

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

Edition: May 2021

Agenda: General Discussion

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery
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Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month
Next meeting 17th June 2021 at 11 a.m.

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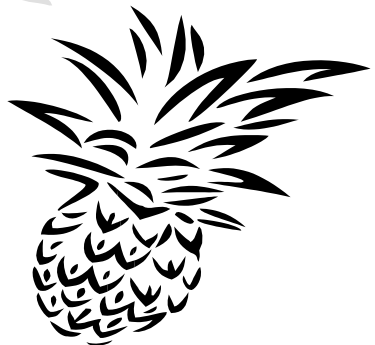
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Meeting 15th April 2021

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 10 members present were welcomed.
Six apologies were received.

General Business

After the usual welcoming of members to the meeting we reviewed the April Newsletter, in doing this it helps those absent the previous month to catch up on the discussions. A few more questions were raised regards labelling of hybrids which hopefully most members now have a reasonable grasp on.

Some further discussion was had about the use of F1 and F2 and when these should be used. Grant Paterson pointed out that the use of F2 is often incorrect. Our understanding is sibling x sibling from a F1 primary hybrid gives repeatable results = F2. Another point to clarify was hybrid x hybrid being two different hybrids will equal hybrid, not an F2 but just another complex hybrid.

A primary hybrid is a species x another species, one mother, one father, two sets of genes combined e.g. *Aechmea* 'Shining Light'
Aechmea fulgens var. *discolor* x *Aechmea ramosa*

A complex hybrid could be made up of many parents, if mother is a hybrid with multiple parents and father is also a hybrid made up of multiple parents the gene pool can be very **complex** e.g: *Neoregelia* 'Bottoms Up'.

Seed parent mum - (carolinae variegated x 'Hannibal Lecter') x 'Norman Bates'
X

Pollen parent dad - 'Blushing Tiger' x 'Norman Bates'

Parental break down:

(carolinae variegated x [Rafa x Skotak's Tiger] x {[Rafa x Skotak's Tiger] x Skotak's Tiger}) X ([Perfecta x marnier-lapostolle F2] x {[Rafa x Skotak's Tiger] x Skotak's Tiger}).

That's a complex formula. This is partly why we encourage hybridisers to take the time to register their creations and give them a name because we don't want to have to write all those names on a label. Writing *Neo*. 'Bottoms Up' only will do me for this one. The next issue is getting all the brackets, parentheses and braces in the correct positions to denote who is crossed with who and where within the formula.

John mentioned that Grant is the son of one of Australia's prominent hybridisers Margaret Paterson who has over 400 hybrids registered in the BCR and has published books on her Bromeliad hybrids. One of her hybrids of note that John mentioned was *Neoregelia* 'Jewellery Shop' a medium sized, greenish gold plant with reddish striations would be one way to describe it, or simply 'stunning'. This lead us into a name dilemma, Coral said she has a *Neoregelia* 'Jewel Box', a hybrid by J. Elmore that was acquired from a seller in Queensland a few years ago. With no photo held on the BCR to show us what it should look like, a *Neo*. 'Jewellery Shop' was brought out from the shade house to show Coral, she feels her plant is the same but will look for her *Neo*. 'Jewel Box' during the month to compare. As mentioned in the last paragraph on page 4 of our April Newsletter, people write what they think the name is, this could be the case with Coral's *Neo*. 'Jewel Box', sounds close, we'll wait and see.

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland is offering for sale a newly edited version of their book "Starting with Bromeliads". Our Group has agreed to purchase 10 copies, one being for our library, the balance for sale to members. Hopefully they should be available in June.

Mid 2020 Ross ordered 10 copies of Alcantarea - Giant Bromeliads from Brazil edited by Leonado M. Versieux. Due to covid-19 postal restrictions, delivery of the book had been held up, however we now have it in our hot little hands. One copy will go into our library, the balance for sale to members and the excess will be offered for sale to those who missed the pre-publication order date.

Show, Tell and Ask!

Mitch's discussion about his DIY fertigation system which was featured in our FNCBSG April 2021 Newsletter raised a few questions:

What fertilisers can be used through this system? - any liquid like Power Feed or a soluble fertiliser like Thrive or Campbells Diamond Range, check your supplier for other similar or specific type fertilisers. Insecticides and pesticides can be delivered through this system also. Before mixing any chemicals it's best to check their compatibility with each other, if in doubt spray separately, rinsing the spray unit thoroughly between applications.

