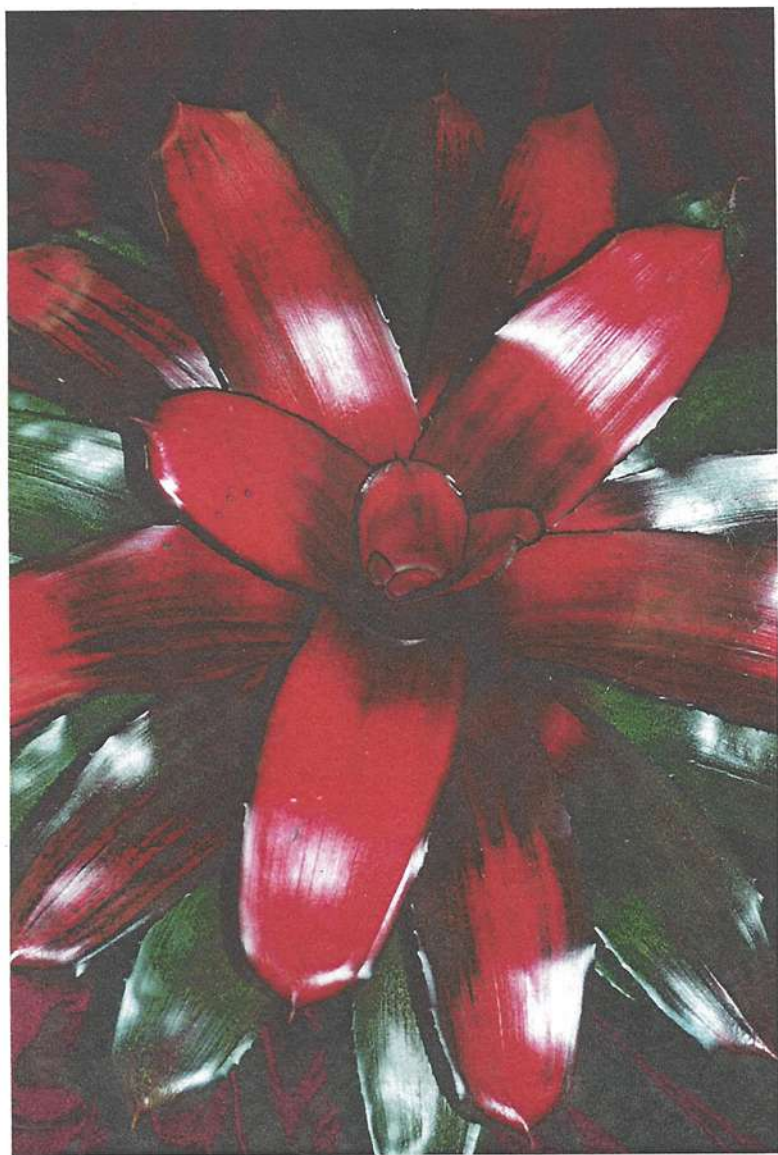


Bromeliaceae



VOLUME XXXIV — No. 4 — JULY / AUGUST 2001



The Bromeliad Society

of Queensland Inc.

P. O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley
Queensland, Australia, 4006

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the Third Thursday of each month except December, at the
Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, Brisbane, commencing 8 p.m.

Classes for beginners commence at 7.30 p.m.

FIELD DAYS are held regularly in the gardens of members as advised in the Program

MEMBERSHIP FEES Family \$20, Single \$15 pa — payable on 1st of January

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all information in their articles

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COPY DEADLINES for *Bromeliaceae*

September / October.....August 14, 2001

November / December.....October 20, 2001

Please forward all copy to

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Email pparoz@powerup.com.au

Electronic copy in RTF or MS Word 7.0 or earlier- Times New Roman

Photographs to Doug Upton, 101 Jerrang St. Indooroopilly, Qld, 4068

Phone 07 3378 3511

Cover Photographs

Front Cover **Champion Bromeliad of the Show**

Neoregelia 'Debbie'

Cheryl Basic

Back Cover **Reserve Champion of the Show**

Tillandsia (velutina x fasciculata)

Barry Genn

Centre Pages

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Central Display | |
| 2 | <i>Aechmea tillandsioides</i> | Keith Dawson |
| 3 | <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'San Juan' | Bob & Mavis Paulsen |
| 4 | <i>Aechmea tessmanii</i> | Len & Olive Trevor |
| 5 | <i>Billbergia</i> 'Golden Joy' | Liz Weir |
| 6 | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'High Flier' | Len & Olive Trevor |
| 7 | <i>Tillandsia fascicula</i> | Chester & Dorothy Cutcliffe |
| 8 | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Rosy Morn' | Cheryl Basic |

Photography by Doug Upton

Competition Steward's Report

With the stage removed, the additional floor space allowed more room for competition tables and space for easy viewing. The quantity was disappointing with only about 80 plants tabled: six classes having no entries at all. The tillandsioideae and novice classes were well contested as were *Aechmea*, *Cryptanthus*, *Neoregelia* and *Billbergia*. Many other classes had minimal entries and in the classes 6 & 7 Other Tillandsioideae, 13 *Nidularium*, 16 Other Bromelioideae in Flower, 18 *Nidularium*, and 27 Floral Display there were no entries.

The quality of plants was uniformly very good presenting the judging panel with many difficult decisions. The most successful exhibitors were Barry Genn, Len & Olive Trevor, Bob & Mavis Paulsen and Cheryl Basic.

The 'Novelty Display' – Awarded to Doug Upton for 'Seascape' deserves a special mention. This piece shows just what an impressive eye for detail Doug has, in this truly creative and imaginative idea. There were *Vriesea* flowers depicted as fish floating amongst the reef of mangrove roots; *Cryptanthus* plants taking on the form of starfish lazing about the coral and utilising the elements of the ocean floor to form a three dimensional canvas: Worthy of any artistic exhibition.

