ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED

NEWSLINK

July 2019

Sincoraea rafaelii
An eye-catcher from Bahia, Brazil
Photograph and article pp. 9-11 by Arne Seringer

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- The Society is, by the holding of meetings, displays and competitions, to provide a forum for the people of the Illawarra region who are interested in the culture and collection of bromeliads.
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BANK DETAILS FOR FEE PAYMENT, ETC: **Illawarra Credit Union; BSB No. 802249; Account No. 249 039 602**

MEETINGS - The Society meets at 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of each month (except January and December) in the Laurel Room* at the Ribbonwood Centre, DAPTO. *Scribbly Gum room for November meetings only.
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - Due 30th June each year: $15 single/$25 family.
NEWSLINK ISSUED QUARTERLY - January, April, July, and October and at http://www.bromeliad.org.au

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

NEW MEMBER: A very warm welcome to our new member Younghee Hwangbo who joined our Society in April. We wish you a long and happy association with us!

MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE ROSTER

July - Deniece Crutchley, Barbara Jones-Beverstock, Brian Smith, Maadi McKenna
August 3 - Monica De Clouett, Edwina Wain, Anne-Marie Brun, Ann Kennon
August 31 - Sylvia Clare, Noel Kennon, Eileen Killingley, Graham Bevan
October - Neville Wood, Beth Clague, Lydia Chinnock, Suzanne Burrows

ROSTER FOR CLEANING UP AFTER THE MEETING:

July - Elizabeth Bevan, Graham Bevan, Maadi McKenna, Yvonne Perinotti, Bob Stephens
August 3 - Rhonda Grant, Brian Smith, June Casey, Joy Scholz, John Toolan
August 31 - Steve Wain, Edwina Wain, John Boyd, Judy Hunt, Richard Howard
October - Rose Di Noro, Domenic Di Noro, Heather Thain, Les Thain, Anne-Marie Brun
November - Carol Burgdorf, Lisa Chambers, Isabella Chambers, Fran Parrott

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Fees were due and payable by June 30th and, hopefully, to make it more convenient for our members who do not attend meetings on a regular basis, we have available a direct transfer system to make payment. Our bank details are: Illawarra Credit Union; BSB Number 802249; Account Number 249 039 602.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: Last year we acknowledged that there are many plants that cannot be entered in the monthly competitions because they are too big, or growing in the ground, or in flower at the wrong time. So a reminder that we are running our Photographic Competition again this year with the rules as set out in our April 2019 Newslink—also available at www.bromeliad.org.au. But for basic information, each entry requires two photographs—A (entire plant) and B (inflorescence)—to be submitted in a plain envelope to our competitions officer, Sharyn Baraldi, before the conclusion of our October General Meeting. Sharyn will arrange for the entries to be displayed for inspection and judging by popular vote at the November General Meeting, with the results being announced at our December Christmas party and the Meri Stefanidakis Memorial Trophy awarded to the winner.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers of the Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc. will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Nominations for office bearers and members of the committee are to be lodged with Ann or Barbara who will have the relevant forms available at our July meeting.

WORKSHOP #2 – SATURDAY, JULY 20: This will be held at Rita and John Toolan's home, 5 Rondanella Drive, Kanahooka ([02] 4261 1773). We will start at 10.00 am with morning tea and finish at about 2.00 pm after lunch. John and Rita will provide tea and coffee, and prepare a sausage sizzle for lunch so please bring salads, and cakes or slices to share.

The tutor will be Graham Bevan who will lead discussions and answer questions about "How to go about establishing a collection of bromeliads." This will be an essential workshop for new members wanting to know about the factors to take into account when they are thinking about buying plants and where to put them in their garden. Bring a notebook and questions.

GENERAL MEETING/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd: For the General Meeting there will be no presentation but all other activities will be as usual. The Annual General Meeting will be held following closure of the General Meeting and will comprise: Minutes of the 2018 AGM, President's Report, Treasurer's Report and election of Officers and the Committee for 2019-2020.

WORKSHOP #3 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 17: This will be at the home of Anne Mobbs, 10 Heaslip Street, Mangerton, starting at 10.00 am with morning tea. We will finish at about 2.00 pm after lunch – bring your own, and cake or slice to share. Anne will provide tea and coffee.