Keryn and Dave had several plants along for identification, one having links to *Neoregelia carcharodon* now 'Great White' but their plant clearly being of hybrid origin that we couldn't quite put a name on. This plant needs to be grown in brighter light and brought back when next it flowers. The second offering was easier to identify having an *Aechmea distichantha* look to it, so we entered *distichantha* into the search box of the BCR which lead us to *Aechmea* 'Pacifica'.

This month we saw a few *Wallisia* cultivars tabled, some still having *Tillandsia* on their labels, *Tillandsioideae* went through a revision with the DNA results being released in 2016 and the introduction of some new genus names. *Wallisia* being one of them includes *lindenii/cyanea* is a beauty where there had been problems with the old names, so we feel it's prudent to reprint the article:

Wallisia or Single Paddles

by Derek Butcher October 2016

You will eventually get used to this genus name which has been resurrected from 1870 in *Phytotaxa* 279(1): 001-097. 2016 AND covers the common species *Tillandsia cyanea/lindenii* which has given us so much strife over the years in deciding which is which. You will have to get used to the idea that *lindenii* is no longer with us!

You may recall that in 1951 Lyman Smith straightened out what was *Till. cyanea* and what was *Till. lindenii*. Basically, if it had no peduncle you thought *Till. cyanea* and if it had a peduncle you thought *Till. lindenii*. It was very complicated story in the late 1800's with so many botanists wanting to get involved with an impressive plant in great demand in the horticultural world. It now seems that examination of the 'old' papers have revealed a different story which will eventually be part of the DVD under the species names. You may be pleased to know that *Wallisia cyanea* remains as the short peduncled plant but rare in cultivation because there are so many cultivar names on offer. It tends to be a fall back name for lost labels when you cannot decide what cultivar it is!

In my last epistle in May 2016 on this complex with 'Pink Plume' (See BCR) I wondered why I saw so many plants that were in between that I felt I could not call them *Till. lindenii*. This latest Taxonomic revision has tackled this problem of hybridisation under the ICN rules rather than the ICNCP rules even though it occurred in culture and not in the wild. It would now seem that if you can't link your plant to a Cultivar name then the name to use is the hybrid *Wallisia* 'Duvallii'. These include plants whose spike has a substantial peduncle (stalk). Most of these hybrids were done in Europe in the 1800s so would have had to survive two world wars. There is a much better chance that the plants we grow today originated in European nurseries after 1945 but there is little or no record of any hybridising. The first reporting is in 1962 in America with 'Caeca' which we can only presume had a peduncle in line with 'Duvallii'. However, primary investigations have not revealed this is being grown at this time, which shows how easily cultivars go out of fashion. If you have *Tillandsia lindenii* on your label it may be prudent to change it to *Wallisia* 'Duvallii'.

Now to the tricky bit:

Although we have lost 'lindenii' we do have a new *Wallisia lindeniana* which is the new name for *Tillandsia umbellata*! Because there is no formal description for *Wallisia lindeniana* we use that of *Till. umbellata*. If you do have provenance for wild collected *Wallisia* with a peduncle then *Wallisia lindeniana* should be considered.

Other *Wallisia* to look for are *Wall. anceps* and *Wall. pretiosa*. *Wallisia pretiosa* now includes what was called *Till. lindenii* var. *tricolor* or *Till. cyanea* var. *tricolor*. These too have paddle-like inflorescences.

Cultivars are as follows:

Anita

Caeca (considered a synonym in *Phytotaxa* 2016 but leave as is because it is a fairly recent hybrid)

Duvaliana (now considered synonymous with *Duvalii* in *Phytotaxa* 2016 so delete this name)

Duvalii

Emilie

Hans Gulz

Hybride H G

Josee

Paradise

Pink Plume

Roku

Sandy

Triflor



A mixed group of *Wallisia* brought along by John, always a stunning display en masse.

Also for **Show, Tell and Ask!** John brought along a group of *Tillandsia punctulata*, an epiphytic species found in forests of Mexico and through Central America at altitudes of 350 - 2000 metres.



Wallisia cyanea as *lindenii*



For **Show, Tell and Ask!** Ross had a *Aechmea* 'Black Zombie' or should it have been tagged as *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal' novar ?

