# *Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.*

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 18th July, 2013 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery
114 Pine Street Wardell 2477
Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: June 2013

## General Discussion

Editorial Team:
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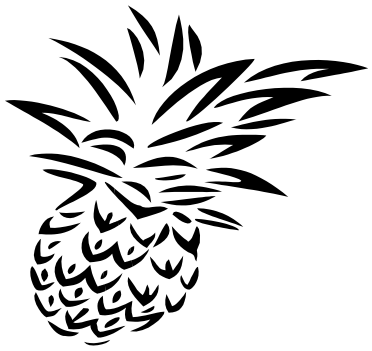


## Meeting 16th May 2013

The meeting was opened by Ross at 11:28 AM. The 31 members attending were made welcome by Ross, and apologies were given for five members.

Ross announced the sad news of Reg Ross's passing and referred to the vale on page 14 of May's newsletter. Don gave a brief eulogy to Reg, pointing out his many wonderful attributes, and his infatuation with bromeliads. Reg drank life to the lees, and he lived and breathed bromeliads. Although Reg had many crosses to bear, he did so with great dignity. He will be sadly missed.
A little bit of good news...Heather has indicated that she will continue to attend our monthly meetings.

## General Business

Ross mentioned some name corrections for Alan Phythian Vrieseas (see Tidy-up Corner page 14 of the May newsletter). He also noted that people should not Latinise hybrid names.
Another issue that has arisen mainly on forums and to some lesser degree in societies and groups, is the correction of plant names, being taken as a personal attack on the individual with the incorrectly named plant. This is not so, and the correction of names and spelling is all part of the process of learning, and should be accepted as such. The need to correct names and spelling of bromeliads becomes obvious when one tries to find the incorrectly named plant or a plant with an incorrectly spelt name, on various websites with bromeliad databanks…..... **It won't be found.** So please accept the freely given help from people who know, with some little gratitude and not angst.

Ross has asked for some assistance in chairing the monthly meeting. His work load is great with respect to the FNCBSG NSW, and this often prevents the meeting starting at the prescribed time of 11.00 AM. Of course, any assisting chairperson will need to keep appraised of any monthly news which Ross or the editors of the Newsletter receive, and which needs to be mentioned at the next meeting. Both Shane and Meg have offered to assist.
It should also be mentioned that Shane is currently indexing all our newsletters. Thank you Shane.

Due to the poor response regarding entrants into the popular vote competitions, and in an effort to revive interest, a suggestion has been made. viz. That all plants entered in the competitions receive numbers, which are entered into a draw, the winner from each section receives first pick of the raffle plants.
The group unanimously agreed to this suggestion by David and Caroline which will be now implemented at the June 2013 meeting.

Ross confirmed there is no issue with presenting bromeliads for competition in coloured pots. Just make sure all commercial labels are removed from the pot.

Margaret Paterson's new book has arrived as have the Flit-Sprayers. For those members who have already paid for the items please collect them from Helen.

The Group has purchased 30, 5kg bags of zeolite, these are available to members at $5.00 per bag.

People often ask what price they should put on a particular plant which they brought in for sale. The answer to that is... that the price is one that you would feel comfortable with if you had to pay that price for it yourself.

Don sent a memorandum to the chairperson of FNCBSG NSW proposing an additional bromeliad table show competition called " Artistic Display Popular Vote". The three established competitions would continue under the rules which already govern them. The "Artistic Display Popular Vote" would be defined as any artistic arrangement of bromeliads only, and would automatically include clumps. The arrangement may or may not include a base material to which the bromeliad may be attached. No comical or cavalier entries would be allowed, and judges reserve the right to reject unsuitable entries prior to their being tabled. All other rules regarding ownership period, pests etc. to be the same as for the established competitions. The new competition would not compete in the "Judges' Choice Competition".
The proposal was voted on by the membership, and carried unanimously.

## Members' Show and Tell

Ross mentioned an instance of a plant bought some time ago, which was an unknown *Vriesea* species in the *Vr. flammea* complex. The plant was booked as PineGrove 3037. Some two or three years ago Derek Butcher gave the plant a cultivar name, *Vr.* 'Snow-White' ( the flower has white petals). So now Ross has the plant's new name in his records. If the purchaser of the original plant had maintained contact with PineGrove, the new name would have been available to them. So please keep in touch with a plant's vendor, particularly if he runs a specialist nursery, as he is likely, through time, to gather new information on your plant.