Barbara Rowe

Society Diary

NEWS

REPORTS

EVENTS

Meeting July 19th Mini Show

Class 1. *Billbergia* species & hybrids

Class 2. *Pitcairnioideae* other than *Pitcairnia* or *Dyckia*

Class 3. *Neoregelia*; mature plant 200 mm minimum diameter

Plant Commentary by Olive Trevor

Meeting August 16th Slide Show by Philip O'Mally

Popular vote.. The plant of the month is any genus starting with "C":

Cryptanthus, *Connellia*, *Canistrum*, *Cottendorfia*, *Catopsis*, *Canistropsis*

The next Field Day will be held at the garden of Yves Daniel & Lindsay Gerchow, 7 Orme Road, Buderim on 25th of August, 2001; with a mystery second garden ? *The topics for discussion will be small bromeliads, large bromeliads, and other bromeliads.*

A bus will be organised if there is sufficient support. Pickup 8.00am at the Uniting Church Hall, New Farm and the supermarket at the corner of Gympie and Webster Road, Aspley at 8.20am; return approx. 5.00pm. Seats limited to 44. For details, phone Norma Davis on 07 3271 1326. Members are invited to bring along their families, friends and plant enthusiasts.

Popular Vote Results

May Meeting

Novice

1st Yves Daniel
2nd Lindsay Gerchow

Neoregelia 'Roy'
Neoregelia 'Predator'

Intermediate

1st Cherly Basic

Billbergia 'Pixie'

Advanced

1st Bob Cross
2nd Bob Cross

Aechmea fasciata 'Marginata'
Aechmea chantinii 'Black'

June Meeting

Novice

1st J. Green
2nd K Dawson

Neoregelia 'Aussie Dream'
Aechmea tillandsioides keinastii

Intermediate

1st D. Cutcliffe

Vr. (Red Chestnut x *amazonica*)

Advanced

1st Olive & Len Trevor

Vr. hieroglyphica x 'Pahoa Beauty'

The Editors Desk

Letters to the Editor

I was very interested in Perry Crawford's problem with his 'very aggressive black ants'. For the past couple of years, I have found them to be a problem with tillandsias. They seem to find *T. bulbosa*, *T. streptophylla*, and such like a totally suitable habitat. I was taken by surprise recently when I took down a very large plant of *T. xerographica* to 'tidy it up' when out rushed the ants attacking my arms and legs. They must have planned to be there for the duration because when I dropped the plant, hundreds of eggs fell out of the leaves. The plants usually preferred are the pseudobulbous ones with large curled leaves.

They do not seem to actually damage the plants. However, if left to their own devices, they may cause extra moisture to be retained and cause the plant to rot. These huge ants have been around for 3 or 4 years to my knowledge. Previously, I had noticed the little brown and small black sugar ants, meat ants and green ants; this new infestation is quite different.

I have only ever treated ants with a jet from a hose, but now I fear that I will have to resort to something stronger. I don't like this option as we have domestic and wild animals, and a newly arrived colony of gekos. I 'freak out' when a big spider runs out of a pot when I pick it up. Heaven help me if I had to face a snake, no matter how harmless.

Patricia O'Dea

I was interested in Arno King's article on Spanish Moss. I think it is important to record that this complaint does not affect other forms of Spanish Moss. I have five other forms and in no way have they suffered from this scourge. Why is it so selective in attacking only the common form?

Six months ago, a friend bought me half a kilogram of hers. It also has died. It is not wet weather as we have experienced much drier weather than our usual monsoon rain. My moss was not crowded. Even single strands succumbed.

G. Goode

A number of members have enquired about the possibility of a BSQ Seed Bank. My experience with the usual form of seed bank is that there is always a question of the freshness of the seed. To avoid this problem, the BSQ system will be operated as a 'Seed Exchange'. Seed that members can make available in the future will be listed in the Trading Post section with contact details and an indication when the seed will be

available. Interested members can contact the grower and make their own arrangements as to delivery and any payment.

Ed

Note also that the Trading Post has been expanded to include books 'wanted' and 'available'. BSQ Inc. will not be handling the seed, plants or book; only facilitating contact between interested parties.

Refer to the Trading Post section for the start listings

Observant readers will note a change in appearance in some sections of this issue. This is not a reflection on the previous editor: I would very much have liked to follow his both his layout and fonts. The changes are due to the limitations of my publishing experience, equipment, and need for compatibility of computer programs with those of the printer. *Ed*

VRIESEA 'VAN ACKERI' M.J. VanAcker 1930

A Belgian cultivar with several different descriptions.

By Peter Huddy and Derek Butcher

Part 2 of 2

For a starting point we should look at some history of Van Acker. In 1887-1888, M.L. Poelman, his father in law, bought from Duval in Paris a hybrid *Vriesea* which included naming rights. The plant had a 'Simple spike' and he promptly named it *V. 'Poelmanii'**. Over many years of selective growing on, selections of 'Poelmanii' with compact and branched inflorescence became available.** With a 30 year or so gap between the arrival of 'Poelmanii' and the release of 'Van Ackeri' these selected cultivars would have been available. Obviously, as there was no animosity between Van Acker and his father in law, (he took over the business), it would follow that when he started his hybridizing and wanted branched spikes, he would rely on dad's plant 'Poelmanii'

Why then the confusion in the registered formula, where there are two possible answers! Peter has recently gone into print expressing his concerns on the validity of names on widely propagated *vrieseas* so much so that the *V. jonghei* listed could indeed have been a totally different plant. Hardly likely, in those early days, because the volume was not so large as to make identification difficult. The other, and more likely, is that we here witness the start of the modern European, and to a lesser extent many other centres, secrecy. Hybridists closely guarding the formula of successful plants to maintain their own monopoly. In earlier times of the likes of Morren, Duval, Marechal, etc. information was freely distributed amongst their peers, as

these people were not commercialists. Although Van Acker's notes do not indicate what plants he used in his hybrids; he may not even have known. If his notes don't give any details where did the parentage shown in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry come from? - A guess? - Did another person supply it? - or an error as is clearly the case!