Aechmea chantinii dark form gave a variegated sport in tissue culture which was named *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal' and registered by Chester Skotak for the original grower in Rio de Janeiro State. The tissue cultured sport originated from the lab of Rolf Zornig in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2000.

Eventually Ae. 'Roberto Menescal' had some 'novar' - non variegated pups, these pups were registered in Australia in 2013 by Mal Cameron as *Aechmea* 'Black Zombie'.

It has often been reported on various social media sites that 'Black Zombie' doesn't give variegated pups again, once reverted that's it.

That myth is dispelled as our reverted Ae. 'Roberto Menescal' 'novar' - aka Ae. 'Black Zombie' is producing a variegated pup. So don't despair, all is not lost if your Ae. 'Roberto Menescal' loses variegation, it just may surprise and reward you with a variegated pup again one day.



Sport: A sudden spontaneous deviation from a typical form; a mutation.

BCR New Registration - *Aechmea* 'Star Bright'

In our FNCBSG February 2021 Newsletter, page 11 we discussed the origins of an *Aechmea* hybrid brought in for **Show, Tell and Ask!** by Keryn and Dave. Our searching for the breeder gave several nominations indicating they had grown seed from some of the suggested parents but they never registered their creations. This left the issue of breeder being problematic so it was decided to leave the BCR registration of *Aechmea* 'Star Bright' as: Breeder unknown ? / named by Keryn Simpson*.

On a BCR registration the asterisk * after a persons name indicates they are the person who named the plant but are not the breeder/hybridiser.



Aechmea 'Shining Light'
grown by Keryn Simpson



Vriesea elata
grown by Dave Boudier



Tillandsia streptophylla
grown by Keryn Simpson



Pseudalcantarea viridiflora
grown by Mitch Jones



Tillandsia fasciculata
grown by Gary McAteer



Aechmea 'Red Bird' unreg.
1st Open Helen Clewett



Neoregelia 'Jaws'
1st Judges Choice John Crawford



'Lest We Forget'
= 1st Decorative John Crawford



'Swamp Garden'
by Mitch Jones



'Relaxing'
= 1st Decorative Helen Clewett



'Our Treasure Ship'
= 1st Decorative
Keryn Simpson

Tillandsia duratii
var.
saxatilis

grown
by
Dave Boudier



Wallisia cyanea
1st Tillandsioidea John Crawford



'Neo. Delights'
by
Dave Boudier





Neoregelia 'Cane Fire'
grown by Kayelene Guthrie



Neoregelia 'Maria'
grown by Coral McAteer



Wallisia 'Emilie'
grown by Helen Clewett



Alcantarea 'PITA'
grown by Mitch Jones



Tillandsia brachycaulos X *flabellata*
Till. 'Yabba' ? grown by John Crawford

In search of *Lapanthus duartei*

by Doug Binns 2021

Lapanthus duartei is an interesting and when in flower, strikingly different, bromeliad and one of only two currently known members of the genus. It has also had an interesting history, being first collected in 1949 and described as *Cryptanthus duartei*, despite its orange-yellow flowers being unique in that genus. The locality at that time was given only as 'Serra do Cipó', so it could have been collected anywhere within that extensive mountain range. It was not seen again for almost 40 years, despite the Serra do Cipó being frequently visited by botanists, and during that time was regarded as a bit of a mystery. Then in 1993, an unusual orange-yellow flowered *Orthophytum* was described, as *O. supthutii*, from plants collected in the same mountain range in 1988. With hindsight, the connection here seems obvious, but it wasn't until a few years later, in 1995, that Elton Leme published a note (J. Brom. Soc, 45, 3-5) that the two species were identical, with *Orthophytum supthutii* being the valid name under *Orthophytum*. It was subsequently (2006) described as *Lapa duartei* and finally, in 2010, with its currently accepted name *Lapanthus duartei*.



Non-flowering rosettes could be mistaken for any of several other genera, including *Hoplocrypanthus* or *Sincoraea*. In particular, they bear a striking superficial similarity to small plants of *Sincoraea heleniceae*, although mature plants of that species are very much larger.