Recently, a comment was made regarding an *Alcantarea* 'Silver Plum' having grass pups. In fact *Alcantarea* 'Silver Plum' has no pups of any sort. The plant reproduces by seed alone. *Alcantarea* 'Silver Plum' is a select clone of *Alc. imperialis*. Because Alcantareas are extremely promiscuous, pollination, in order to obtain true seed, has to occur under controlled conditions.

*Alcantarea imperialis* is collected over a very wide range of habitat. It occurs from sea level to alpine altitudes. At higher altitudes it has fewer pups and a redder colouration. The reason for this is uncertain. The winter chill and alpine conditions may bring the bright red colour. Nutrition and lighting may also have an effect.

Ross said that Melinda Barlow from Cowra, having built a tunnel house for her broms, is going to put her plants outside for the first time this winter (gets pretty cold). Though Melinda's broms will probably survive, her situation has sparked a few thoughts. If you have frosts keep your plants relatively dry. Water only in the morning. A dry plant is a happy plant. If the broms received a frosting, water them and thaw the frost. We are pretty lucky here in the Northern Rivers, with frost being a rarity. (Mel's article Sept. 2012 Newsletter)

Any member who collects Tillandsias would you please see if you have any *Till. brachycaulos* var. *multiflora.* If you have one, please bring it along next month, or photograph it and relate its history, where you acquired it etc. via email to Ross. The real *Till. brachycaulos* var. *multiflora* should not have a spike (probably a hybrid), but a nest of blue flowers in the centre. In fact please bring in anything with *Till. brachycaulos* in its breeding.

A discussion between Shane and Ross led to the following comments regarding the bromeliads that produce berries such as *Aechmea* and *Hohenbergia*. When the ovary (berry/fruit) has changed colour, this is generally, but not always an indication that the ovary has had a successful pollination, and it contains seed. However some false pregnancies do occur. Often white berries change to blue or black; yellow or cream to red etc. It is the change in colour that is the indicator. The ovary or berry of a successfully pollinated flower is also more swollen than a 'no seed' berry. Plants that self pollinate usually have all berries change colour. If only a few change colour, then it is not self pollinated (selfed). It is probably pollinated by wind, birds, insects etc. and in all probability hybrids will result. If you want a pure type then pollination needs to be strictly controlled (as in a laboratory). With self pollinators this can be achieved by a stocking over the inflorescence before the flowers are ready to breed.

Ross /Kay displayed a plant which came in last month as *Neoregelia* 'Strawberry Cream'. The plant has also been seen as 'Strawberry Cream' in the Queensland Bromeliad Society Show. However, the actual *Neo.* 'Strawberry Cream' is albomarginated. The plant in question is actually *Neo.* 'Strawberry Cup'. A simple identification error. So if you possess this plant, please relabel it *Neoregelia* 'Strawberry Cup". This is a good enough example and reason to bring your

uncertain plants to the monthly meeting for identification. One can also attempt to find the plants name on either the BCR website or the FCBS website.

Ross referred to “From Around the Shade House” page 14 of the May Newsletter, where comments regarding slow-release fertiliser (Osmocote balls /prill) were documented. Added to that information is the need for foliar fertiliser on bromeliad leaves.

John Crawford wondered if fertiliser prill in *Alcantarea* leaf axils will help produce more pups. Ross answered that there was no reason why not. This led to a discussion of different methods to accelerate pup growth. E.g. driving a screwdriver through the centre of the plant; one can also use a knife, metal rods, a power drill etc. The rods can be driven right through the plant to assist in stability and help drain the plant and slow the rotting process. The addition of anti fungal powder, cinnamon, Mancozeb etc. also helps.
Many members having tried one or more of these methods, confirmed their success. The quest for variegated pups may also be a reason for spearing the Bromeliad, but with success generally only forthcoming from sound variegated mothers i.e. those plants known to hold their variegations through to the pups. Another method mentioned to accelerate pup growth was the splitting of the lower leaves. This is of particular use on those plants known as ‘upper puppers’.

