

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 18th December, 2014 at 11 a.m.

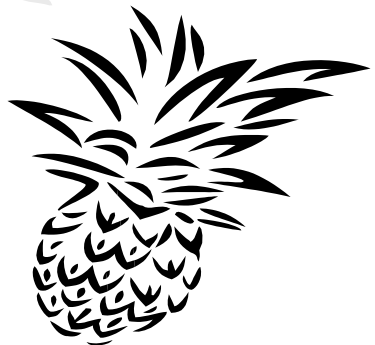
Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery
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Discussion: November 2014
General Discussion

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Meeting 16th October 2014

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 23 members and one visitor present were welcomed.
A total of two apologies were received.

General Business

Ross welcomed everyone, the newsletter was distributed with much discussion on some of the articles particularly Lesley's photos of her *Tillandsia hamaleana* and *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Pink Champagne'. The *Till. hamaleana* was passed around so we could all smell the delicate perfume of the flowers, many suggesting they should copy it as a perfume and bottle it.

A special thank you to Ron Burns for his generous donation of a larger brass bell, Ross will ring it with great delight when we all natter away (obviously discussing bromeliads !!!) somewhat disrupting the proceedings.

There were two new acquisitions presented for the Library which included the Thai publication Brom-Mania, also Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness by Elton M.C. Leme and Luis Claudio Marigo, a stunning book of Bromeliads growing in their natural environments exhibiting all the features of the harshness and struggle they endure.

The group was reminded that our Christmas meeting is not far away and for those award recipients of 2013, please return their plaques so they may be engraved ready for the 2014 Awards. This year we will be conducting a 'gift' swap again, so please consider a bromeliad or plant related item that you would appreciate receiving yourself to add to the Christmas Gift swap table. As per previous years those who bring a gift get a gift.

Show and Tell

Kay brought in two *Vrieseas* with flower spikes and asked for an identification, Ross observed the spotting on the foliage of one of the plants and suggested to look toward the *Vr. saundersii* hybrids, 'O'Hiss' or 'Fair to Middlin'.

Lesley had a large clumped specimen of *Billbergia amoena* var. *viridis* in flower, the beautiful all green inflorescence, hence its name, with only the tiniest amount of blue at the tip of each sepal. The foliage is green with broad silver banding (no banding mentioned in the description) which is not typical of plants often referred to as var. *viridis*. Ross is very keen to verify that this is indeed a form of *Bill. amoena* var. *viridis* as in the past there have been a few imposters. This is largely brought about by people ignoring name changes: *Billbergia amoena* var. *rubra* was changed to *Bill. amoena* var. *amoena* with petals green, blue tipped,

however confusion reigned as var. *rubra* was still being confused with var. *viridis* as the description for this plant written in Bromeleter 1985 - 6 - 10 is as follows: "a rosette of **rosy red leaves** with white and yellow spots. The inflorescence which appears in November is pendant with large pink bracts and **green petals**." The botanical description in Smith and Downs indicates leaf blades usually all green but sometimes tinged with red or white-spotted. It appears to be quite a variable species, if we follow the 'Key to Varieties of *Billbergia amoena*' : # 4 leads us to # 5 = var. *viridis* which helps lead us toward Lesley's plant.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. Petals green with blue tips | var. <i>stolonifera</i> |
| 3a. Petals wholly green | var. <i>stolonifera</i> forma <i>viridiflora</i> |
| 4. Sepals green except for dark blue apex | 5 |
| 4a. Sepals green but red toward the apex | var. <i>minor</i> |
| 4b. Sepals red at base | var. <i>carnea</i> |
| 5. Petal blades wholly green | var. <i>viridis</i> |
| 5a. Petal blades not wholly green | 6 |
| 6. Petals dark blue at apex | var. <i>amoena</i> |
| 6a. Petals yellow at apex | var. <i>flavescens</i> |

The usual discussion about correct naming of bromeliads and labelling occurred and sadly, some of us, came to the conclusion, there are many more growers who don't care or really don't want to know. However, we still feel that it is very important to have our bromeliad species plants named correctly, the identity of these can be checked against written botanical descriptions and keys for the keener ones among us. The hybrids can have their names and identity checked against the BCR: Bromeliad Cultivar Registry at <http://registry.bsi.org> for those who wish to know and be assured the name they have on their plant actually matches that which is registered.