During a visit to Brazil about ten years ago, I found myself inadvertently stuck in the town of Conceição do Mato Dentro, due to a misunderstanding over bus routes because of my poor grasp of Portuguese. While there, I decided that looking for bromeliads was preferable to sitting in the rather austere bus station for a day, so chose to look for *Lapanthus duartei* in the only locality with any detail of which I was aware at the time. The locality was given as '50 km north of Chapeu do Sol', which I thought was a little odd because, assuming the distance was by road, the description puts it at only about 10 km south of the town of Conceição do Mato Dentro, while the more distant Chapéu do Sol is a hotel with a small cluster of buildings rather than a town. I assume that the authors were driving north at the time, having zeroed their odometer when they left Chapéu do Sol (this was pre-GPS days) and had not yet arrived at the larger town. In any case I thought that the most likely habitat in the vicinity of the locality, as it was described, was cliffs along the Rio Antônio where it crosses the highway.



After searching this area for a day, I had seen potentially suitable habitat and many other interesting plants, including species of *Dyckia* and *Encholirium*, but no *Lapanthus*. Late in the day, after struggling through dense vegetation to reach the base of a particularly promising cliff, I was momentarily excited to see a few *Lapanthus*-like rosettes, but on closer inspection they turned out to be *Hoplocrypanthus schwackeanus*. Certainly an interesting plant in itself, but not quite *Lapanthus duartei*. I had to leave the next day so could not do any more searching, but years later I found out that I had been close to the very localised patch of *Lapanthus duartei* at this locality, just on the wrong side of the river.

A few years later I had another opportunity to visit the area. This time I made a conscious choice to stay in Conceição do Mato Dentro for several days and decided to try some likely habitat closer to the town. After wandering around for half a day without seeing anything particularly interesting, I encountered a small creek draining some rocky hills. It was similar to several other small creeks I had crossed earlier in the day, but was more densely vegetated and seemed to drain from a steeper part of the range with greater potential for creek-side cliffs. Sure enough, as I made my way upstream, the surrounding rocky slopes narrowed to a small gorge. After negotiating tall, dense thickets of a particularly unpleasant climbing saw-sedge, I was elated to see a patch of bright green rosettes growing on a sheltered cliff adjacent to the creek. A couple were in flower and their identity was unmistakable – *Lapanthus duartei*! The brief battle with the razor sedge was worth it. The population comprised a few hundred plants over an area of about 100 sq. m. of cliff. I spent the next day searching several other likely locations nearby but did not see any more plants. Like many related species of Brazilian terrestrial or lithophytic bromeliads, it seems to be very localised, absent from many areas of apparently similar environment and easily overlooked if you happen to walk in not quite the right place or if you are deterred by a patch of unpleasant vegetation. Even a few tens of metres can be the difference.

Lapanthus duartei seems to occur exclusively on shaded cliffs at elevations of around 600-700 m. One of the earlier reports gives its elevation as over 1000 m, but this seems to be an error. As far as I can tell, the population that I saw is additional to the two other known populations of this species, which are about 5 km and 7 km distant, respectively. There are likely to be others in the general vicinity of the small area defined by these three records, but its particular habitats are limited and even with additional populations, it is still a rare plant. I feel very fortunate to have seen it.

	<p>A4 36 pages, with binding. Cost \$26.00 inc. postage within Australia. \$24 ex postage.</p>		<p>A5 36 pages stapled. Cost \$16.00 inc. postage within Australia. \$14 ex postage.</p>
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Potting Mix, Getting it Right

Compiled by Amanda Barbe - Australian Bromeliad Community - face book.

Let's face it, most of your Bromeliads will spend their lives in pots, so choosing the right potting mix can be very important for their long term health. If the mix consists of too much soil, it can stay too wet and cause their roots to rot. Too much inorganic material and they won't get enough nutrients to grow. If the mix is too light it can cause the plant to become too top heavy and move around or topple over, not allowing the roots to take hold. There are basically three critical requirements to consider when choosing a potting mix for your Bromeliad.

A Firm Footing:

Bromeliads won't root if they do not have a solid foundation. They don't want to move around once planted or mounted. Even slight wind can cause a pup with no roots to move around in a pot if it is not tightly packed or there is not enough soil. Soil not only provides nutrients for your plants, but it acts as a binder to give your plants that solid hold to keep it from moving around.

Aeration:

Lots of air at the roots means a healthier plant and less risk of rot. Bromeliads like to be moist but not wet, so it's important that the potting mix drains well and gets a lot of air movement to allow it to dry out quickly. To accomplish this we use 6 - 13 mm (1/4"-1/2") pine bark chips untreated usually used for mulching. The wood is very light and porous so it holds in moisture well, but the irregular shapes provide plenty of space for airflow.