Thanks to the Webmaster of <http://fcb.org>, Mike Andreas, we now have a copy of page 96 of BS Bulletin 1967. This has certainly pointed our investigations in the right direction. In 1954, a photograph was shown on the cover of BS Bulletin #3 allegedly as *Vriesea* 'Flammea', a Duval hybrid from 1902 whose parents were quoted as ('Van Geertii' x *jonghei*). In the 1961 BSI Bulletin #4 (some 7 years later!), Charles Chevalier suggested that the photograph was wrong and really depicted *V.* 'Van Ackeri'; and it was from this stage that the name was changed but not the parentage! After considerable discussion, Chevalier concluded that there was very little difference between *V.* 'Van Ackeri' and *V.* 'Viminalis Rex'. *V.* 'Viminalis Rex' was the name given to all like compound *Vriesea* hybrids in existence in Belgium in the early part of the 1900's. This would be the first recorded use of the modern term "Cultivar Group" for like plants irrespective of parentage.

Here then we have two plants, *V.* 'Van Ackeri' and *V.* 'Flammea' being allocated the same parentage. This duplication of parentage was shown in Flora Neotropica, Monograph 14 part 2 Tillandsioideae (1977), in Padilla's International Checklist (1979) [the *V.* 'Flammea' here had a extra parent of *V.* *barillctii* !], and in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (1998). It is confusing as to why in Padilla's book 'Bromeliads' (1973), she put the probable parentage of *V.* 'Van Ackeri' as ('Poelmanii' x ?) but did not carry it on into the Checklist.

The overall conclusion to be drawn from this is that the description of *V.* 'Van Ackeri' in 'Bromeliads' (1973) by Victoria Padilla is correct but with the bract colour being suspect.. She said " '*V.* Van Ackeri' Hort. ('Poelmanii' x ?) - this medium sized plant has bright green leaves and a striking branched inflorescence with broad dense bracts of brilliant orange-red."

Peter makes a point here that although this description is typical of what is usually available, it is not adequate to closely identify cultivars. A better description of *V.* 'Van Ackeri' (Huddy code H037(a)SAG)*** is a small plant with about 18 - 25 green leaves forming an arched rosette 180 mm high, 500 mm diameter with a compound, short, tight, erect flame

inflorescence with 2+ side spikes, maroon in colour (dark red/purple, Isley colour code #42). Resembles V.'Poelmanii', but differs with a longer thinner scape, a much shorter terminal spike and darker red floral bracts.

The linking of this Aussie clone to V. 'Van Ackeri' seems even more realistic when it was recognised by John Arden of California U. S. A. as the same plant with the same name that he has been using in some of his hybrids.

This paper should make it all the more feasible to continue using the name *Vriesea* 'Van Ackeri' for this dark-red/purple bracted plant. These findings will be reflected in the BCR update with the parentage shown as ('Poelmanii' x ?). Whether *Vriesea* 'Flamme' is still being grown is another challenge to add to the ever growing list for the future.

References

- * "On the origin of *Vriesea* Hybrids" by Charles Chevalier. JBS 11 1961 pp 61-63
- * * "Vriesea Hybrids of Today and Yesteryear", by Dr G. Samyn Proceedings of the VIIIth Bromeliad - Adelaide 1995
- *** Note: the final inflorescence description uses the terminology defined in Peter's paper "Vriesea Cultivars the 'H' Numbers - a New Concept" in the proceedings of the Tenth Australian Bromeliad Conference, Cairns, North Queensland 1999.

Cryptanthus bromelioides

Do you grow *Cryptanthus bromelioides* or *Cryptanthus bromelioides tricolor*? It seems that there has been "considerable confusion as to what this plant really is" to quote from Harry Luther's article in the *Cryptanthus Society Journal* p78, Vol XV No 3-4, Oct-Dec 2000.

He reports that in 1998, Ivon Ramerez neotypified this species ie *C. bromelioides* based on a specimen collected in a natural forest at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden that she felt belonged to the entity described by Otto & Dietrich in 1836, but is not the plant that everyone grows under this name. Its origin in Brazil appears unknown and no museum specimen with a locality exists.

Harry Luther further comments "the variety *tricolor* is also known from cultivation and should have been described as a form or a cultivar." He 'feels certain' that the plant commonly grown as *C. bromelioides* is the plant described by Weber (1982) as *C. osiris*. He urges that the name variety *tricolor* not be used and explains that there were two clones of the rainbow

plant, one a weaker grower and the other much better but not as common.

The photos accompanying the article show lavender, green and red forms of round open flat plants named *C. bromelioides* and one upright plant with eight leaves claiming to be *C. osiris*. There were two forms of the previously called *C. bromelioides tricolor*, one being the poorer, less colourful sport from Florida; the other the better coloured sport from New York.

Now we have a sequel to the above written by the Registrar, D. Butcher on p7 of the BSI Journal Vol. 51 Jan-Feb 2001. In relation to the formerly named *C. bromelioides tricolor*, he draws our attention to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry where we see the names 'Rainbow Star', 'Wendy variegata', and 'Seabournes Leather Leaf' given to this plant; and also comments that it is known in the general plant trade as the 'Rainbow Bromeliad'. He concludes 'I believe the most logical name to use is 'Rainbow Star'.

Further to this, Derek explained that the variegates from what is now *C. osiris* are 'very unstable' and "I will be treating all sports of this kind under the same name 'Rainbow Star', and will make note in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry accordingly".

Bob Paulsen

Brom-A-Warra

11th AUSTRALIAN BROMELIAD CONFERENCE

Expanding the World of Bromeliads

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Conference Contacts : Email: john.killingley@det.csiro.au

Graham Bevan, 25 Tallawong Crescent, DAPTO 2530. (02) 4261 1173

COMBINED SHOW REPORT

Another Combined Show is over and I would not be surprised if the Movers & Shakers (BSQ's backbone and strength) were not already planning for the 2002 show. BSQ members, headed by M & S extraordinaire, Bob Cross worked harder and achieved greater results again this year.