The tutors will be Ann and Noel Kennon who will lead the participants through all aspects of preparing entries for the competitions to be held in conjunction with our Annual Show for 2019. This workshop is for all members, but especially new members. Everyone, please mark the date in your diary and come armed with a notebook, one or two plants that you might want to enter, the July Newslink, the Show Schedule and lots of questions.

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING TO AUGUST 31ST: The September General Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 31--as usual at the Ribbonwood Centre, beginning at 12 noon—which will enable us to run the Show on the first Saturday and second Sunday of September, to fit in with the scheduling of *Spring into Corrimal*, an event always held on the second Sunday of September. The program for the meeting has been modified and Neville Wood will be making the presentation on a subject of general interest.

COACH [53 SEATER] TRIP TO CENTRAL COAST – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15:

Itinerary:

7.00 am - Depart from Dapto Railway Station
7.40 am - Pickup at Waterfall
9.30 am - Comfort stop and morning tea at Hawkesbury River rest area
10.50 am - Arrive *Paradox Horticulture*, Glenning Valley – for bromeliad purchases.
12.30 pm - Depart *Paradox*
1.15 pm - Arrive Impact Nursery and Café, Empire Bay – for lunch and bromeliad purchases.
3.00 pm - Depart for home
5.50 pm - Drop off at Waterfall
6.40 pm - Arrive Dapto

Cost is $35 per person; members may book seats at July 6 or August 3 General Meetings.
Seats, if available, may be booked for non-members at August 3 General Meeting.
The fee of $35 must be paid for all participants at the July 6 or August 3 General Meetings.

GARDEN VISITS #3 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19: The first visit, where we will enjoy morning tea, has yet to be determined. The second visit will be at Neville Wood's place at Shellharbour where he will have plants for sale so bring a box or bag for your purchases. Finally, we will move on to Pam Townsend's at Albion Park Rail to see her garden and have lunch. More details closer to the date.

WORKSHOP #4 – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16: Advance notice for our 4th workshop of the year to be held at Sharyn Baraldi's in Warilla. From 10.00 am to about 2.00 pm. This will be a Questions & Answers session, so bring lots of questions about anything related to the Society; answers will be provided by the 'experts'; bring your lunch and cake or slice to share.

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

July 6 - 7	**ILLAWARRA GREVILLEA PARK OPEN DAYS** – 10 am – 4 pm – Adults $5/children free
Aug. 10	**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA'S MINI BROMELIAD FAIR – FEDERATION PAVILION, CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND** - 9 am – 3 pm
Sep. 7 - 8	**ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY SPRING SHOW – Uniting Church CORRIMAL**
Sep. 15	**SUNDAY COACH TRIP TO CENTRAL COAST**
Oct. 17 - 20	**GOLDEN BROMS – 20TH AUSTRALASIAN BROMELIAD CONFERENCE – SEA WORLD**
Oct. 26 - 27	**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA SPRING SHOW – FEDERATION PAVILION, CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND** – Saturday 9 am – 4 pm/Sunday 10 am – 3 pm.

SEA WORLD CONFERENCE CENTRE
GOLD COAST

Full registration of $375 includes entry to all presentations, the Welcome BBQ and Conference Opening, Banquet, and full day tour of four gardens and nurseries. Most meals included.
10 presentations from 8 international and national speakers.

For more information see: http://goldenbroms.com

Contacts: Greg and Narelle Aizlewood: 07 5546 1161/0418 193 628
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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
MINI BROMELIAD FAIR

RARE AND UNUSUAL TILLANDSIAS, COLOURFUL NEOREGELIAS AND SPECTACULAR VRIESEAS

SATURDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 2019
9.00 AM – 3.00 PM
FEDERATION PAVILION
CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUNDS

NOTE: SALES CLOSED FOR APPROX. A HALF HOUR
AT 11.00 AM, 12 NOON AND 1.00 PM
FOR TALKS ON BROMELIADS BY PETER TRISTRAM.
A RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT EACH OF THESE TIMES FOR
TICKETS SOLD DURING THE PREVIOUS HOUR

ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY SPRING SHOW - SATURDAY/SUNDAY 7TH/8TH SEPTEMBER

We will need helpers—particularly with setup on Friday, from 9.30 am and packing up on the Sunday. Working together is a nice way for members to get to know each other and there are all types of jobs going over the 3 days—from setting up the display, sales and competition tables and as we provide tea/coffee/cakes/slices to visitors (plus lunch for workers and judges), providing goodies and/or some time in the kitchen could be a way of helping, or manning the information/raffle tables another.

