

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting April 20th 2017 at 11 a.m.

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

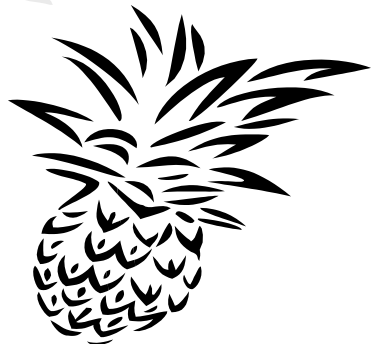
Discussion: March 2017

General Discussion

Editorial Team:

Kay Daniels
Trish Kelly
Ross Little
Helen Clewett

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Meeting 16th February 2017

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 17 members and one visitor present were welcomed.
A total of two apologies were received.

General Business

Ross opened the meeting welcoming the Group and informing them that he had serious computer problems and was unable to produce a February edition of the Newsletter. As soon as his computer is repaired he feels he will be able to catch up and get the Newsletters up to date.

Hopefully we'll be back on track for our March meeting with lots of plans for the coming year with structured topics for discussion at each of our meetings. Our normal queries & questions seeking advice, identification & cultural guidance along with the very popular Show and Tell that displays our achievements in bromeliad cultivation will continue. The Show and Tell section of our meetings is for discussion, it is not competitive as the plants being shown are mostly the rarer and more unusual plants not often seen.

It has been decided that instead of the usual Grower notes following the competition, we will have each entrant in the competition prepare a short talk about their entered plant as to its identification. This should be for species plants: how and where it grows naturally, outline the environment and the specific growing requirements, such as coastal, altitude, in shade, out in the open, epiphytic or terrestrial, tropical or xerophyte etc. this information allows us to possibly replicate the conditions here on the North Coast of NSW. It would also be of interest to know where the plant was obtained in Australia and what you as the grower have done to meet the plant's requirements, such as extra shade cloth for protection, hanging from a tree under the canopy for better airflow and shade, water more frequently to replicate tropical downpours in drier weather etc. These notes will then be used in gathering more about the genera and species and their culture requirements for future articles in our Newsletter. Hybrids and cultivars need to have these conditions replicated also, so your observations of growing conditions for these is valuable to others also.

Ross drew our attention to the upcoming Bromeliad Conference on the Sunshine Coast, listing many of the interesting speakers including Chester Skotak from Costa Rica, Peter Tristram from Repton and many other noted Bromeliad experts. Registrations to attend closed at the end of February, however you are still able to attend as day visitors and pay the daily fee on entry.

An earlier decision to have "visiting" meetings at member's homes to view their Bromeliad growing facilities and techniques has culminated in a planned visit to John Crawford's property shortly. The final date to be confirmed with John at our March Meeting with the tentative day being Saturday 18th March. The Group agreed how beneficial it would be to see as many different approaches to growing our Bromeliads as possible, sometimes finding the simpler the better! After the visit to John's garden there is the option to visit the Carrara Markets where the Gold Coast Bromeliad and Succulent Society are having a show and sales.

John's request for endorsement for a display and sale of his plants in Mudgerabah at an annual celebration day was discussed.

Show, Tell and Ask!

Ross showed a plant tagged as *Tillandsia heteromorpha* which appears wrong, it is probably *Tillandsia tenuifolia* var. *saxicola* displaying its white flowers. This Tillandsia is a caulescent species from central eastern Brazil, ca. 1000 mtrs alt. the long stem allowing the beautiful rose pink bracts of the inflorescence to be seen from afar. (photo p.9)

John Crawford had a clump of *Vriesea vagans* with only one plant in flower. It made a very attractive display, however this species is a reluctant flowerer, so to see a spike is something we do not often experience. (photo p.9)

John also showed a *Ananas* 'Tricolor' fruit (pineapple) removed from the plant which he left to ripen sitting in a pot. To his surprise it has produced many pups around the base of the crown of the fruit. These can be carefully removed with a sharp knife and potted to grow on and also the crown itself.

Aechmea nidularioides in all its glory was on the discussion table this month, WOW what a magnificent plant with its orange bracts and white scaled tips to the underside, the bracts eventually age to yellow. (article and photos p.11)

Marie brought along an excellent specimen of *Ananas* 'Pom-Pom', kindly sharing some of the pups that constitute the Pom-Pom with the members. It can have as many as two dozen or more plantlets on the pom-pom type inflorescence. These are easily removed with a sharp knife, allow to dry for a day or two before potting on and treating as a regular offset.