At the entry foyer was 'Catlin's Corner', a fine display of plants, any of which could earn top awards on the competition table. The expanded auditorium allowed for larger displays and competition areas with a generous walk space. The first display on entering the hall featured cactus and succulents, a striking arrangement of colour, shape, size and texture. To the rear of the hall was the spectacular display of bromeliads with its centre piece a sculpture of a woman basking in a magnificent setting of colour and beauty; blending with the tree trunk in an elegant and naturalistic manner in a sea of shapes, sizes, texture, and brilliant hues.

The large form Vrieseas such as (*hieroglyphica x fenestralis*), 'Pahoa Beauty' and the 'Midouri' were most impressive, not just in their sheer size, but an exotic beauty not to be missed.

The sales area was filled to capacity with a wide range of plants, well patronised and with record sales. Peak sales time on Saturday morning created a traffic crush with its attendant problems: a challenge to the stewards for future shows.

To those members who worked long and hard designing, arranging and setting up the display, VERY, VERY well done. *Perry Crawford*

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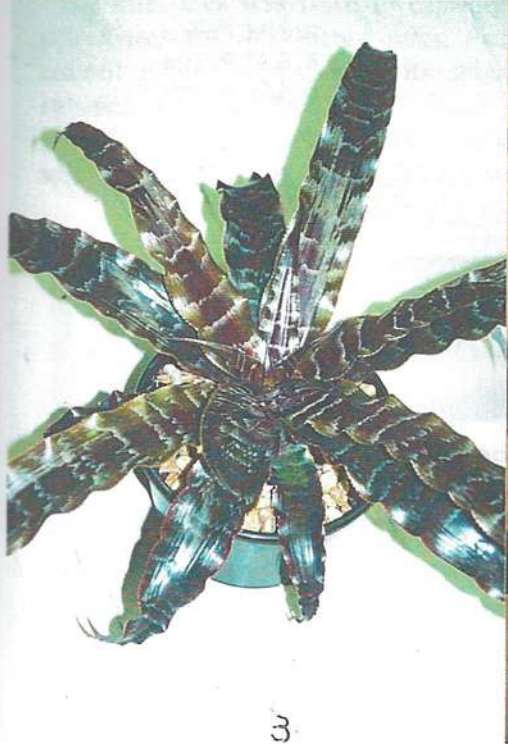
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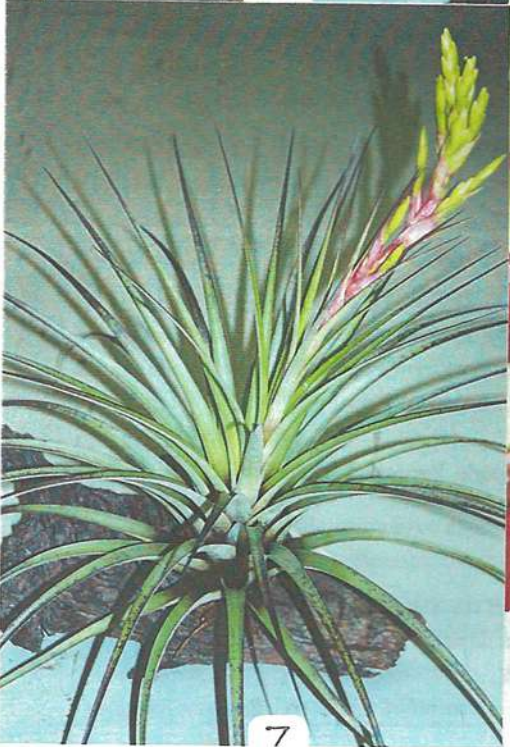
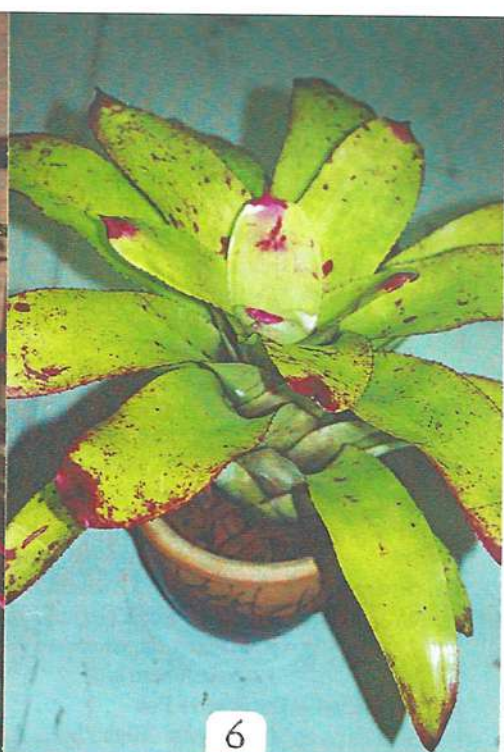
SEND LARGE STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR MAIL ORDER LISTS

