulting in excellent returns for the Society. This roster of plant donations was started to counter a perceived increase in costs to the Society. The Committee thanks those who donated plants for this purpose. Having achieved the desired result we are discontinuing the roster for the time being.

The Combined Show went well — there were excellent sales and the returns were the best we have had. Congratulations to those who provided the time and plants. However, we note that customer numbers have been dropping each year.

Once again the Exhibition was a failure! Once again we only received a second in the Specialist Display and once again the work of setting up the display and supplying the plants fell on the same few members. My personal thanks and those of the Committee to these members. This display is seen by our future members and is our best opportunity to show the general community our beautiful plants.

Our magazine, edited by Ray Nicholson, has maintained an excellent standard. Congratulations Ray. It is indeed a thankless task. We need more members to make contributions of articles. If each member wrote one piece a year we would have articles aplenty.

I had hoped that during the year we would have been able to continue the work that we started on the brom garden at Mt Coot-tha but we always seemed to be unable to fit it in — perhaps this year.

Our Study Group continues at about the same and is a very social group. If any other members would like to come, they would indeed be welcome.

With the high, there will be lows. During the year, the sudden passing of our treasurer, Noel Weir was a shock to us all and he will indeed be missed.

Before I declare all positions vacant, I want to thank each and every one of those who helped to make the year a success — meetings up, membership up, excellent financial position.

Thank you.

BOB CROSS, *President*

BACK COVER PHOTO — *Tillandsia* 'But'

Photo and Article supplied by DEREK BUTCHER

AT THE BRISBANE CONFERENCE, Easter 1993, Len Butt was proudly handing out seedlings of a hybrid he had done between *Tillandsia setacea* and *Tillandsia juncea*. I asked why he hybridised two so very similar species and, with a twinkle in his eye, he said, "Just for you, Derek!" He added both were in flower at the same time and he couldn't resist! This impromptu action is how many hybrids come into existence. In the July/August issue of *Bromeletter* 1993, when writing on the Brisbane Conference, I said these seedlings should be called *Tillandsia* 'But' (Note only one 't'). This was an F1 cross and all the progeny should look very similar.

Seven years later the plants have started to flower in Adelaide. No doubt some have flowered in Brisbane but no-one has written about the similarities between this hybrid and *juncea*. I believe comment is necessary and make the following observations.

If I had not been told the seed parent was *setacea* I could have easily been swayed by the comment these plants were really *juncea*. On careful examination the only difference appears to be in the shape and the narrower leaves. The inflorescence is what you would expect for *juncea*. It is possible that Len's *setacea* was really a *juncea* because both have been confused for each other in the past.

However, the narrower leaves suggest something has happened. I hope the name *Tillandsia* 'But' is continued to be used on labels even for such a *juncea* look-alike because it would be the only surviving plant that reminds us of Len Butt's contribution to the Bromeliad World in Australia. The other plant is *Aechmea* 'Len Butt' and I do not know who is growing it.

How Good Are Your Plants? PART 9

Edited extracts from the BSI's Handbook for Judges

Criteria for judging Small Genera of the Bromelioideae Subfamily

ACANTHOSTACHYS: This formerly monotypic genus is now composed of two species: *A. strobilacea* and newly discovered *A. pitcairnioideae*. *A. strobilacea* has few leaves in a loose, open rosette. The slender, whip-like leaves cascade down gracefully. *A. strobilacea* is usually grown and shown as a multiple and is suitable for a hanging basket. The cone shaped fruit resembles a small pineapple. There should be an equal distribution of foliage around the container. Check the inflorescence for freshness and ascertain that there are no black tips. The floral bracts should be clear, bright red-orange, the petals are bright yellow and the fruit is white.