To allow air movement into the potting mix, be sure to keep the top of the pot open and clear of any solid debris. Remove dead leaves or rocks that may prevent air from reaching the soil.

Moisture Control:

The mix should allow water to drain quickly and easily and not allow for any water to pool inside of the pot. Perlite is a widely used addition to soil mixes because it is light weight, porous, and prevents soil from compacting, allowing water to drain more easily. It is also resistant to microbial attacks, preventing some bacterial diseases.

Always use pots that have holes for drainage and make sure these are clear and don't clog. A great way to achieve this is by adding extra large perlite to the mix, or some broken terracotta pots in the bottom of your pot. The uneven edges will fill the holes but allow space for water to flow out of them. This also weighs the plant down so it doesn't topple over in windy conditions.

Use the Right Mix for You:

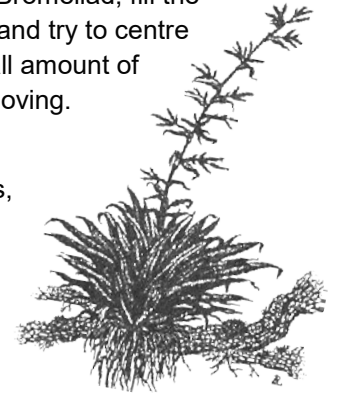
To get a mix that provides for each of these requirements, we use a mix consisting of 20% perlite, 20% peat and 60% small pine bark chips. You may want to experiment with the ratios to find what works best for you based on your own unique conditions.

For climates that get a lot of rain and humidity like we do in S.E Queensland you will want to use more pine bark and perlite in your mix for increased aeration and moisture control so the mix doesn't stay too wet. If you live in a dryer climate, you may need to use more soil to retain moisture.

Whatever combination you find is right for you, make sure that it is mixed well and not in layers. When you are ready to plant your Bromeliad, fill the pot with your mix, dig out a small hole in the centre, and try to centre the cup of the plant as much as possible. Use a small amount of your mix to pack the plant tightly to prevent it from moving.

Also Growing on Trees:

Many bromeliads are a type of plant called epiphytes, which means they draw moisture from the air and don't need to be in soil to survive, it is not a parasite. While their roots can draw water and nutrients, they typically serve as a plant's 'anchor', attaching and holding it in place.



What is Perlite?

Perlite is made from a mined volcanic glass of the same name. As a raw material it contains water, trapped by the rapid cooling of lava, the moisture vaporizes explosively when heat is applied. It is easy to mix into your own potting medium, but make sure you buy horticultural-grade perlite.

What is Peat?

Peat moss is an important component of most potting soils and seed starting mediums. It holds several times its weight in moisture, and releases the moisture to the plants roots as needed. It also holds onto nutrients so that they aren't rinsed out of the soil when you water the plant

Where to Find Bromeliad Groups & Societies Meeting 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.

Open Popular Vote

1st	Helen Clewett	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Red Bird' unreg.
2nd	John Crawford	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Jaws'
3rd	Kayelene Guthrie	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Cane Fire'
3rd	Keryn Simpson	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Shining Light'
3rd	Dave Boudier	<i>Vriesea elata</i>
3rd	Coral McAteer	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Maria'

Tillandsioideae

1st	John Crawford	<i>Wallisia cyanea</i>
2nd	Gary McAteer	<i>Tillandsia fasciata</i>
2nd	Helen Clewett	<i>Wallisia</i> 'Emilie'
3rd	Dave Boudier	<i>Tillandsia duratii</i> var. <i>saxatilis</i>
3rd	Keryn Simpson	<i>Tillandsia streptophylla</i>

Decorative

1st	Helen Clewett	'Relaxing'
1st	John Crawford	'Lest We Forget'
1st	Keryn Simpson	'Our Treasure Ship'
2nd	Dave Boudier	'Neo. Delights'

Judges Choice

1st	John Crawford	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Jaws'
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Web Links for Checking Correct Identification and Spelling

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): <http://registry.bsi.org/>

Refer to this site for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

New Bromeliad Taxon List: <http://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist>

Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

Bromeliads in Australia (BinA): <http://bromeliad.org.au/>

Refer to this site for its Photo Index, Club Newsletters, Detective Derek Articles.

Keep these web sites set as desktop icons for quick reference access.