Another very important issue is garden safety. A lot of us are not particularly careful in the garden, and probably need to take more care. Ross and Helen wrote an article on garden safety (see FNCBSG NSW Newsletter, July 2011). Particular care has to be taken when working around the more aggressively spined bromeliads...**protect your eyes**!

Laurie sought and learnt the correct way of writing *Vriesea ospinae* var. *gruberi.* He also pointed out a beautiful Tillandsia photograph on the back page of a recent “Bromeliaceae”. The photograph was of *Tillandsia aeranthos* (Boe Fl PT ref. code) spectacular white/blue coloured petals. He then presented a number of unknown *Tillandsia .* He also wanted to know when to remove pups from his *Alcantarea extensa*. Normal pups or those grown high on the plant ….when they are one third of the mother’s size. The grass pups can be removed at any time.

Ross displayed a novar from *Neo*. ’De Rolf’ which in turn has developed two variegated pups. So please don’t throw away the novar pups from a rare or desirable plant, as they may develop variegated pups themselves.
He also presented a *Neo*. ‘Bill Morris’ (*Neo. concentrica* albo marginated) which had developed a variegated and a novar pup. The novar pup itself had developed a variegated pup or in other words a *Neo*. ‘Bill Morris’.

Also displayed was a green form of *Aechmea filicaulis* (there is also a red foliage form). Both forms' flowers are the same and flower for many months. The plants are easy to flower and to pup. The inflorescence is pendulous and the flowers are large. The plant is best displayed hanging, or in a tree.
Ross's final display plant was a very cute *Neo. pendula* which had produce two pups on long stolons. These plants like moisture. In the wild they grow in trees or on rock faces near waterfalls where there is plenty of mist. However, these plants are cold sensitive. There is a larger similar type *Neo*regelia called *Neo. eleutheropetala* which when crossed with *Neo. pendula* gives us the hybrid *Neo.* 'Pink Spider'.

John asked about the zigzag markings or patterns on leaves of some bromeliads . It was explained that these impressions occur in many different genera on their leaves, including *Aechmea, Ananus, Bromelia, Dyckia, Hectia, Hohenbergia*, and *Puya*. These impressions are the result of the spinous leaf margin of one leaf pressing against the fleshy part of the next leaf above and possibly against the leaf below, at an early stage of the leaves' development. It seems that this character is restricted to the genera with the more fleshy or succulent type leaves. As the leaf opens the impression makes an attractive pattern on it. Note that the impressions on the abaxial (underneath) surface of the leaf is more marked than that of the adaxial (upper) leaf surface. Also, not all specimens of a particular genus exhibit this trait.

Lynne brought in a *Aechmea recurvata* for identification. In all probability it is *Ae. '*Cardinalis' which is a cultivar or hybrid of *Ae. recurvata.* The plant needs much more sun in order to colour up well.

Kay produced a very unhappy *Vriesea saundersii* hybrid which had received too much rain and probably needs a free draining mix. In order to save the plant, most of the leaves (dead) need to be removed, with the white fleshy parts of the lower parts of leaves exposed. The plant is now very brittle, so be careful. Dry it out for a day or two then replant. If there is any suggestion of fungal infection perhaps some cinnamon in the remaining leaves' axils may help.

John explained how, when he bought tissue cultures of bromeliads, he would buy a container full (40 or 50) for $30 or $40. Approximately $1 per plant when one allows for failures. These plants have to be grown-on. They are in a gel which is to be washed off these very tiny plants (10 mm) which haven't yet breathed, so the change of environment is quite a shock and one is apt to lose some. After cleaning the gel off with flowing water, the tiny plants are placed in a biscuit or plug which is placed in a plastic tray of small pots used for producing seedlings. The plug is then watered and immediately swells to fill its small pot.

Slow release fertiliser is added. For those wishing to grow-on tissue cultures or seedlings, similar trays and plugs (already wet) can be purchased for reasonable prices from Garden City Plastics in Brisbane. (photo p.8)
John brought in a shiny leaf plant labelled *Neo*. 'Dreamtime'. Ross identified the plant as *Neo*.' Dreamtime' novar, or at least the plant is a hybrid out of the 'Aussie Dream' grex.