Marie also brought in a photo of an *Aechmea* that was thought to be *Aechmea triangularis*, a discussion about several *Aechmea* ensued, *Ae.* 'Red Bands' which has odd coloured petals (greyish brown) and *Ae.* 'Brillig' (yellow petals). Marie needs to check the petal colour next flowering and adjust the label to suit. Ref: FNCBSG NSW Newsletter, October 2012 or BCR doc. in *Ae.* 'Red Bands'.

Les, assisted the Group to assess their water quality, everyone having been asked at the January meeting to bring a sample of their home water supplies, town water, tank or dam or all three if that applied.

Les demonstrated how to take a small sample of your water and add a specific amount of chemical (Bromothymol blue) to your sample to observe the reaction. We were then required to match the resultant colour with a colour chart deciding the colour match and conductivity of the sample showing acid or alkaline results with advice on how to stabilise the result to bring your water closer to a neutral quality if desired.

Many of the samples of town water were found to be neutral, around 6.5 plus, having been adjusted by Water Authorities before distribution.

Les went on to add, there are many reasons why plants don't grow or flower even though they have the correct light and temperature. The reasons include wrong pH of the substrate and/or water.

In the FNCBSG NSW Newsletter, April 2016, p.10 is an article written by Les: Plants, Minerals and pH shows how anthocyanins change colour according to the pH (re: Cryptanthus p.11). Also the Newsletter article reports on the pH testing of minerals that can assist in pH change.

The generally held opinion is that plants require a slightly acid substrate and water. Today by testing member's water supply and having a general discussion we may find that long held beliefs are far from true.

This is only part of the story of plant husbandry. To increase our knowledge we also need to examine the pH of various substrates and consider how minerals can alter pH. Conduct tests adjusting substrate pH and note the growing results.

Perhaps later in the year we can have a group discussion on substrate with each member bringing in soil samples taken from their best and worst growing plants.

Keryn, needed advice on growing Dyckias and asked was it normal for a second head to grow beside the first? She also asked about the appropriate pot size and conditions that Dyckia need in order not to have burnt leaves. Advice given to Keryn was yes, her Dyckia was behaving normally, simply multiplying/dividing. They enjoy clumping, so use a larger pot and keep her Dyckia out of the direct, all day summer sun and to water regularly in hot weather.

By doing a internet search entering 'Dividing Dyckias' an article published by The Bromeliad Society of Houston was found that we hope is of assistance. Reprinted in part on page12 with thanks to BSH.

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Keryn Simpson	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Catlan's Leopard'
2nd	Dave Boudier	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Wild Dynamo'
3rd	-----	-----

Open Popular Vote

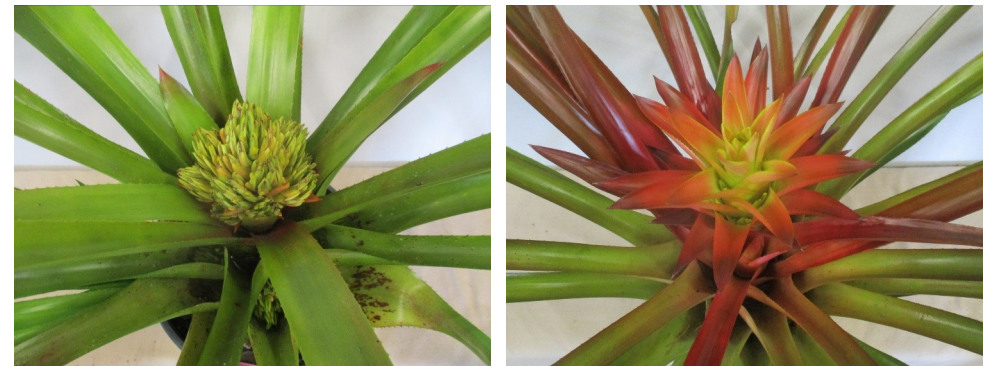
1st	Trish Kelly	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Larnach's Enchantment'
2nd	John Crawford	<i>xWallfussia</i> 'Creation'
3rd	Kay Daniels	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Raphael'

Judges Choice

1st	Keryn Simpson	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Catlan's Leopard'
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Decorative

1st	Helen Clewett	'Welcome to Paradise'
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xNeomea 'Mars Rising' grown by Ross Little is a bigeneric cross created by John Buchanan between *Aechmea biflora* and *Neoregelia carolinae*, plant is 1.10m across, the inflorescence is 19cm across. The plant on the left appears as though the genetics went slightly askew with the plant's floral parts being deformed and not how the other plant from the grex performed florally, the actual plant was otherwise well grown. It is a good indication to growers of seed to allow each plant to grow out and flower before selling, making sure all is completely well, as the specimen on the left may be better culled. (bin it)

Where do I Find the Dates ?

www.bromeliad.org.au then click "Diary".