Never trust the name on a label no matter who or where it comes from, a recent humdinger: *Neoregelia Hawaii pectinata*. The owner of this plant who felt something was amiss was assured by the seller of its correctness, the confused owner asked for help was told her plant is actually *Aechmea pectinata* (Hawaii).

Some of us write thousands of labels so yes we do understand that accidents do happen, spelling mistakes are easy made. However it only takes a few moments to check such publications as Bromeliaceae Names and Synonyms for spelling or use the Bromeliad Taxon List at <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>. Fortunately there is a percentage of members of each Group / Society that often go a few extra steps to keep us up to date with name changes and the identity problems that often arise and most are more than willing to pass this information on to those not so inclined, so please don't shoot the messengers of corrections.

Laurie M. one of our Group Members asked to please clarify what was required when exhibiting in the Decorative Section in our monthly competition for those that had not attended last months meeting. Laurie brought along an example to show what he felt was NOT acceptable, Laurie thought further discussion was needed for better clarification.

The answer being:

- 1) Any bromeliad plant/colony or group, either growing in a decorative pot, or growing in a standard pot and then placed into a Decorative pot (either a sitting on the bench type pot or a hanging basket), the plant/s must be well established in their growing medium in their container.
- 2) Bromeliad plant/s suitably mounted on timber, a wooden root or branch.
- 3) An arrangement of bromeliad plants and/or flowers, with or without other natural materials/embellishments.

Our congratulations to Warren Hulbert, after the beautiful floral art demonstration at our September meeting, Warren entered his creations into the competition at the Woodburn Orchid Show. The following week they were taken to the Casino Orchid Show, he was awarded Section Champion for his entry at both events.

Ross also won first prize and Section Champion with his entry *Vriesea* 'Heidi' at the Woodburn Orchid Show. Warren had selected the plant from PineGrove's vast collection while staying with Ross and Helen and suggested it should be entered in the competition. Thank you Warren, just goes to show you really do have an eye for such matters. This *Vriesea* is an Allan Phythian hybrid that was named after his grand daughter.

Ross informed us that the name *Till.* 'Cotton Candy' is considered a grex name by some growers and sold as *Till.* 'Cotton Candy Houston'. Plants tagged red are sold as *Till.* 'Houston', others tagged pink are sold as *Till.* 'Cotton Candy'.

Ted, brought along a *Vriesea ospinae* var. *gruberi*, wanting to know what he could do with the plant with two largish upper pups. Ross asked where and how Ted grew his plants and also why he wanted to divide it, was it really necessary? Ted indicated that his bromeliads were grown in pots, and placed in the mulch under trees in his large garden and that he is at the stage where he would like to see some clumps of bromeliads rather than many individual plants. Ross then suggested that the plant could stay as a clump, after removing some older leaves and being re-potted into a larger pot. As this particular group of *Vriesea* tend to be a stem forming type it was suggested that the root ball be trimmed at its base which would allow the plant to be set lower in the new pot explaining to Ted that this could be repeated with each successive generation. Ross showed several examples of *Vrieseas* with a upper pupping habit that had pups removed at a Group meeting some time ago and how they had now grown more pups.

Our next topic was how and when to collect seed from the Bromelioideae group of the bromeliad family: *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Bromelia*, *Canistrum*, *Cryptanthus*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Orthophyllum* and *Quesnelia* to name just a few. These are bromeliads with a berry type seed pod that we commonly see in collections.