JUNE and JOHN BUCHANAN

COMBINED SHOW 2001 COMPETITION RESULTS

1. **Tillandsia**
 1st *T. caput-medusae* hyb. D. & J. Upton
 2nd *T. tectorum* N. Ryan
2. **Tillandsia in Flower or Spike**
 1st *T. (velutina x fasciculata)* B. Genn
 2nd *T. exserta x chaipensis* B. Genn
 3rd *T. tectorum* D. Anderson
3. **Vriesea in Flower or Spike**
 1st *Vr. 'Oli Gold'* L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Vr. 'Charlotte'* L. & O. Trevor
 3rd *Vr. 'Oli Fire'* L. & O. Trevor
4. **Vriesea -- Decorative Foliage**
 1st *Vr. (hieroglyphica x fenestralis)* L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Vr. (hieroglyphica x 'Pahoa Beauty')* L. & O. Trevor
 3rd *Vr. 'Midouri'* L. & O. Trevor
5. **Guzmania**
 1st *Guz. 'Luna'* L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Guz. 'Watermelon'* L. & O. Trevor
 3rd *Guz. 'Candy Corn'* M. Windsor
8. **Cryptanthus**
 1st *C. 'San Juan'* B. & M. Paulsen
 2nd *C. 'Red Tide'* B. & M. Paulsen
 3rd *C. 'Summer Wine'* B. & M. Paulsen
9. **Billbergia**
 1st *B. 'Hallelujah'* E. Weir
 2nd *B. 'Ellen'* B. & M. Paulsen
 3rd *B. 'Golden Joy'* E. Weir
10. **Aechmea**
 1st *Ae. tessmanii* L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Ae. orlandiana* D. & J. Upton
 3rd *Ae. fasciata* L. & O. Trevor
11. **Neoregelia** 200 mm Minimum Diameter
 1st *Neo. 'Debbie'* C. Basic
 2nd *Neo. 'Rosy Morn'* C. Basic
 3rd *Neo. 'Enchantment'* Y. Daniel
12. **Miniature Neoregelia** 200 mm Maximum Diameter
 1st *Neo. 'Pheasant'* L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Neo. 'Wee Willy'* L. & O. Trevor
 3rd *Neo. 'More or Less'* B. & M. Paulsen
14. **Any Intergeneric**
 1st *Neophytum 'Galactic Warrior'* L. & O. Trevor





15. **Other Bromelioideae**
 1st *Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman' E. Weir
 2nd *Orthophytum* 'Stella Beauty' B. & M Paulsen
 3rd *Canistrum fosterianum* L. & O. Trevor
17. **Hechtia or Dyckia**
 1st *D.* 'Dark Night' B. & M. Paulsen
 2nd *D.* 'Kit Kat' B. & M. Paulsen
 3rd *D. platyphylla* P. Crawford
19. **Other Pitcairnioideae**
 1st *Pepinia sanguinea* B. Genn
 2nd *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* B. & M. Paulsen
20. **Specimen** Any genus - Three or more connected plants
 1st *Neoregelia* 'Bossonova' L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Neoregelia* ('Rose Marie x lilliputiana') N. Kickbush
 3rd *Tillandsia tenuifolia* 'Amethyst' E. Weir
21. **Novice -- Any Genus Mary Grasselli Award**
 1st *Vriesea* ('Red Chestnut x amazonica') C. & D. Cutcliffe
 2nd *Aechmea tillandsioides* K. Dawson
 3rd *Vriesea fenestralis* C. & D. Cutcliffe
22. **Bromeliad -- Decorative Pot**
 1st *Neoregelia* 'High Flier' L. & O. Trevor
 2nd *Vriesea* hyb. (yellow) L. & O. Trevor
23. **Bromeliad -- Decorative Mounting**
 1st *Tillandsia fasciculata* C. & D. Cutcliffe
 2nd *Canistrum triangulare* L. & O. Trevor
 3rd *Neoregelia olens* L. & O. Trevor
24. **Miniature Display**
 1st *Tillandsia* Branch M. Windsor
25. **Novelty Display**
 1st 'Seascape' D. & J. Upton
26. **Floral Display**
 1st 'In the Pink' L. & O. Trevor
28. **BEST TILLANDSIOIDEAE** Nez Misso Memorial Trophy
Tillandsia (velutina x fasciculata) B. Genn
29. **BEST BROMELIOIDEAE** Hudson Perpetual Trophy
Neoregelia 'Debbie' C. Basic
30. **BEST CRYPTANTHUS** Grace Goode Perpetual Trophy
Cryptanthus 'San Juan' B. & M. Paulsen
31. **BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE**
Pepinia sanguinea B. Genn
32. **RESERVE CHAMPION BROMELIAD of the SHOW**
Tillandsia (velutina x fasciculata) B. Genn
33. **CHAMPION BROMELIAD of the SHOW**
Neoregelia 'Debbie' C. Basic

34. TOM SCHOFIELD AWARD

Tillandsia 'Wildfire'

L. & O. Trevor

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Tillandsia secunda

L. & T. Muller

Hohenbergia correia-araujoi x *Ae. chantinii*

L. & O. Trevor

Billbergia elgans

M. Symons

Trading Post

Members, especially country members are invited to list their hard-to-find plants in the wish list. The Trading Post has been expanded to include books and seed as well as plants, wanted or available. If you have any of the items listed please contact the member concerned. After you have obtained your selection, please notify the Editor to delete your entry from the list. Key:- P plant; O offset; B book; Date when seed will be available

Member	Plants / Seed / Books Wanted		Phone
Dorothy Cutcliffe	<i>Neoregelia carcharadon</i> (reddish)	P	07 3386 0505
Dorothy Cutcliffe	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Pamelae'	P	07 3386 0505
Dorothy Cutcliffe	<i>Hohenbergia catingae elongata</i>	P	07 3386 0505
Dorothy Cutcliffe	<i>Hohenbergia intermis</i>	P	07 3386 0505
Michael Pascall	<i>Aechmea tayoensis</i>	P	07 4098 8253
Michael Pascall	<i>Bromelia scarlatina</i>	P	07 4098 8253
Ray Nicholson	<i>Quesnelia</i> 'Tim Plowman'	P	07 3399 5296
Keith Pohlman	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Absolutely Fabulous'	P	07 4151 5395
Keith Pohlman	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bob'	P	07 4151 5395
Keith Pohlman	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bailey'	P	07 4151 5395
Keith Pohlman	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Aurora'	P	07 4151 5395
Doug Upton	<i>Aechmea retusa</i>	P	07 3378 3511
Bob Reilly	<i>Vriesea capituligera</i>	P S	07 3870 8029
Bob Reilly	<i>Vriesea tuerckami</i>	S	07 3870 8029
Bob Reilly	<i>Guzmania conferta</i>	P S	07 3870 8029
Bob Reilly	<i>Guzmania sanguineai</i> v <i>erecta</i>	P S	07 3870 8029
Bob Reilly	'Blooming Bromeliads' (English Edition) 1994. Baensch Ulrich & Baensch Ursula Publisher Tropic Beauty	B	07 3870 8029
Plants / Seed Available			
David Brown	<i>Bromelia balansae</i>	O	07 3818 3133
Gayle Hogberg	<i>Bromelia balansae</i>	O	02 6676 1387