Check this site for regular updates of times, dates and addresses of meetings and shows in your area and around the country.



Neoregelia 'Larnach's Enchantment'
1st Open Trish Kelly



Neoregelia 'Catlan's Leopard'
1st Novice and Judges Choice
Keryn Simpson



Vriesea vagans
grown by John Crawford



Goudaea ospinae
grown by Ted Devine



x*Wallfussia* 'Creation'
grown by John Crawford



'Welcome to Paradise'
1st Decorative Helen Clewett



Tillandsia
brachycaulos
grown by Helen Clewett



Tillandsia
tenuifolia var.
saxicola



Neoregelia 'Raphael'
grown by Kay Daniels



◀ *Neoregelia* 'Bob and Grace'
grown by Laurie Mountford



'Spikes and Spiders'
by Trish Kelly

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little

Aechmea nidularioides, subgenus Aechmea Carol M. Johnson

This plant is one of several forms collected in 1983 near Iquitos, Peru and it is the most attractive. A medium-sized plant, the foliage is red at all times, but the colour intensifies as the bloom spike appears. The white-tipped, red bracts are stiff and brittle. The white blooms appear between the bracts in the fashion of its namesake, opening a few at a time. Until I bloomed it, *Aechmea nidularioides* resembled very closely the streptocalyx collected in the same area. Like streptocalyx, it is quite temperamental. It seems to need fertilizer, but loses colour when it is applied and it will not tolerate temperatures much below 50°F (10°C). Application of Florel aborts the bloom and causes grotesque plant growth.

The plant also seems to require a pollinator that Florida cannot supply, as all efforts to cross-pollinate between the various forms has produced no seeds. It is a generous pupper, however.

Longwood, Florida

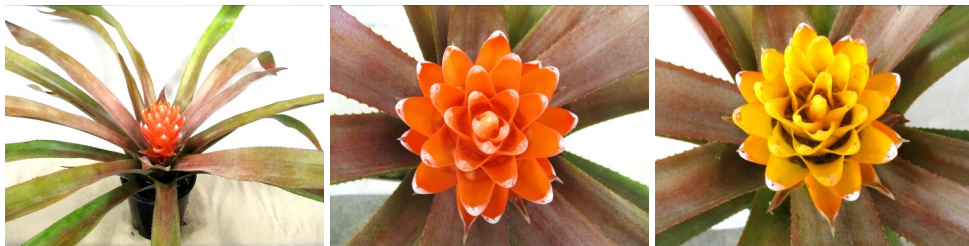
Reprinted from:
BSI Journal - 1970, V20 (6)



Aechmea nidularioides L. B. Smith, Phytologia 4: 356, pi. 1, figs. 7-11. 1953.

Type. *Schultes & Black* 8309 (holotype, US), along Rio Loretoyacu, Trapecio Amazonico, Amazonas, Colombia, Sep 1946.

Distribution. Epiphytic, 100-1200 m alt, southern Colombia to northern Peru.



Aechmea nidularioides grown to 1.15m across has an orange inflorescence 10cm across which turns yellow on maturity.
grown and photographed by Ross Little

Aechmea 'Forget Me Not'

by Butcher Jan 2017

In 1903 Messrs F. Sander & Co., St Albans, entered Class for 12 New Plants at the Ghent Quinquennial, the fifteenth International exhibition of this renowned Belgian Horticultural Society with a variegated plant called *Billbergia forgetiana* but nothing was added as to why it was named after Mr. Forget or description. There is a photo of a non-flowering variegated plant with strap shaped leaves and rounded ends – see Garden Chronical 258, fig. 102 on p. 266. 1903. In Flora Neotropica (1979) Smith & Downs treated this as a possible synonym of *Aechmea lindenii* var *makoyana*, this species is now *Aechmea comata*.

Before this, in 1953 Mulford Foster had linked it to *Aechmea caudata*. It would seem he was unaware of the 1903 publication. See the following protologue: *Aechmea caudata* var. *variegata* M. B. Foster, var. nov. Bromel. Soc. Bull. 3: 47. 1953. A var. *variegata* foliis albo virideque longitudinaliter striatis differt.

Cultivated in Orlando, Florida since 1935. M. B. Foster No. 2834. (Type in U. S. National Herbarium). This new variety of *Aechmea caudata* is a striking contrast to the typical species of *Ae. caudata* and has been a collector's item for several years.