Les displayed and briefly described a large collection of *Cryptanthus*, which included many beautiful plants such as Crypt. 'It' and Crypt. 'Ti'. For more details on the presented plants please communicate with Les Higgins.

Lesley and Ross gave a presentation on viviparous pupping within the bromeliad family (see article on pages 10 / 11 of this Newsletter).

## ***Tillandsia dyeriana*** compiled by Ross Little

*Tillandsia dyeriana* - André, 1888, named in honour of M. T. Dyer, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England. This is an extremely attractive, mesic, epiphytic species from Ecuador, consisting of a few-leaved, spotted rosette, however these spots often tend to fade on maturity. André considered this a most charming species, with it's 10 to 15cm long inflorescence borne on a 30cm peduncle which most certainly makes it a stand-out in many collections.
Some forms have a digitate inflorescence whilst often we only see the simple inflorescence form. Bract colour can vary from an intense bright red or sometimes orange-yellow to shining vermilion red with white petal flowers, when flowering the plants can reach a height of 30 to 60cm. Found along the coast of Ecuador amongst the mangroves and in thick forests where it was once thought to only be growing to approximately 100 metres elevation until it was found later at higher elevations to 800 meters in the Andes. *Tillandsia rutschmannii* which was found and described by Rauh in 1974 was placed into synonomy with *Till. dyeriana* in 1979 had been found on the east side of the Cordillera further extending the known range of *Till. dyeriana* to these higher elevations.

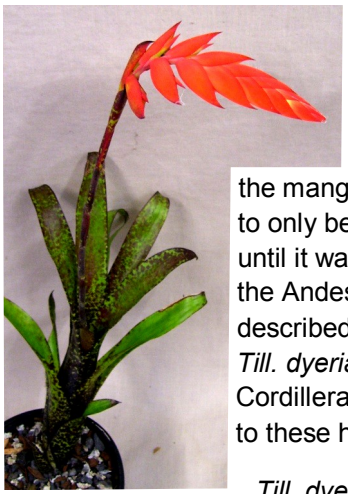


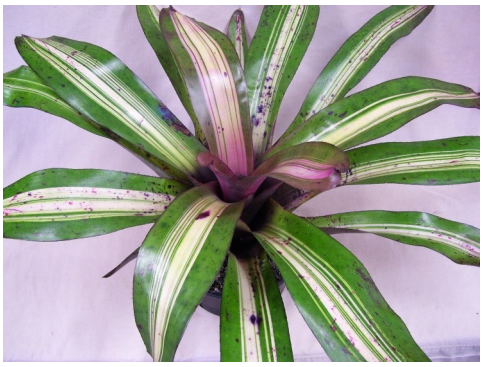
photo by
Ross Little

*Till. dyeriana* is also very happy grown in pot culture as we could see with Shane Weston's well grown example which he presented at our May meeting.

*Guzmania* hybrid
equal 1st Open - Marie Essery

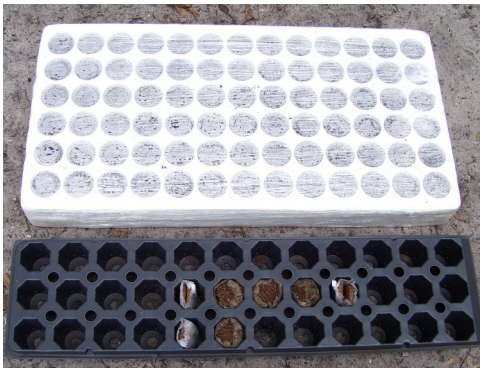
*Vriesea* 'Hawaiian' series
equal 1st Open - Meg Kerr

*Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior'
1st Novice - Lynne Frank