ANANAS: While *A. bracteata* var. *tricolor*, *A. comosus* var. *variegatus*, *A. comosus* 'Jet Stream', and the dwarf (by comparison) *A. nanus* are the Ananas most seen in competition, most members of this genus are seldom seen in shows because of their size and difficulty of transporting them. They are terrestrials requiring the usual potting soil of the mesophytes so they are not only awkwardly huge, but also heavy to transport. When well grown, they are very beautiful. Ananas are heavily spined (exceptions: *A. comosus* 'Jet Stream', *A. comosus* 'Smooth Cayenne') and are full rosettes. Because they are many leaved plants, they must be critically appraised to ascertain the amount of leaf damage, i.e. bruises, brown tips and edges. While some leaf droop of the bottom third of the leaves is to be expected, excessive drooping is a cultural fault and must be penalized. They are more attractively staged by placing them atop another inverted pot. When variegated forms of *A. bracteatus* and *A. comosus* are grown in bright light the plant is usually very colorful with a suffusion of pink overlaying the white, green and pink stripes. *A. nanus* and the green varieties of *A. bracteatus* and *A. comosus* are lightly scaled, and gray-green in color. Varieties such as *A. comosus* 'Jet Stream' and 'Smooth Cayennne' have few spines. Be sure that spent petals and bracts are removed from the syncarp.

ARAEOCOCCUS is a small genus of only four species with Araeococcus flagellifolius being more commonly seen in competition. In good light the plant assumes a beautiful rosy coloration with many grassy, whiplike leaves. The inflorescence is insignificant with small whitish flowers and is borne on a rhachis that is approximately one third the length of the leaves. Usually, the plant is grown and shown as a

multiple. Look for a balance of plants around the container and a clear rosy color. Excessive elongation of the whiplike leaves generally indicates "soft" growing, and/or over-fertilization.

CANISTRUM: While six species make up genus *Canistrum,* those most commonly seen in shows are *C. fosterianum, C. fosterianum* 'Pardinu', and *C. lindenii* with all its varieties and formats. The inflorescence of canistrums is usually referred to as basket-like because the floral bracts compartmentalize, surround, and often rise above the petals giving an effect of flowers in a basket. Often the inflorescence is sunk low in the cup, or is just slightly elevated. That fact plus the plants' preference for moisture and shade, is similar to nidulariums.

C. fosterianum has fewer leaves than other species and is tubular in form with faint, brown diagonal leaf markings. The rose colored bracts give a tulip shaped inflorescence, but the flowers are of short duration. *Canistrum fosterianum* 'Pardinum', is a small to medium, tidy rosette noted for its black tips and dark mottling. The lower fourth of the leaves droop downward and is not a fault. The inflorescence is fleeting. Look for unfaded, fresh, clear, orange color in the bracts and the absence of black, aged material among the white petals.

Canistrum lindenii is larger than the preceeding two groups discussed, and is very variable. There are three varieties of *C. lindenii* each having two formas, and all varieties are beautifully mottled with dark green to reddish brown spots. The most beautiful variety is *roseum* which has rosy hues on the underside of the leaf.

Canistrum X leopardinum is a large, upright rosette beautifully mottled that is often brought into shows while still very immature. At maturity this hybrid's leaves are often three feet in length.

HOHENBERGIA: While 40 species comprise this genus of medium to large, dense rosettes, *H. stellata* is seen most frequently in shows. Hohenbergias have long, arching foliage with spines on the margins and generally the apex. Many hohenbergias are tender and because of their large size, keeping the leaves in good condition is difficult. They often suffer mechanical damage when moved. They show cold damage quickly and are easily bruised by wind.

While their inflorescences are long lasting, with the exception of *H. stellata*, they are not showy. *H. stellata* is a large plant with yellowish-green leaves approximately 30 inches long which display an impressive inflorescence rising on a rhachis often 36 inches tall. The red scape and floral bracts colorfully surround the flowers' purple petals. Flowers cluster in well-spaced tight starlike fashion round the branching rhachis.

Since the inflorescence is so long lasting be sure to check for fresh appearance, clear, vibrant color, and ascertain that the rhachis is strong, straight and vertical.

There are a few "new" hohenbergias appearing in shows today such as *H. correia-arauji, H. rosea,* and *H. ramageana.* Seven *H. correia-arauji* were sold in the U.S.A. in 1980, and being prolific puppers they quickly spread all around the country. The tall urn shaped plant of about 15 leaves is a chocolate-maroon color with heavy silver, attractive banding. The lower third leaves are usually reflexed, similar to *Aechmea orlandiana,* and this is not a fault. The 3'-4' rosy rhachis emerges at a slant, accentuated by weight of hundreds of tiny flowers on the multi-branched inflorescence. Petals are yellow and the sepals green.

H. rosea at maturity is about 3'-6' in diameter with a 5' diameter being average. The leaves have a rosy to maroon hue depending on the light conditions, and are lightly to moderately white spotted. With more light the leaves widen, color lightens, and spotting intensifies. The bright pink branched inflorescence is 2'-3' tall.