Ross began the demonstration with an *Aechmea gamosepala* inflorescence that had finished flowering and had a few mature berries which are easily identified. Spent non pollinated flowers were pinkish whereas those that had been pollinated were black indicating their ripeness and were removed to show the seed when pressed from the fruiting body. An indication of the readiness/ripeness of a seed pod is they can be tugged from the inflorescence with ease. Ross then showed the group the inflorescence of *Edmundoa ambigua* and demonstrated how to prepare a flower for pollination by trimming/removing the pollen bearing anthers away if you do not wish the plant to self-pollinate. This process is done to be absolutely sure your selected seed parent/mother plant only accepts the pollen you wish to place in its stigma. A further safeguard is to isolate your plant into a controlled environment to help eliminate any possibility of foreign pollen contamination. Placing a stocking over the inflorescence also helps keep those unwanted foreign pollinators such as birds and insects away from your flowers so you at least have some control over what pollinates your plant.

Question: When is the right time to collect the seed of a *Neoregelia* ?

Quite often the ripened seed pod is white in colour, however in some species it is red and as an indication of readiness the fruiting body swells with seed.

Question: How long does it take from seed to flowering ?

This depends on the species, your facilities and also climate, however using our area here as an example, *Aechmeas*, *Neoregelias* and *Nidulariums* take about 2.5 to 3 years, the *Tillandsioideae* group take a little longer: *Vrieseas* around about 4 to 10 years plus, some *Tillandsias* up to twenty years or more.

Dawn tells the story of being sent *tillandsia* seed by Olwen Ferris many, many years ago and how she raised the seed and waited, however the enjoyment she had from growing the seedlings and the final result far outweighed the length of time it took.

Question: Why would you bother with seed, when you can just get a pup ?

It was explained that not all bromeliads pup, as an example *Alcantarea* 'Silver Plum' was used as it is often said that it doesn't reproduce vegetatively, that is not by adventitious/hair/grass pups or normal vegetative pups. It was indicated that there are other species of the *Tillandsioideae* that do not pup or reproduce asexually or vegetatively but can only be reproduced sexually/by seed.

Les commented and showed the similarities between *Cryptanthus* 'Glad' and *Crypt.* 'Jean Nicol' and how when growers register every plant in a grex how similarities occur with increasing frequency, reinforcing his earlier comments on the lack of selection when registering cultivars / hybrids.



Cryptanthus 'Glad'
grown by Les Higgins



Cryptanthus 'Jean Nicol'
grown by Les Higgins

Both plants pictured here have been grown by Les in good light conditions, however if *Cryptanthus* 'Jean Nicol' was grown in lower light it has been noticed to lose the vibrant pink tones to the edges of the leaves. Les has noticed that when this happens it can be difficult to separate these two hybrids from each other. Les recommends sight buying if you wish to be sure to get your preferred plant.

Cryptanthus 'Glad' -- its origin

Cryptanthus Society Journal, vol. 4, no.3, p.32 (1989)
Open Forum Letter by Olwen Ferris, Paradise Point, Queensland.

"In the early 1960s a bromeliad enthusiast from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, ordered bromels from the late Mulford Foster. Mr. Foster added three *Cryptanthus* seedlings to the order, saying they looked too good to be composted and he hoped the recipient would enjoy growing them.

I was given one offset from each plant. A green one we named *Cryptanthus* 'Green Ice' and this could perhaps be a *Crypt. zonatus* hybrid. The second one is a long leaf, bronzy red form that I grow as "long leaf red hybrid". The third was a pinky bronze, neat rosette that just had to have a distinctive name. This so delighted the late Mrs. Glad Lawrence, an inaugural member of the Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc., that we decided to name the plant after her. In 1963, when the Society was formed, the Lawrences had one of the most representative collections of bromeliads in Australia, and I feel it is befitting that this delightful *Cryptanthus* be named after her. *Cryptanthus* 'Glad' appears to be a hybrid, but I have no record of its parentage."

Origin of *Cryptanthus* 'Jean Nicol'

Cryptanthus Society Journal, Vol. 4, no. 3, p32 (1989) Open Forum Letter by Jean Nicol, Spotswood, Victoria, Australia.