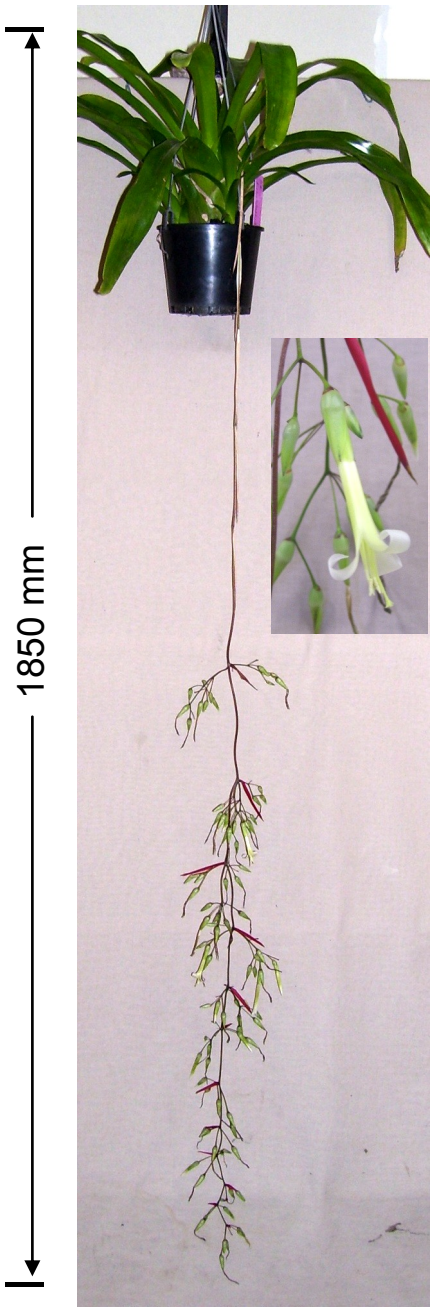


*Neoregelia* 'Serendipity Girl'
Judges Choice - Coral McAteer

One of three trays of *Cryptanthus*
shown by Les Higgins



Seedling trays with coco peat plugs
shown by John Crawford




*Aechmea filicaulis*
grown by Ross Little

*Tillandsia concolor* x *brachycaulos* ?
grown by Laurie Mountford

*Tillandsia* 'Roma'
grown by Ross Little

*Neoregelia* 'Strawberry Cup' (left)
*Neoregelia* 'Strawberry Cream' (right)

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little

## Vivipary and Bromeliads

compiled by Ross Little & Lesley Baylis

Within the bromeliad family there are several methods of reproduction apart from the principal pollination of flowers, the sexual / seed method.
There are three distinct types of seed within the Bromeliaceae:

Baccate - berry like fruit distributed by animals - birds etc.

Flat winged seed, dry - distributed by the wind.

Plumose seed, dry - distributed by the wind.

Bromeliads also produce offsets, referred to as pups, these are a vegetative growth method of reproduction forming at the base of a plant or within the leaf axils. This is known as asexual reproduction.

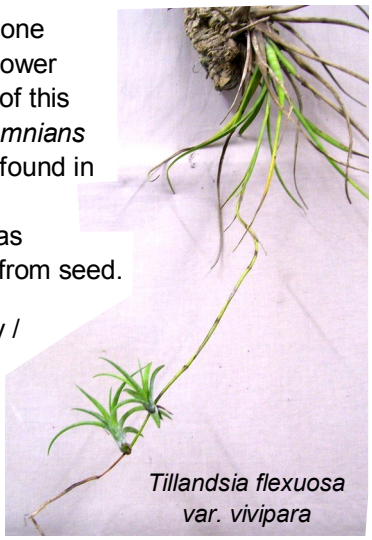
There are several other methods of asexual reproduction known as vivipary or viviparous offsets, meaning -- germinating while still attached to the parent plant.

We often see this method of reproduction with mangrove trees where the seed germinates while still attached to the tree. The plantlet eventually drops into the water and floats away, some develop a tap root which spears into the mud when it drops and continues to grow, beginning a new life where it lands.

Another form of vivipary is referred to as infructus - growing in the fruit - meaning germinating inside over ripe fruit, however this seed could germinate in moist soil so not strictly viviparous. We occasionally see *Dyckia* seed germinate in the seed pods eventually dropping to the ground to continue life. *Ananas* sprout new shoots from the crown/top and also from the base of the fruit. Eventually the weight of these new growths bend the scape till it touches the ground where these new growths can set root and continue their life cycle to maturity.

Orthophytums fit a group as false vivipary or pseudo-vivipary where flowers are born in florets, if due to natural variables pollination has not occurred (no seed) the floret changes it's growth habit from seed production and becomes a plantlet or a pseudoviviparous plant. The tall spike with many heavy florets eventually lays to the ground due the weight, this in turn spreads the plantlets further afield from the base of the original plant which then helps form spreading clumps.