April 6 , 2019: Competition Plant Results

Open:

1st	Bob Stephens	*Nidularium fulgens*
2nd	Rhonda Patterson	*Cryptanthus* 'It'
3rd	Ann Kennon	*Orthophytum glabrum*
3rd	Jørgen Jakobsen	*Neoregelia* 'Bird Rock'

Novice:

1st	Glenn Martin	*Guzmania* 'Soledo'

Tillandsioideae

1st	Suzanne Burrows	*Wallisia* 'Duvalii' [Formerly *Tillandsia lindenii*]
2nd	Pam Townsend	*Wallisia* 'Duvalii' [Formerly *Tillandsia lindenii* - see
3rd	Ann Kennon	*Tillandsia caerulea* note by Derek Butcher below]

May 4, 2019: Plant Results

Open:

1st	Rhonda Patterson	*Orthophytum sucrei*
2nd	Beth Clague	*Guzmania* 'Hope'
3rd	Beth Clague	*Neoregelia* 'Dunmore Ruby'
3rd	Bob Stephens	*Hohenbergia correia-araujoi*

Tillandsia:

1st	Beth Clague	*Tillandsia stricta*
2nd	Rose Di Noro	*Tillandsia stricta*

June 1, 2019: Competition Plant Results

Open:

1st	Rhonda Patterson	*Vriesea*
2nd	Neville Wood	*Nidularium fulgens*
2nd	Beth Clague	*Guzmania 'Irene'*
3rd	Rhonda Patterson	*Neoregelia carolinae? '*Meyendorffii'
3rd	Ann Kennon	*Cryptanthus*
3rd	Beth Clague	*Aechmea recurvata* var. *benrathii*

Novice:

1st	Cheryl Mathews	*Neoregelia* 'Monet'
2nd	Ana Mallon	*Cryptanthus* 'Marian Oppenheimer'

Tillandsioideae

1st	Ann Kennon	*Tillandsia punctulata*
2nd	Ann Kennon	*Tillandsia crocata '*Copper Penny'
2nd	Ann Kennon	*Tillandsia crocata*
3rd	Bob Stephens	*Wallisia cyanea*

NOTES ON PLANTS BROUGHT TO OUR APRIL/MAY/JUNE MEETINGS:

***Cryptanthus* 'It':** [Reprinted from <bromeliad.org.au> a letter from William Drysdale to Thelma O'Reilly in California, February 24, 1994, titled "Good ol' 'It'"]. Cryptanthus 'It' had a meteoric rise to prominence in the plant world of the late 1960s. For many it was the only bromeliad they knew. It is, of course, a mutation.

The all green form was brought into this country [USA] by Mulford Foster, collection number 2466, from its home on the Monte de Burro range near Bahia, Brazil in 1948. Robert Wilson of Fantastic Gardens in Miami obtained a specimen, and, at his nursery around 1964, it sported so as to bear a broad band of shocking pink at the leaf edges. This reduction of the green area reduces the amount of photosynthesis taking place so that the plant is slow to reach maturity which may result in a plant of 18 inches up to nearly 2 feet across. E.C. Hummel acquired a plant from Bob Wilson with whom he did a great deal of trading. Since it was in such great demand he had it tissue cultured. This technique at that time was in its infancy and … in this instance the majority of the resultant plants did not resemble *Cryptanthus* 'It', but were a solid green, many were albino, a small number were carbon copies of Cryptanthus 'It' and some had the color patterns of 'It' reversed. It was clever of someone to invert the spelling of 'It'' to 'Ti', by which name this form is almost universally known; however, Hummel named the selection *C.* 'Minnie Belle', which name for purists has priority. Subsequently, Hummel listed it as *C*. 'Ti' also.

The tissue cultured plants that did duplicate *Cryptanthus* 'It' proved to be highly unstable so that on a single mature plant and all at the same time would bear offsets, some of which were all green, others were albino, as well as those colored like C. 'It' and *C.* 'Ti'.