An illustration of this new variety is shown on page 10 of "Anzucht und Kultur der Bromeliaceen"(1950) by Walter Richter of Crimmitschau, Saxony, Germany and is listed as *Billbergia forgetii*; this plant has also been sold under the name of *Aechmea forgetii*.

Aechmea comata var. *makoyana* has already been transferred to the cultivar name of 'Makoyana' and for the same reasons we should treat this forgotten *Aechmea caudata* var. *variegata* in the same manner. Remembering it's origins are from cultivation, it has never been found in the wild, was once known as *Aechmea forgetii*, it is not accepted in The World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. Therefore it should be added to the BCR as ***Aechmea 'Forget Me Not'***.



What I find interesting is that this was treated in synonymy with two different species. I would agree with Foster and link this variegate with *Ae. caudata*. From my observations, this sporting to variegation of this variable species seems to have occurred on other occasions over the past 50 years, not only with different variegations but width of leaf.

Photo by Ross Little

DNA Revision of Tillandsioideae Nomenclature Changes

In the FNCBSG NSW Newsletter November 2016 Derek Butcher advised us of some up-coming changes. These have been published in the botanical journal, Phytotaxa with 10 new genera being established affecting the name changes. Fortunately not too many of these changes directly affect our collections, I have indicated those that I feel are most common in our collections that will need their labels changed - - - >, if I have missed some please advise me.

OLD NAME	NEW NAME
<i>Mezobromelia brownii</i>	<i>Gregbrownii brownii</i>
<i>Mezobromelia fulgens</i>	<i>Gregbrownii fulgens</i>
<i>Mezobromelia hutchisonii</i>	<i>Gregbrownii hutchisonii</i>
<i>Mezobromelia lyman-smithii</i>	<i>Gregbrownii lyman-smithii</i>
<i>Tillandsia acosta-solisii</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lemeltonia acosta-solisii</i>
<i>Tillandsia anceps</i> - - - - - >	<i>Wallisia anceps</i>
<i>Tillandsia asplundii</i>	<i>Josemania asplundii</i>
<i>Tillandsia cornuta</i>	<i>Lemeltonia cornuta</i>
<i>Tillandsia cyanea</i> - - - - - >	<i>Wallisia cyanea</i>
<i>Tillandsia delicatula</i>	<i>Josemania delicatula</i>
<i>Tillandsia dodsonii</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lemeltonia dodsonii</i>
<i>Tillandsia dyeriana</i> - - - - - >	<i>Racinaea dyeriana</i>
<i>Tillandsia grandis</i> - - - - - >	<i>Pseudalcantarea grandis</i>
<i>Tillandsia hamaleana</i> - - - - - >	<i>Racinaea hamaleana</i>
<i>Tillandsia laxissima</i> - - - - - >	<i>Barfussia laxissima</i>
<i>Tillandsia lindenii</i> - - - - - >	<i>Wallisia lindeniana</i>
<i>Tillandsia macropetala</i>	<i>Pseudalcantarea macropetala</i>
<i>Tillandsia monadelpha</i>	<i>Lemeltonia monadelpha</i>
<i>Tillandsia narthecioides</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lemeltonia narthecioides</i>
<i>Tillandsia pinnata</i>	<i>Josemania pinnata</i>
<i>Tillandsia platyrhachis</i> - - - - - >	<i>Barfussia platyrhachis</i>
<i>Tillandsia pretiosa</i> - - - - - >	<i>Wallisia pretiosa</i>
<i>Tillandsia scaligera</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lemeltonia scaligera</i>
<i>Tillandsia singularis</i>	<i>Josemania singularis</i>
<i>Tillandsia triglochinooides</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lemeltonia triglochinooides</i>
<i>Tillandsia truncata</i>	<i>Josemania truncata</i>
<i>Tillandsia venusta</i> - - - - - >	<i>Racinaea venusta</i>
<i>Tillandsia viridiflora</i> - - - - - >	<i>Pseudalcantarea viridiflora</i>