"I have always grown some *Cryptanthus* ever since I started with bromeliads more than 25 years ago, but never did much good with them. They survived but that was all. My interest in them was kindled in 1982. Bill (my husband) had a trip to Singapore to import some plants, among them a number of *Cryptanthus*, most of them variegated, with the exception of three ordinary-looking Crypts that we called *C.* 'Glad' in Australia. I was disappointed because I had a whole heap of them, but potted them up and grew them on anyway. One eventually bloomed and sent up two offsets which proved to be variegated---and to my delight, sent up another nine variegated pups. Fortunately all succeeding generations have remained variegated. All my Crypts are doing well as we have had a long, warm Autumn and they are thriving."

After reading both the previous articles it was possible to understand where some of the confusion may have come from with the indication of two possible points of origin of these plants, or did they ?

Did Mulford Foster also send *Cryptanthus* to Singapore from America ?

Was *Cryptanthus* 'Glad' sent to Singapore from Australia, only to return ?

Did it just happen that the three plants imported from Singapore looked the same as 'Glad' and was so considered they were ?

Have the two different lots of 'Glad' been mixed together ?

Why have we never seen a 'Glad' give a variegated sport again ?

Were labels accidentally mixed from the Singapore shipment ?

Perhaps one of the "ordinary" ones was a 'novar' of the variegates which later gave variegated pups again ?

What were those variegated Crypts. imported from Singapore ?

Too many questions, too many variables.

Perhaps the change in environment caused the variegation, this is why we need to keep good records, one way is to register hybrids, cultivars and sports on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR) as a permanent record of how these plants come into our collections.



Guzmania hybrid ?
1st Open Kay Daniels



Guzvriesea 'Happa'
1st Judges Choice Laurie Mountford



Neoregelia hybrid ?
grown by Meg Kerr



Neoregelia unknown ?
grown by Dawn Dennis



Neoregelia 'Gunpowder'
1st Novice Flo Danswan



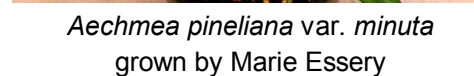
Vriesea fosteriana
grown by Ted Devine



Neoregelia Skotak hybrid
grown by Lesley Baylis



Cryptanthus 'Pink Frost'
grown by Les Higgins



Aechmea pineliana var. *minuta*
grown by Marie Essery



Billbergia amoena var. *viridis*
grown by Lesley Baylis

Photos supplied by: Ross Little

Registered this Month

***Billbergia* 'Dark Ladd'**

A *Billbergia* was shown and discussed, this was of Allan Ladd's breeding and a PineGrove registration that we named *Billbergia* 'Dark Ladd' with parentage: Bill. 'Domingos Martins' x 'Muriel Waterman'.



From the BCR:

Mature, tubular, slender rosette to 36cms. tall. Magenta, spiny leaves with some random cream spotting. Closely-spaced silver cross-banding on the reverse. Arching, splayed spike of rose pink scape bracts and violet flowers.

***Quesmea* 'Arden's Gem'**



Sometime ago, Marie, had a bromeliad entered in the competition and wasn't positive of its identity. Ross, as always likes to pursue these identity issues, the plant appeared related to *Quesnelia edmundoi* var. *rubrobracteata* which has red bracts and blue petals. Marie's plant has orange bracts and yellowish petals which had us looking toward var. *intermedia*. Our enquiries lead us to Arden Deardan of Cairns who told us he collected seed from his var. *rubrobracteata*. Arden feels the pollen parent was a nearby *Aechmea orlandiana* as the resultant seedlings differed to the seed mother. This suggested parentage makes this a bi-generic cross of a *Quesnelia* and a *Aechmea* giving us: *Quesmea* 'Arden's Gem'.

***Neoregelia* 'Vanilla Ice'**

A Neo. 'Lila' x 'Deroose's Medusa' hybrid created by Allan Ladd with a mature rosette to 40cms. diameter. Glossy, lightly-spined, mid-green leaves with some darker green mottling and red leaf tips. When blooming is imminent, central leaf bracts turn from creamy white to light pink, then to bright fuchsia pink.