H. ramageana is bulbous and usually about 18" tall at maturity. Some describe its appearance at anthesis as "inverted pear-shaped". Leaves are about 1-1½" wide and are darkly blotched or speckled. The leaf edges appear crinkled and ruffled. The bottom row of leaves is reflexed. The inflorescence usually rises about 1' above the plant with many white flowers and later green berries. It has been reported that this is the same plant as *H. pennae,* because their inflorescence is identical. The leaves and color of the plant appear different.

NEOGLAZIOVIA has only two species in the genus, *N. variegata* and *N. concolor,* and they are terrestrials. The rounded, narrow, dull green, long leaves often are three to four feet long. The inflorescence is deep pink, violet, or purple and usually is borne on a rhachis that is not much taller than the foliage. *N. concolor's* leaves are all green while those of *N. variegata* show white banding on the undersides of the leaves. The inflorescence is a simple raceme with red sepals and purple petals.

PORTEA, a genus of seven species, is characterized by large rosettes of long, spined, green leaves. Plants often grow on the littoral in full sun. The long leaves tend to elongate and droop when grown too soft. The species most commonly seen is *P. petropolitana* with its three varieties—*petropolitana, extensa* and *noettigii.* Their inflorescences are similar. The flowers are pedicellate and the length of the pedicels and the branches of the inflorescence determine the variety. All have a delicate, airy inflorescence borne on a long scape about 20 inches tall.

Colors range from pink, to rose, orange and lavender. The inflorescence is large and should be multi-branched. Since this is a very full rosette be sure to ascertain most of the bottom leaves are intact and that the plant's conformation is characteristic of the species.

QUESNELIA is composed of two major groups within its 14 species. The first group is tubular, few leaved, and resembles billbergias. Examples are: *Q. humilis, Q. lateralis, Q. marmorata* and *Q. liboniana*. The second group is composed of large rosette shaped plants with very stiff leaves often gray barred on the underside. Examples are: *Q. arvensis, Q. quesneliana*, and *Q. testudo*. Of the first group, *Q. marmorata* is most often shown competitively. It is very graceful and decorative with beautifully marbled leaves that come out in a distichous manner. They arise from either side directly opposed to each other and give the plant its distinctive shape. Its bright rose colored bracts are large and showy. It is often shown as a multiple. Important factors to note in judging would be conformation and color and markings. The second group is infrequently seen in competition for its cone shaped inflorescence is of short duration and the foliage is not spectacular. When in bloom, the inflorescence is gorgeous with bright, rosy-red bracts and blue, violet, or pink petals. Check these full rosettes' conformation carefully for often they are allotted a less than choice spot in the greenhouse and must lean and reach for sunlight.

STREPTOCALYX: Of the 14 species in this genus, *S. poeppigii* is usually the only one seen in shows, and it is a rarity. The plants of this genus are large, dense rosettes that are heavily spined. Despite the difficulty of transporting a heavily armed plant of four foot diameter, the bloom is so spectacular that it is occasionally shown. The bloom is about 18-20 inches tall with bright purple petals and sepals, and brilliant pink-rose bracts on a red scape. *S. williamsii* is another rarity on the show floor, for it too is approximately four feet in diameter, but has a striking cone shaped inflorescence about 14 inches long with bright blue petals emerging from between imbricated rosy red bracts.

WITTROCKIA: This genus of seven species contains *W. superba,* often found in shows. Its culture is not as difficult as other wittrockias, and it is a beautiful addition to any collection. *W. superba* forms a dense rosette of red spined, green leaves, whose apexes are red. The red tipping and short scape makes the plant resemble a Neoregelia. The plant should have a pleasing, compact rosette shape reflecting culture in bright light. Inflorescence should have bright red scape and floral bracts, surrounding compartmentalized blue tipped petals.

Members' Wish List

MEMBERS, especially country members and those who cannot attend meetings or field days, are invited to list their hard-to-find plants. To list your "wish" contact the Editor. This is a free service to all.

If you have any of the listed plants and wish to sell, please phone the member concerned.