Importing Bromeliads

Part 1 of 2

At the March meeting of the Queensland Bromeliad Society, Olive Trevor spoke about her experiences importing bromeliads over the last 25 years. This article summarises the main points made by Olive and some additional comments made by other people at the meeting.

Olive started importing because many of the plants she wished to obtain were not in Australia. Examples of bromeliads which are relatively common today but were basically unobtainable in Australia then, were virtually all of the *Guzmania* and *Vriesia* hybrids, variegated bromeliads such as *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign', *Neoregelia concentrica* marginata, *G. lingulata* 'Broadview', and nearly all tillandsias. Even when you could buy some of these plants in Australia, they were often very expensive. Olive mentioned she paid \$100 in the late 1970s for a clump of 10 flowering *T. stricta*. After allowing for the effects of inflation, this would be equivalent to about \$250 today. So, Olive started her journey of discovery into the "highs" and "lows" of importing bromeliads.

As there were few other people importing bromeliads, there was a large element of "trial and error" in her early experiences of importing. Olive first imported bromeliads from Lotus Osiris in Brazil. With the memory of her \$100 purchase of *T. stricta* still fresh in her mind, she imported plants of that species; and paid the equivalent of \$0.50 for each plant. Along with a range of other plants, they survived quarantine.

Plant importation procedures involve:

- Obtaining a plant import permit from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI)
- Sending the permit with the order to the overseas nursery
- Treatment of the plants by the QDPI on arrival in Australia with methyl bromide gas
- Keeping them in a Quarantine House (basically a specially designed glasshouse) for three months. (Olive initially used QDPI facilities but subsequently also used privately-owned Quarantine Houses).
- Finally, releasing them from quarantine if they were free from disease and insects

Olive related how it was always a nervous moment when the plants were released from the Quarantine House. Would all or most of your plants have survived?, or would you be greeted with a container of blackened remains? Olive has had both experiences over the years. (Personally, I will

always remember how pleased I was when an *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign' survived quarantine; and disappointed when a *T. wagneriana* did not).

One experience that Olive had during that period was the use of the term "variegated" when describing plants, by many nurseries in South America. Their idea of a variegated plant was often one which had spotted or banded foliage rather than the definition we use. This difference in terminology led to some surprises, and disappointments, for Olive from time to time.

In the early 1980s, Olive imported plants from North America and Europe, sometimes achieving very high survival rates. In one shipment from Germany, 96 out of 100 plants survived the quarantine process.

Olive also spoke of the help which some overseas nurseries gave her when deciding which plants to import. Jeff Kent of Kents Nursery in the USA would always tell her which plants were unlikely to survive in Brisbane's climate, where Olive lives. These positive experiences were offset to some extent by some negative ones; one shipment went missing while in quarantine and was never located! On another occasion, dust containing metallic particles blew into a privately owned Quarantine House and caused a large number of *Vriesias* to rot and die.

To give them better control over what happens to their plants after they have been treated with methyl bromide, Olive and Len Trevor have built their own Quarantine House. The facility is built in accordance with a design approved by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS). If you're considering building a Quarantine House, Olive recommends you employ a builder who has already constructed these facilities, given their specialised nature and the need for AQIS to approve the completed building as well as inspect it periodically afterwards to ensure it remains insect-proof.

Bob Reilly

How Good Are Your Plants ? PART 11

Edited extracts from the BSI Handbook for Judges

Criteria for Judging Genera of Tillandsioideae - *Guzmania*

The discussion which follows deals with the criteria used in relation to the point scoring method of judging guzmanias. Each plant will not be actually point scored, but these factors influence the selections.

Cultural Perfection The plant and its container should present an attractive balanced appearance. The plant must be upright and well centred. The container should be clean and free of cracks or flaws. The mix should

adequately fill the container.

Inspect the plant carefully. A robust appearance is especially, desirable for Groups II and III. The foliage must be healthy, clean and free of damage.

Negative factors include damaged, stained, spotted or trimmed leaves. Inspect the base of the rosette for deposits of mineral salts, brown leaf margins and spots (this is especially, important for Groups II and III). Guzrnianias are hard to grow in most areas because there are many that do not thrive as well at temperatures over 90 degrees F. Also, many guzmanias are adversely affected by the quality of the water used in their cultivation. In hot humid weather, the plants are very susceptible to fungal infection, black spotting, or rust spotting at the base of the plant and in between the leaves. Brown tipping of the leaves is also a common fault in guzmanias. Make sure the leaf axils are free of debris, spider webs, dead insects and algae.

Conformation of Plant Look at the plant from directly above and from all sides to determine radial and vertical symmetry. Guzmanias usually have many narrow strap-like leaves comprising a full, slightly drooping rosette. Downgrade plants that have lanky, drooping leaves; an uneven distribution of leaves around the rosette; leaves longer on one side, or two stages of growth as evidenced by short and long leaves. Carefully examine the attitude of the bloom spike which should not have developed an unsightly curl in an effort to reach the light. There should be a pleasing relationship between the angle of the spike and the rosette. Varieties that characteristically develop vertical spikes should be penalised for an unsightly tilt.

Colour and Marking of Plant Group I guzmanias are required to have bright green foliage to indicate good health. Bright colour and distinct markings are especially critical for Groups II and III. Clonal differences will play a role here.