***Billbergia* 'Beaut Ruby'**

by Derek Butcher 10 / 2014

First let us bemoan the problems of the horticulturist when trying to identify species. The taxonomist has it easy because he knows where the specimen was found in the wild. The horticulturist usually knows who he bought from and the trail stops there.

The basic botanical unit is the species and the first description can vary from that taken of one plant or better still a selection of plants deemed to be closely allied and collected in the same area. In other words a selective decision is made. But it is still restrictive and if another plant is found later that almost agrees with the description this may or may not be given the same name. The key word here is 'almost' because this is very subjective. Some botanists only believe in species alone and do not split the species into even smaller boxes such as varieties. The problem with varieties is that you get inevitable overlapping so although you can work out the species you can have 2 or more varieties you can choose!

This brings us to *Billbergia amoena* with 9 varieties and the problems we have had in Australia starting in the 1960's. Remember that at this time the only Monograph available was Mez 1935. I will show the key

** *Petala virentia non nisi summo apice minuta violaceo-maculata.*

" *Folia (praesertim in vivo manifeste) dorso ad vaginae apicem impressa.*

: *Sepala apice minute mucronulata rubra nec maculate rubra nec maculate variegata*

:: *Sepala flavo-virentia apice indigotino-maculata nec mucronulata Wiotiana*

"" *Folia dorso ad vaginae apicem haud impressa.*

: *Folia lata abbreviatumque, interiora apice late emarginata; inflorescentia nutans vel pedula.*

/*Foliorum spinulae validae; bracteae cum sepalis acutiusculis coccineae speciosa*

//*Foliorum spinulae minimae; bracteae roseae, sepala virentia rotundata amoena*

::*Folia angustiora elongatioraque, interiora apice haud emarginata vero mucrone herbaceo imposito rotundata; inflorescentia erecta.*

/ *Folia glabra.*

' *Folia ad 0,75 m longa*

" *Folia vix ultra 0,25 m longa .*

// *Folia dense lepidotula .*

pallescens.

Wacketii

pallida.

I leave it to you to translate from the Latin, but from the species names you will recognise 'amoena'. It shows how one botanist saw different species! A key is not the be-all, end-all of the matter because you still have to check the description! When Smith & Downs was published in 1979 these species became varieties of *B. amoena*

- I. Leaves green.
 - 2. Sepals green except for the dark blue apex
 - 3. Petal blades dark blue at apex, elsewhere green. 3a. var amoena.
 - 3. Petal-blades wholly green. 3b. var viridis.
 - 2. Sepals red toward apex. 3c. var minor.
- I. Leaves red. 3d. var rubra.

Over the years more varieties were added by Brazilian botanists and in 1994 Fontoura showed that there was no difference between var. *rubra* and the type so this became var *amoena*. Finally in 2012 I found it necessary to resurrect var. *cylindracea* which had been hiding as a possible synonym under *B. sanderiana*.

So at the moment my key is

Key to Varieties of *Billbergia amoena* as at 2012

- 1. Ovary smooth var. **robertiana**
- 1a. Ovary sulcate 2
- 2. Leaves 8-20 in a subellipsoid rosette 3
- 2a. Leaves 5 forming a tube var. **cylindracea**
- 3. Stolons long 4
- 3a. Stolons short 5
- 4. Petals green with blue tips var. **stolonifera**
- 4a. Petals wholly green var. **stolonifera** forma **viridiflora**
- 5. Sepals green except for dark blue apex 6
- 5a. Sepals green but red toward the apex var. **minor**
- 5b. Sepals red at base var. **carnea**
- 6. Petal blades wholly green var. **viridis**
- 6a. Petal blades not wholly green 7
- 7. Petals dark blue at apex var. **amoena**
- 7a. Petals yellow at apex var. **flavescens**

That covers the situation from the botanists' point of view although there is a twist because while Foster who collected var. *viridis* says that petals and sepals are wholly green, Smith's description says that sepals are tipped blue!