NAME	PLANTS WANTED	PHONE
Dorothy Cutcliffe	*Neoregelia carcharodon* (reddish)	07 3386 0505
Michael Pascall	*Aechmea tayoensis*	07 4098 8253
Michael Pascall	*Bromelia scarlatina*	07 4098 8253
Norma Poole	*Aechmea* 'Burning Bush'	07 3261 1617
Ray Nicholson	*Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'	07 3399 5296
Keith Pohlman	*Neoregelia* 'Absolutely Fabulous'	07 4151 5395
Keith Pohlman	*Neoregelia* 'Bob'	07 4151 5395
Keith Pohlman	*Neoregelia* 'Bailey'	07 4151 5395
Keith Pohlman	*Neoregelia* 'Aurora'	07 4151 5395
Doug Upton	*Aechmea retusa*	07 3378 3511

After you have obtained your plant, please notify Editor to remove your request from the list.

Notice to Advertisers

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED the society's financial year commences on January 1 when payment for your advertisement becomes due. Please forward your payment to the treasurer and include any alterations you wish to make.

Permission to Reprint

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, some concern has been shown about the society's position on the copyright of articles appearing in *Bromeliaceae*.

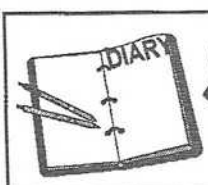
Your management committee has decided to re-word its "permission to reprint" (appearing on Page 1 in each issue) as follows: The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. gives permission to reprint articles to all Bromeliad Societies' Journals, provided proper acknowledgement is given to the original author and *Bromeliaceae* and no contrary advice is included in the reprint. This permission does not apply to any other person or organisation without prior written authority by *Bromeliaceae's* authors.

When a member or contributor submits a letter or article for publication in *Bromeliaceae*, they automatically give their "permission to reprint" as in the previous paragraph.

Wouldn't it be a nice surprise, and a boost to your morale, to see the article YOU wrote for *Bromeliaceae* in some other Brom Society's Journal? I can see you all madly writing already!

Are You Financial?

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED the society's financial year commences on January 1 when membership fees are due. If you have not yet forwarded your payment, you are unfinancial and consequently this will be your last *Bromeliaceae*.



Society Diary

NEWS REPORTS EVENTS

January's Mini-Show

ENTRIES for January's Mini-Show were well up on last year's average. Results are as follows:

NOVICE—*Aechmea*: J. and C. Jacobs, *recurvata*, 1. *Vriesea*: J. and C. Jacobs, *fosteriana*, 1; V. and J. Duncan, unknown, 2. Any other: D. Wallace, *Tillandsia crocata*, 1; J. and C. Jacobs, *Nidularium rubra*, 2.

INTERMEDIATE—*Aechmea*: D. and C. Cutcliffe, *chantinii* 'Black', 1. *Dyckia*: P. Crawford, *platyphylla*, 1; D. and C. Cutcliffe, *hebdingii*, 2. Any other: P. O'Dea, *Tillandsia xerographica*, 1; P. O'Dea, *Tillandsia tectorum*, 2.

ADVANCED—*Aechmea*: R. Cross, *chantinii samurai*, 1; D. and J. Upton, *orlandiana* 'Bert', 2. *Vriesea*: R. Cross, *pohoa* 'Beauty', 1; *taritubensis*, D. and J. Upton, 2. *Dyckia*: D. & J. Upton, *platyphylla*, 1.

Combined Show

THIS YEAR'S COMBINED SHOW will be held at Mount Coot-tha Gardens auditorium on the Saturday and Sunday of the Queen's Birthday week-end.

NOW is the time to start preparing your plants for the competitions, display and sales.

March Meeting

AT THE MARCH 15 MEETING, Olive Trevor will give a talk on importing plants from overseas. There will be a Popular Vote competition, any plant.

April Meeting

THE APRIL 19 MEETING will see the second of the year's Mini-Shows, with Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Sections in each class — Class 1: Bromelioideae not listed elsewhere in the Competition Schedule printed in the December 2000 Edition. Class 2: Guzmania species and hybrids. Class 3: Pitcairnia species and hybrids. Class 4: Any other mature bromeliad.

Bob Paulsen will give an in-depth plant commentary on the show plants and will advise members on how best to prepare plants for shows. Bob Cross and Doug Upton will speak on some of the many aspects of the forthcoming Combined Show at Mount Coot-tha.