Finally we have what most people envisage when one mentions vivipary - pups growing along a scape (flower spike) from a node in the scape bracts. Examples of this being: *Tillandsia latifolia, flexuosa var. vivipara, somnians* and *secunda* are some of the better known plants found in our collections showing this trait.
Vivipary here meaning -- growth via embryo such as bud / nodes as opposed to germinating externally from seed.


*Tillandsia flexuosa var. vivipara*

All these various forms of vivipary / pseudovivipary / infructus are brought about by genetic and environmental factors governing all the variables:

1) Harsh environment - dry, cold.

2) Lack of pollinator - no seed

3) Short unsuccessful pollination period - no seed.

Plants with a viviparous habit can employ plan 'B' in adverse conditions by using their stored food supply (which was for seed production) into the development of pups from nodes along the flower spike or turning those florets into plantlets. However in the *Bromeliaceae* this is a method of reproduction that only offers a few offspring at a time where as reproduction from seed is a lot slower method but allows plants to cover a greater area on the wind in a shorter space of time. Allowing that not all seed will find a suitable host / location to germinate and grow to maturity the success rate can be relatively low to the amount of seed produced. Where as with viviparous offsetting the plants / plantlets are already in a environment suitable to their growth offering a higher success rate.
Note that epiphytic *Tillandsias* using this viviparous mode of reproduction can spread from branch to branch forming groups, while the terrestrial bromeliads can sprawl across the ground forming large mats as ground covers.

*Orthophytum* 'Starlights' showing it's sprawling ground cover habit.

## Bromeliad Identification Problems

by Ross Little

There are many resources available to check the identity of a new bromeliad acquisition. As we have been told many, many times before “never trust the name on a label”. Regardless of the source, usually identity can only be assured when the plant flowers. This should apply also to ’wild collected’ seed which may not be true to type when grown on to maturity as there is always the possibility of a natural hybrid. Which was the pollen parent? Sometimes the seed may have come from a plant that was collected in the wild but has been growing in a private garden till it flowered, which puts doubt into the purity of the seed offered.

There are quite a few forums on the internet that can be very useful tools if used correctly. One such forum is Planet Bromeliad on Facebook which is not perfect, but a useful guide. Unfortunately most of these sites are ‘bragger orientated’ and often used by growers and sellers who aren’t really concerned with names. Too often we see seriously incorrect identifications being offered on photos of NOID (no idea / no identification) plants. Spelling can be atrocious which does not assist in finding a correct identification.

There are many good books available of which some are technical publications designed for the more botanically-minded. e.g.

1) Flora Neotropica, Monograph No.14 by Smith and Downs.
2) BROMELIADS for Home, Garden and Greenhouse by Werner Rauh.
3) Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest by Elton Leme

There are many others, of which some are excellent coffee table books with beautiful colour pictures, but not many publishers are also bromeliad collectors, so errors can occur. This is mainly due to spell check on our computers which doesn’t always recognize Latinised names. Plant identification in books is only as good as the persons who proof read them. How thorough are they? Hopefully each publisher crossed his t’s, dotted his i’s and put all the ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’s to the correct photos and corresponding with the index.

Some guidelines to consider when identifying a plant to a photo:

1) Did the author/grower have the correct name to begin with ?
2) How true are the colours in the photo ?
3) Could I get a true scale of size from the photo ?
4) Where did the plant come from ?
5) Is the name spelled correctly ?
6) If a formula, how accurate is it written, is the seed parent name shown first ?
7) Has the plant been grown in different light or climate than mine ?
8) Has the plant been fertilized or not (growth variability due to fertilizer) ?

After considering all these variables one has several options for assistance:
1) Your local Bromeliad Society members and their library.
2) The Bromeliad Cultivar Register (for cultivars including hybrids) BCR http://registry.bsi.org . Where only the formula (parentage) is on the label, this can be checked under "Advanced Search " for seed parent and pollen parent (or reverse the names if there is no match to any cultivar names)
3) Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies - FCBS www.fcbs.org
4) Brom-L for species identification http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/Brom-L/

Now that you have considered all these variables, checked your plant to all the photos and information available in books and on the internet sites, you now need to decide:
1) How close a match do I have to the suggested name ?
2) Does this name agree with registered photos ?
3) Do the names/formula agree with recognised lists ?
4) Can I tick 95% of the boxes ?