OLD NAME	NEW NAME
<i>Tillandsia wagneriana</i> - - - - - >	<i>Barfussia wagneriana</i>
<i>Vriesea amadoi</i>	<i>Stigmatodon amadoi</i>
<i>Vriesea appariciana</i>	<i>Stigmatodon apparicianus</i>
<i>Vriesea belloi</i>	<i>Stigmatodon belloi</i>
<i>Vriesea bi-beatricis</i>	<i>Lutheria bi-beatricis</i>
<i>Vriesea bifida</i>	<i>Stigmatodon bifidus</i>
<i>Vriesea brassicoides</i>	<i>Stigmatodon brassicoides</i>
<i>Vriesea chrysostachys</i> - - - - - >	<i>Goudaea chrysostachys</i>
<i>Vriesea costae</i>	<i>Stigmatodon costae</i>
<i>Vriesea croceana</i>	<i>Stigmatodon croceanus</i>
<i>Vriesea euclidiana</i>	<i>Stigmatodon euclidianus</i>
<i>Vriesea fontellana</i>	<i>Stigmatodon fontellanus</i>
<i>Vriesea funebris</i>	<i>Stigmatodon funebris</i>
<i>Vriesea gastiniana</i>	<i>Stigmatodon gastinianus</i>
<i>Vriesea glutinosa</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lutheria glutinosa</i>
<i>Vriesea goniorachis</i>	<i>Stigmatodon goniorachis</i>
<i>Vriesea harrylutheri</i>	<i>Stigmatodon harrylutheri</i>
<i>Vriesea magnibracteata</i>	<i>Stigmatodon magnibracteatus</i>
<i>Vriesea monstrum</i> - - - - - >	<i>Jagrantia monstrum</i>
<i>Vriesea multifoliata</i>	<i>Stigmatodon multifoliatus</i>
<i>Vriesea ospinae</i> - - - - - >	<i>Goudaea ospinae</i>
<i>Vriesea plurifolia</i>	<i>Stigmatodon plurifolius</i>
<i>Vriesea rosulatula</i>	<i>Stigmatodon rosulatulus</i>
<i>Vriesea sanctateresensis</i>	<i>Stigmatodon sanctateresensis</i>
<i>Vriesea soderstromii</i>	<i>Lutheria soderstromii</i>
<i>Vriesea splendens</i> - - - - - >	<i>Lutheria splendens</i>
<i>Vriesea tuerckheimii</i> - - - - - >	<i>Zizkaea tuerckheimii</i>

Peter Waters of New Zealand explained: changing the names seems quite an imposition, but eventually we will appreciate the fact that similar plants are grouped together which is what this is all about.

Herb Plever of New York wrote: the bromeliad world owes a debt of gratitude to the authors of this 2016 report and to their colleagues, researchers, lab assistants etc. for this major advance in bromeliad taxonomy.

Dyckia Cultivation Hints gleaned from the Bromeliad Society of Houston

Light: They like full sunlight. 5000 foot-candles, 50% shade, is probably the least amount of sun that they can have and still flourish.

Temperature: They prefer temperatures in the range of 40-90 degrees Fahrenheit, but they will withstand much lower and higher temperatures. Most species will not be harmed by freezing weather if they are planted in the ground and given minimal protection.

Fertilizer: Use full a dilute fertilizer solution ($\frac{1}{4}$ strength or less) with every watering spring through fall, but eliminate fertilizer during cold weather. When plants are actively growing in strong light, it is hard to over fertilize an established plant, but they don't appear to suffer if they are not fertilized, they just grow more slowly.

Water: Although they will tolerate drought, they thrive on frequent watering while actively growing, however keep plants on the dry side during cold weather or during periods of reduced light. In the summer time they tend to dry out rapidly; it is helpful to keep them in a shallow container of water.

Medium: Grow in a heavy mix that contains water retaining polymers and a large quantity of organic matter. A mix similar to what would be used for a Cryptanthus or a Hectia would be appropriate.

Containers: Dyckias probably do best when they are grown in the ground. Their ability to take temperatures in the 15-20 degree range makes them one of the best Bromeliads to use for landscaping in the Houston area. They should be able to take all but our most severe winter weather with only minimal protection. If you do choose to grow them in pots, use one that will accommodate the plant's large root system. This is one plant that appreciates a pot that is about as wide as or wider than the plant itself. But **WARNING:** usually the larger the pot and the more the fertilizer the bigger the plant.

Most Dyckia species have leaves armed with sharp spikes that make working with the plants painful. It is often difficult to separate pups from the mother plant. It is helpful to remove the plant from its pot and try to work on it from the bottom. You want to bring out the heavy equipment when dealing with your Dyckia collection. Leather gloves, a sturdy knife, a small saw, and, in extreme cases, a hatchet could all come in handy when it is time to separate and repot large clumps of plants. When you separate a pup, try to preserve as much of its root system as you can. If it has no roots, treat its base with rooting hormone before potting. In either case pot the plant in a fairly small pot using a well drained mix, and leave it there until the plant has a chance to establish itself. Most pups are slow to root and start growing, but when the plants root system fills the pot, move the plant into a larger pot using a heavier mix.