What has happened in Australia? I think we are growing the varieties *amoena*, *carnea*, *stolonifera* and *viridis*. There is a plant with red leaves and greenish spots and some silver bands with *Bill. amoena* var. *rubra* on the label but has the flower of var. *viridis* not var. *amoena*. One such owner, Kent Jacobsson tells us that he got his plant from Peter A. Franklin but with the comment on the label 'Could be a hybrid!' We know it is not PAF 799 nor PAF 1005 because of the petal colour! Now, Peter comes from Raymond Terrace which is near Newcastle which is Bill Morris's stamping ground and alarm bells started ringing. You see, in the 1980's the Butchers got a plant from Bill with *Bill. amoena rubra x viridis* on the label and we never got round to naming this intraspecific cross. In those days this was not technically a hybrid being intra-species. How different was it? Did it show attributes from both parents? All we know is that Bill got his plant of *Bill. amoena* var. *viridis* from Kent's nursery in California. From Bill's memory this was a green plant with broad trichome banded leaves (not mentioned in the botanical description) and a flower that had total green petals and sepals. Offsets of this plant may still be in some Aussie collections. It is also reasonable to assume that the intraspecific cross (with probable white bands) that Bill Morris created is also around and could well be the plant to which we refer. Because of the uncertain identification of Kent Jacobsson's plant I maintain we should follow Geoff Lawn's suggestion and call it 'Beaut Ruby' and register it.

If there are other growers out there having a plant called *Bill. amoena* var. *rubra* and it looks like the plant featured here please change its name to 'Beaut Ruby'!



Billbergia amoena var. *rubra*
grown by Kent Jacobsson

Billbergia amoena var. *viridis*
grown by Daryl Ganter

Vriesea ospinae and *ospinae* var. *gruberi*

Taken in part from: BSI Journal 33(1):23-4. 1983

The specific name honors Sra. Berta Hernandez de Ospina of Fusagasuga, Colombia who first grew this plant in her garden.

Vriesea ospinae is very closely related to *Vr. chrysostachys* E. Morren and particularly to its variety *stenophylla* L.B. Smith but can be distinguished by its tessellated foliage, strongly complanate spikes and carinate floral bracts.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to ascertain the exact nativity of *Vriesea ospinae*. All known collections are suspected to have been obtained originally from Sra. Ospina's collection but considering the close affinity with *Vr. chrysostachys* it is quite probable that *Vr. ospinae* is to be found at medium elevations in S.E. Colombia.

Vriesea ospinae has been grown under a variety of names including *Vriesea* 'ampullacea', *Vr.* 'Espirito Santo' and *Vr.* 'ospina'.

Vriesea ospinae Luther var. *gruberi* Luther, JBS 42(3):118-9. 1992

Type. Colombia: Casanare (Boyaca); San Luis de Gacano, 3-500 m. Flowered in cultivation, 10 Oct. 1990, *Franz Georg Gruber s.n.* (SEL, holotype; HUA, isotype).

This new variety differs from the original in the following characters:

- 1) leaf blades lingulate to lanceolate vs. triangular.
- 2) leaf blades broader, 20-45 (mostly 35-40 mm wide vs. 18-35 (mostly 20-30) mm wide.
- 3) leaf apex broadly acute and abruptly acuminate vs. evenly tapering.
- 4) leaves tessellated dark reddish-brown or purple vs. dark green or reddish green.

This beautiful new *Vriesea* is dedicated to Franz Georg Gruber who grows many native and exotic bromeliads in his nursery in Fusagasuga, Colombia. It is a spectacular ornamental sure to become popular in horticulture.

Since the collection of this new variety of *Vr. ospinae* known as var. *gruberi*, there has been several cultivars introduced into horticulture. One such cultivar highly sort after is *Vriesea* 'Tiger Tim' which has a much whiter back-ground to the green glyph markings than the reddish-brown of var. *gruberi*. Another stand out is *Vr.* 'Sons of Tiger Tim' grown from seed collected from 'Tiger Tim', also from this grex arose *Vr.* 'Smudge Grub' and a more yellowish back-ground plant named *Vr.* 'Scaredy Cat'.

When var. *gruberi* is used as either a seed or pollen parent the array of colour patterns it passes on is well worth the effort of seed growing, look out for them.