If you can answer yes to about 95% of the boxes, you could use the registered name. If in doubt, retain the name as you received it, adding ??? to remind yourself that the name on the label is in doubt.

After exhausting all avenues, with no identification found and you consider the plant is unique enough to be worthy of a name, consult the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar at cultivars@bsi.org

Identifying plants from books and other media is always going to be fraught with danger so exercise the utmost care and consideration. Consult with others at all times before making that final decision because two heads are better than one.

Don't just take a punt, as just any old name will NOT do.

One needs to remember that when being offered advice whether it be better growing tips, a name correction, spelling or other information, to not take it personally as the error may have been the fault of the previous owner. When writing labels it doesn't take long to check your spelling on either the BCR or FCBS.

The best site for spell checking species is the New Bromeliad Taxon List, which can advise also if the name is valid, current or an old synonym: http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonlist.php

If you don't correct the label error today, then it will compound tomorrow.
Don't misinterpret friendly assistance as a personal attack but as offers of help.

**HELP,** we all need it.

Thank you to Geoff Lawn and Derek Butcher for their assistance with this article.

## An Interesting *Tillandsia flexuosa* by Jeff Shimonski

*Tillandsia flexuosa* is a common bromeliad well known to *Tillandsia* enthusiasts. Being a rather unshowy plant, it is not much prized by collectors.

In May of 1978 I had the opportunity to participate in a turtle-collecting expedition in north eastern Venezuela. While looking for turtles, I kept an eye out for plants that might have been worthwhile introductions to my collection. I was not too enthusiastic, for this region is quite arid and the flora is not very diverse. (Many*Ceruis* spp. and an unbelievable number of *Bromelia humilis.*)

One afternoon while exploring a large limestone embankment on the coast east of Chichirivichi, I came upon a mass of *T. flexuosa.* I was about to dismiss them as uninteresting, when something unusual caught my eye. These plants appeared to be stoloniferous. Upon closer inspection I realized that each inflorescence had about three plantlets forming at the base of the scape. By the time the flowers on a developing scape had begun to open, the scape-produced plantlets beneath them had attained a size of approximately 5 cm in diameter. The plantlets would remain on the inflorescence, flower, and in turn produce more plantlets giving a stoloniferous effect.

I collected a number of plantlets and also a few seedlings that I gathered nearby.

*T. flexuosa* occurs in Florida, the West Indies, Central America, and South America. It is known to have several forms. But to date as far as I know this "viviparous" form is found only in Venezuela (pers. ob.) and Panama (pers. comm. Nat De Leon).

"Vivipary" is not uncommon in the plant kingdom. In the Filiceales, *Diplazum proliferium* occasionally produces plantlets at the base of the pinnae. *Kalanchoe* of the Crassulaceae forms plantlets on mature leaves. The family Araceae has in it an unidentified species of epiphytic *Anthurium* that produces plantlets on its roots (pers. comm. Monroe Birdsey).

Sporadic production of plantlets is caused by a distortion or destruction of the hormonal balance in the structure (i.e. scape, leaf, etc.) where "vivipary" occurs (Weber 1977). However, in the presently considered *T. flexuosa*, a mutation has taken place, a change in a gene in somatic tissue which can be asexually propagated.

I do not believe that seedlings will perpetuate this trait, for this mutant occurred in a very confined area. Maturation of seedlings that I collected will prove or disprove this speculation.