April Field Day and Study Group

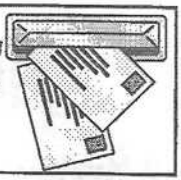
NANCY KICKBUSCH advises she is working hard to update her garden in time for the Field Day to be held at 3 Jerrima Street, The Gap, on April 28 at 9.30 a.m. Please bring enough morning tea for yourself and your guests, and also bring your own chair.

April's Study Group breakfast will also be at Nancy's home at 7.30 a.m. (immediately before the Field Day).

Committee Meetings

COMMITTEE MEMBERS are advised the March 7 meeting will be at Chester Cutcliffe's office, 3 Mayfield Road, Moorooka, at 7.30 p.m. The venue for the April meeting will be advised later.

Editor's Mailbox



Your letters welcomed at
11 Malory St, Balmoral, Qld. 4171

One Wild Oat

SOME YEARS AGO, I self pollinated *T. ionantha* using another clone as all my plants of this species are self sterile. I have never liked the idea of using a brush and used the anther itself to transfer pollen. There was a reasonable germination and once the seedlings got to about 4 mm, one appeared different; and the difference became more apparent as the plants grew to maturity.

Most were true to the seed parent, but when the odd one flowered it was about three times the height of the others and with a more elongated flower stem and a good flush of colour in the upper half of the leaf blade at flowering time.

I will never know for sure what the rogue parent was, but using the procedure suggested in a BSI Journal many years ago, my best guess was *T. seleriana*.—PETER PAROZ.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

HAVING BEEN UNABLE to attend meetings on a regular basis last year, it was a pleasant surprise "to step back in time", as it were, with members each contributing to our Christmas Party fare . . . A tremendous success.

This started me thinking about the early days of our society — when

among other things, each member also contributed a plant towards the continuous raffle and the society invested a much smaller sum ($300) towards a few "Special Plants" for added interest.

Quite often the older generation is inclined to say "Those were the good old days". In this instance, I for one would like to turn the clock back to when members shared their plants, their information, and themselves, in the enjoyment of these wonderful plants. Perhaps other members would care to put pen to paper and share their thoughts on this subject? Our editor is eagerly awaiting letters or articles on any subject that could be of interest to fellow members.

Yours in the friendship of growing bromeliads—MICHAEL O'DEA.

Light and Sun

NO MATTER what the recommended light and sun requirements are considered "ideal" for a plant, both are very relative to a certain area. For example: A plant growing in full sun and bright light in Hobart would soon turn up its toes if shifted to a full sun position in Cooktown.

My experience is to try to buy plants from growers in a similar area to where I want to grow them. Brisbane growers would be pretty safe in buying plants from (roughly) Ballina to Bundaberg; but plants brought from Cairns or Hobart would need a period of acclimatisation.

When buying a new plant locally, always study where and how the plant is growing and try to copy those conditions at the plant's new home. If in doubt, err on the slightly shadier and less sunny side and gradually shift the plant to lighter and sunnier positions until you reach the best growing conditions for quality growth and colour. — NICKO.

Neoregelias: Light and Sun

WITH REFERENCE to the letter from NOVICE in the last issue of *Bromeliaceae's* "The Editor's Mailbox", I consider:

1. Full sun to be the sun's rays falling uninterrupted (except by the atmosphere) onto a plant, its maximum duration being sunrise to sunset. In a practical sense, a plant's possible proximity to other shadow-casting objects and its mounting (growing position) may be in full sun, but only receives the full morning sun and no, or reduced, afternoon sun (this is possibly a "preferred" option for those plants which are considered to be "full sun" species).

2. Bright light to be the sun's rays after some form of fragmentation or interruption (other than the atmosphere) before they reach a plant, e.g. 50% to 70% shadecloth and reflected light.

Note: Both the above on cloudless days but altitude, humidity and latitude are still further considerations for the very keen grower.

The following from *Growing Bromeliads* by the Bromeliad Society of Australia (in the library of our society) may be of some practical assistance: Light: In order to determine the amount of light, the simple method outlined will at least gave an indication: Hold your hand about 30 cm above the surface you have selected to position the plants and see what shadow is produced. This should be done on a bright sunny day at about noon.

Bright light will produce a very well defined shadow showing a clear outline of your hand. Moderate light produces a good shadow but with a fuzzy or hazy outline. Low light produces an indistinct shadow and possibly no outline at all. — PERRY CRAWFORD.

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