Inflorescence -- Size, Quantity, Quality, Colour Ratings here will be most critical to Group I guzmanias and will strongly influence Group III selections. Some weight will be exerted on the Group II choices, but other factors will be more important. The standard should be a large, attractive inflorescence with clear, bright colour. The bracts will be most prime early in the blooming cycle. Old petals must have been removed and the bracts should be clean and unblemished.

Maturity of the Plant Providing the plant is not rank and overgrown, a mature plant of maximal size indicates good horticulture.

Aechmea subgenus Macrochordian

A the last meeting of the Cairns Bromeliad Discussion Group, I noticed a member studying the *Ae. triangularis* I had brought in. He was wondering what it could be related to, and suggested a species that has slipped from my memory.

I thought it may be in the subgenus *Aechmea*, but after referring to the 'bible', I found it is in the very small subgenus, *Macrochordian*. This group has only 8 species and from the illustrations they all seem to be large, very spiny plants with compact inflorescences.

The name stems from Greek: *macros* - long, *chorde* - rope. [A few more species have been found recently as per 'Alphabetical list of Bromeliad Binomials' Luther & Seiff]

We are currently growing 4 members of this group.

- *Ae. triangularis* This has been a favourite of mine for a long time. The recurved leaf tips with the distinctive black spines really make it stand out.
- *Ae. bromeliifolia* The illustration in *Neotropica* does not resemble the plants grown here. The inflorescence looks right but the plant is drawn with very strappy foliage, where ours is very upright and nearly tubular, most likely due to being grown very hard.
- *Ae. maculata* I saw a superb specimen of this plant in the collection of Don & Judith Duffield; their plant was well marked with narrow brown bands across the leaves.
- A recent acquisition is *Ae. nervata*, an upright plant with very red foliage that is becoming a lot more compact than it was, originating from Brisbane.

The remaining 4 members of this group are ;[from *Neotropica*]

Ae. turbinocalyx, *Ae. alba*, *Ae. chlorophylla*, and *Ae. lamarchei*.

Recent additions from 'Alphabetical list of Bromeliad Binomials' Luther & Seiff are:- *Ae. maasii* & *Ae. pabstii* and it seems that *Ae. nervata* is now a synonym of *Ae. vanhoutteana*

I would be interested in seeing any of these species if any members have them in cultivation.

Michael Pascall, Whyanbeel Arboretum

References:- Smith & Downes, *Neotropica*.

Spanish Moss is not a moss and does not occur in nature in Spain !!

It is the most widely distributed of all bromeliads.

The Book of Bromeliads & Hawaiian Tropical Flowers'

Your Bromeliad guide to Landscaping, Interiorscaping, Cut Flowers and Live Floral Arrangements. A beautifully illustrated coffee table book of 216 pages covering sections on the culture of bromeliads. Eight popular genera are featured with illustrations of new exciting hybrids from Hawaii and other places. This book includes many creative ideas about interior decorating and floral arrangements. The expected price is \$A100. Inquiries and orders to the librarian, Mavis Paulson. Phone 07 5493 3677.

Bromeliads in the sub-family Bromelioideae all have pulpy fruit, in the form of a berry. These species rely on birds and other animals to disperse the mature seeds. One species *Ronnbergia explodens*, has an additional means of seed dispersal. At maturity, the berry ruptures suddenly expelling the seeds away from the parent plant.

The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society

Extracts from the annual report by president Bob Paulsen

The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society had its origins as a result of a conversation by some delegates on the train to Cairns for Bromeliads X in August, 1999. The inaugural meeting was held at the home of Grace Goode in Alexandra Headlands followed by a public meeting at the same venue on the 20th of November with 22 people present.

Meetings were held at the homes of various members during the year and featured talks and demonstrations by experienced growers from S E

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Queensland. Other activities included a bus trip to Gympie and a display at the Buderim Garden Club Festival. A regular bi-monthly newsletter has been commenced and a small lending library established. Membership has grown to 66 persons with meeting attendance averaging 28.

Meetings will be held on July 21, August 18, September 22, October 20, November 17. Phone Phyll Eckersley on 07 5445 1984 or Bob Paulsen on 07 5493 3677 for the location of the venue. **Visitors Welcome**

Bromeliad Study Group

On 24th March, the Bromeliad Study Group of the Queensland Bromeliad Society held its third meeting for 2001. As is normally the case, the Study Group met at Len and Olive Trevor's house at 232 Canvey Road, Ferny Grove. 14 members attended.

The Study Group provides an opportunity for members to meet in an informal setting to discuss a range of issues connected with growing bromeliads. Topics covered at recent meetings include: hybridising bromeliads (a major focus of the Study Group); growing bromeliads from seed; how to best grow variegated bromeliads (for example, how much light is needed to "bring out" a plant's variegation); pests and diseases of bromeliads; bromeliad potting mixes and fertilisers; rare bromeliads and bromeliads showing unusual growth patterns. The bromeliad-growing experience of members ranges from beginners to people who have been growing them for many years.

Meetings start informally with breakfast around 7.30 am. At about 8.30 am, the more serious part of the meeting commences. It consists of a series

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of short (mainly five to 10 minutes) discussions led by individual members who have volunteered for this task, on some bromeliad-related topic. The discussions are usually "illustrated" with plants eg punnets of seedlings which have grown well (or, at the other extreme, are in the process of all dying!).

The discussion usually concludes about 10.30 am, at which time some members leave while others stay on to try their hand at hybridising some of the wide range of species and hybrids which Olive and Len Trevor have growing.

Mike Symmons brought along a beautifully flowering specimen of *Tillandsia multicaulis*. He sought members' views as to whether rust-like markings on the plant's lower leaves were evidence of some type of disease. The general view was that this was not the case, as plants of this species usually show these markings when grown in Brisbane. (Plants grown in cooler climates, which are more similar to *T. multicaulis*' natural habitat, may not show such markings). The following species and hybrids were crossed: *Neoregelia* 'Debbie' and 'Kaola Dawn'; *Portea elatasepala* and *Aechmea* 'Burning Bush'.