I feel that consistent proliferation of new plants from the developing scape of the progeny of this *T. flexuosa* qualifies it to be considered a distinct variant. I propose that this variant be named *T. flexuosa* variety viv*ipara.*

Reprinted from: BSI Journal, 1979, Vol.29 (3)

## Novice Popular Vote

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Lynne Frank | *Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior' |
| 2nd | Coral McAteer | *Neoregelia* 'Serendipity Girl' |
| 3rd | Trish Kelly | *Aechmea* 'MEND' |

## Open Popular Vote

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Marie Essery | *Guzmania* hybrid |
| 1st | Meg Kerr | *Vriesea* 'Hawaiian' series |
| 2nd | Laurie Mountford | *Vriesea var. gruberi* |
| 3rd | Shane Weston | *Tillandsia dyeriana* |
| 3rd | Carol Buckman | *Neoregelia* 'Lucky Last' |

## Judges Choice

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Coral McAteer | *Neoregelia* 'Serendipity Girl' |
| Hon. Ment. | Lynne Frank | *Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior' |

## Comments from the growers:

**Lynne** entered a beautiful *Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior' (bigeneric). Bought approximately two years ago, maybe from Ross**.** Currently in a shade house with her other broms, 50% beige shade cloth and facing north. Water when needed. Fertilised with slow-release Osmocote. No pests or diseases.

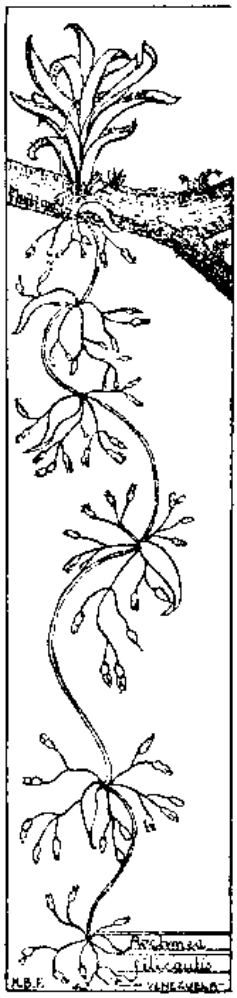
**Coral's** *Neoregelia* 'Serendipity Girl' was bought as a pup some two years ago from PineGrove. It is grown under an awning and receives afternoon sun. Watered once per week. Slow-release fertiliser from PineGrove.

**Trish**. Her lovely *Ae.* 'Mend' was acquired from Reg as a swap with a *Vriesea* . No special treatment. Slow-growing. Receives half a day sun under 50% shade cloth. Watered rarely. Fertilised once or twice a year. No pests or diseases. The plant is a cultivar of *Ae. lueddemanniana*.

**Marie**. Her original *Guz*. hybrid was bought from BigW growing in a pot of sphagnum moss. This plant is a pup off the original. Grown under 70% beige shade cloth under good sun. Watered rarely. Slow release fertiliser. No pests or diseases.

**Meg's** *Vriesea* (Hawaiian series) was acquired last July from Fitzpatrick on the Atherton Tableland. The plant has beautiful vertical stripes. It is grown in a shade house facing south with a 70% roof and 50% on the side. The shade cloth is green. Only rainwater at the moment. Fertiliser, slow-release Osmocote. No pests or diseases.

**Laurie** entered a very nice *Vr. ospinae* var. *grubrei* which he may well have acquired from PineGrove. Grown in a bush house, 50% biscuit shade cloth. Mostly shady with dappled light and morning sun. Slow release fertiliser. No pests or diseases.



## ***Aechmea filicaulis*** (Grisebach) Mez, 1894.

Plant was originally found by Grisebach in 1864 and named *Billbergia filicaulis,* later to be reclassified as an *Aechmea* by Mez. Grows as an epiphyte in cloud forests at 1000 to 1600 metres altitude in northern Venezuala.

*The two following passages from various BSI Journals;*

This is a medium-sized plant with soft green leaves which take on a bronze hue if grown in full light. The inflorescence is suspended on a thread-like scape, which may hang from the plant for nearly 6 feet. The bracts are a bright rosy red; the flowers are white and surprisingly large. This delightful plant should be grown where it can hang and where the breeze can catch the flowers, turning them into so many white butterflies. It requires ordinary care, but does best in a greenhouse, although it does grow outdoors in protected tropical areas.

From an aerial perch in the lofty mountains of Venezuela hangs a natural Mobile issuing forth in delicate splendor out of the water-filled center of *Aechmea filicaulis.* Under a cover of bright crimson bracts emerge chaste white flower tubes at a forty-five degree angle from an umbell of flowers suspended along a spidery-thin stem six feet long. It's an inflorescence which stops you cold, not because of the usual startling color prevalent in bromeliads, or of its size, but because it is so fragile, so unearthly, so much like something from fairyland.