Geotropism in Bromeliads

by Peter Paroz

Much has been written about the response of Bromeliads to various environmental factors: temperature, moisture, light intensity, etc. Not often mentioned however is the response of plants to gravity, probably in the usual sense it cannot be readily altered.

Geotropism refers to the orientation of plants to gravity.

Negative geotropism the plant grows upward i.e. the crown of many Bromeliads. Positive geotropism the tissue grows vertically downwards i.e. the tap roots of some plants.

Plagiogeotropism, where the response of the organ is such that the axis is at a constant angle to the vertical, includes the special case of diageotropism where the growth axis is at right angles to the force of gravity i.e. the horizontal rhizome of many plants.

In Bromeliads, most of these effects can be seen. In almost all cases the crown exhibits strong negative geotropism. Not surprisingly this is most strongly developed in tank forming bromeliads (after all a tank on its side does not hold much water) and least apparent in some of the clump forming *Dyckias* and *Hectias*.

In some of the bulbous *Tillandsias* particularly *Till. butzii* and *Till. baileyi* there is no response to gravity and the offsets grow in a random fashion from the mother plant. Also in this category is *Till. recurvata* which as a mature clump forms a "ball" shape from which it derives its common name. (Ball Moss)

How does the plant tissue sense the gravitational force ? I am not aware of any information on the subject. It certainly is a fascinating area for research.

So next time you think microclimate, look at the way your various plants respond to gravity. It is just one of the minor but interesting facets of Bromeliad culture.

Reprinted from:

Bromeliad Newsletter, Bromeliad Society of NSW, Vol.9, No.10, October 1991.

Tidy-up Corner (corrections)

by an Eagle Eyed Observer

On page 6 of the FNCBSG NSW October 2014 Newsletter the brief note on Petal Appendages is misleading with respect to the statement that there are nectar scales on *Tillandsioideae*. However **Not all** of the genera have them. The petals of *Vriesea* and *Mezobromelia* species **have** nectar scales. *Tillandsia* and *Guzmania* petals **do not** have them.

Thanks Herb for your input as corrections / helpful advice is greatly appreciated.

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Flo Danswan	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Gunpowder'
2nd	Dawn Dennis	<i>Neoregelia</i> unknown ?
3rd	Lesley Baylis	<i>Neoregelia</i> Skotak hybrid ?

Open Popular Vote

1st	Kay Daniels	<i>Guzmania</i> hybrid ?
2nd	Laurie Mountford	<i>Guzvriesea</i> 'Happa'
3rd	-----	-----

Judges Choice

1st	Laurie Mountford	<i>Guzvriesea</i> 'Happa'
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Decorative

1st	no entries	-----
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Comments from the Growers.

Kay is not sure where and how she acquired this plant, it has formed a lovely clump, originally having just the mother and a pup or two, for it to form this great group. Kay has repotted the *Guzmania* into a larger deeper pot to accommodate the growth. It grows under 50% black shade cloth and fertilised when repotted.

Laurie originally obtained his *Guzvriesea* from Meg, some years ago. Laurie grows it in his shade house on the north side under 70% biscuit shade cloth. Watering and fertilising happen when Laurie feels like it, he sets a sprinkler for approx. 10-15mins and when he pots up he likes to use Dynamic Lifter.

Flo has had her *Neoregelia* since September 2013. Flo has grown her plant with others in her walkway for the Winter were it received plenty of sunlight. Flo likes to mix her own potting mix using PineGrove Mix as the base, adding Zeolite and a good quality potting mix. Osmocote Exact is used as the fertilizer.

Dawn acquired her lovely *Neoregelia* several years ago when she became the custodian for her friend's plants, when her friend passed away. The grouping lives in Dawn's front garden, which is in an open dry sunny position giving this *Neoregelia* group great form and colour.

Lesley has been growing her unknown Skotak hybrid close to the roof of her shade house which is covered with 70% beige shade cloth. Lesley gives her plants a regular watering and uses Osmocote Exact fertiliser in her potting mix.