You're welcome to come to Study Group meetings. The Study Group coordinator for 2001 is Olive Trevor who can be contacted by telephone on (07) 3351 1203. Olive can tell you the topics which will probably be covered at the next Study Group meeting and its location. Meetings are held on the second Saturday after each B.S.Q.meeting.

Bob Reilly

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WHAT'S KILLING THE SPANISH MOSS ?

Part 2 of 3

About a year ago I realised my own spanish moss wasn't looking so good. We had had dry weather, so I assumed that this may be the cause and started to water more often. About six months ago, I realised that there was a problem. When I watered the plants they turned brown instead of green. There was very little green new growth on the tips.

Around January this year, I had a surge of growth towards the centre of many of the clumps. The rest of the clumps were dead and lifeless at this stage. This surge of new growth seems to be consistent with what I have seen in many other gardens. Now I note that a lot of these new leaves are dehydrating from the tips and I expect that they will also die. Talking to growers on the Sunshine Coast, they say they have had much the same thing happen. They report that this often finishes off the clump. At this stage I would say that 95% of my moss (and I have a lot) is dead.

What is the Cause

Initially I thought that the dry weather caused the problem. But looking back, I must say we had dryer periods when I didn't water and the plant just kept on growing. For a while I thought it may be the tap water I was watering the plants with, but there are clumps high up in the trees which I have never watered and they are affected as well.

I suspect that the problem is a fungus disease. I have heard of these "die outs" happening in the United States and wiping out the moss there. Then the moss gradually returns again.

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Tracking the disease

It has interested me how the disease has been spreading. The first report seems to have come from the Sunshine Coast. Interestingly, on our field trip to Bundaberg late last year, some of the members do not appear to have been affected. I also have friends at Byron Bay and their plants do not appear to have been affected at all. I noted the disease in the Redland Bay area about eight months ago, so somehow it got there fairly early on.

The disease now seems to be fairly common in Brisbane. I can pick the clumps of dead moss as I drive around. Healthy clumps that grew in trees are now lifeless and blow in the wind; it has spread right around my neighbourhood.

On a recent trip to Melbourne, I noted the condition in collections there. There has been some trade in plants with Sunshine Coast growers and once again it seems that this area is implicated in the initial spread. *Arno King*

With good germination, you can often finish up with more seedlings than you have any immediate need (or space) for. One way of dealing with this situation is to take a few plants out of the seedling container and leave the rest there. The remaining seedlings, while not growing in size, will still be suitable for "potting-on" later. Bromeliad seedlings like the company of each other; keep them together in "community pots" while they are small as they prefer this situation compared with each having its own pot.

Bob Reilly

Wanted: Copy 10,000 words per issue. One liners, one paragraph, or sagas on bromeliads or any bromicultural topic. *Ed*

M. J. PATERSON

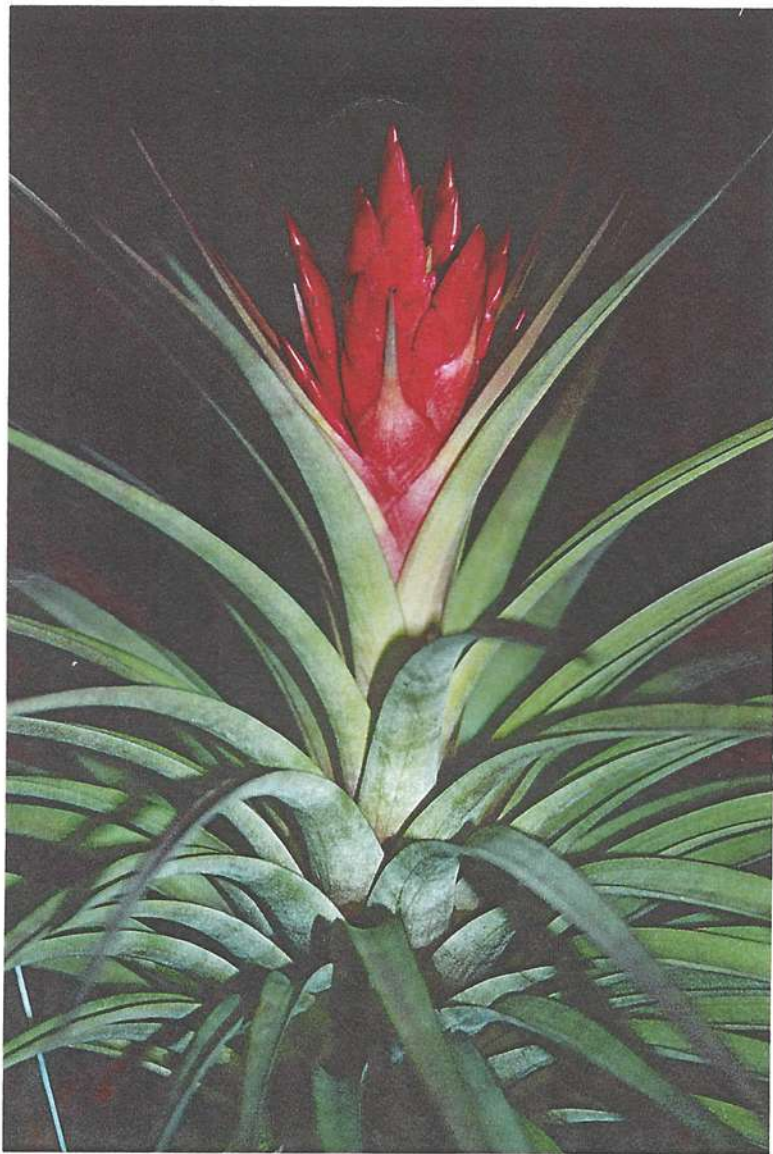
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