***Cryptanthus* 'Marian Oppenheimer':** This is a small, yet attractive cryptanthus cultivar of *C*. 'Roseus' created by radiation experimentation by P. DeCoster. Typically the leaves are blue-green with bright pink edges, sometimes striped as well, which fade to a dull and unappealing off-white colour if the plant remains in low light conditions for a prolonged period of time. Unlike most grown cryptanthus varieties, this particular cultivar has unusually elongated, narrow leaf tips, which greatly enhance the star-like effect of the rosette that brought about the common name of this genus: Earth Stars. Despite this plant's place of origin (the wet and humid rainforests of Brazil), 'Marian Oppenheimer', as well as several species of Earth Stars, does not demand frequent waterings and will survive in drier conditions. They will, however, perform best if watered moderately from time to time, letting the soil dry out a little in between waterings. [Extracted from <davesgarden.com> cactusparty from Ottawa, Canada, December 7, 2004]. Needs good light for colour.

***Hohenbergia correia-araujoi*:** The genus *Hohenbergia* comprises a relatively small group of species (about 60), not commonly seen in cultivation, with the exception of *H. correia-araujoi* which was introduced at the 1980 BSI World Conference and sold as a rare plant at inflated prices. Fortunately, this turned out to be one of those bromeliads that is most generous with pups, so before long this plant was available to those of more modest means.

The name originates with the Prince of Württemberg, Germany who was a patron of botany. Carol Johnson of the Pineapple Place [Pompano Beach, Florida] referred to hohenbergias in general as being large plants (with the exception of *H. pennae*), that are heavily spined and not particularly attractive (with the exception of *H. correia-araujoi*). A few species develop attractive splashes of red on the ends of their leaves or interesting patterns when grown in strong light. Inflorescences are usually tall and branched with inconspicuous flowers clustered in short, dense spikes of bracts. In the case of *H. stellata* these spikes are quite colourful and attractive, but more typically the blooms are rather dull-looking and the plants could best be described as something that only a hardened bromeliad enthusiast could love. Plants in this group may be epiphytic, saxicolous, or terrestrial and are found in the greatest numbers in Jamaica and Brazil. Culture recommendations from the old BSI culture manual are to "give them aechmea culture except that they need more protection from cold and prefer lower light".

***Tillandsia crocata* 'Copper Penny':** Native to Brazil and prefers a bright and airy position. Paul Isley [of *Rainforest Flora, Inc*. 2009] says: "…One of our newest and most special plants because the beautiful copper coloured bloom is also highly fragrant, just like the yellow form. This cultivar also grows larger and has thicker leaves than the yellow flowering form."

***Tillandsia lindenii/Wallisia* 'Duvalii':** [Extracted from: "*Wallisia* or single paddles", Derek Butcher, October 2016 <bromeliad.org.au>] You will eventually get used to this genus name which has been resurrected from 1870 in *Phytotaxa* 279(1) 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!

In 1951 Lyman Smith straightened out what was *T. cyanea* and what was *T. lindenii*. Basically, if it had no peduncle [stem supporting an inflorescence] you thought *T. cyanea* and if it had a peduncle you thought *T. lindenii*. It was a very complicated story in the late 1800s 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. 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 *T. 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 cannot link your plant to a cultivar name then the name to use is the hybrid *Wallisia* 'Duvalii'. These include plants whose spike has a substantial peduncle. 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 'Duvalii'. 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* 'Duvalii'.

PROTECTING BROMELIADS FOR WINTER

(Extracted from "Protecting bromeliads for winter in NZ" – Notes by Dave Anderson, *Bromeliad*, Journal BSNZI May 2019, Vol. 59(5))

The following are some things that we can do for our plants:

- Clean any foreign matter out of the cups using long-handled tweezers, etc.
- Cut away any dead or yellowing leaves.
- Clean out any dead leaves or grass which may have lodged in amongst the leaves.
- Pull out any weeds growing in and around the pots.
- Check the potting mix to see that it is not too decayed or broken down. Replace the mix as need be.
- Watering: No hard and fast rules can be set down for watering during the cold weather but it is important to remember that more plants are lost due to OVERWATERING in winter. Water in the morning if possible. Keep the soil only SLIGHTLY moist and the leaves dry during extreme cold spells.
- Tillandsias: If possible turn the bulbous tillandsias planted on bark in an upside-down position so that the plant will not become waterlogged during any wet weather. Water other tillandsias VERY, VERY sparingly.
- When plants are outside there is a difference between sitting the pot on the ground and sinking the pot in the ground. If the pot is sunk into the ground the plant will be kept warmer and will be more moist.

UNUSUAL THINGS FROM BRAZIL - *ORTHOPHYTUM* AND RELATIVES

By Arne Seringer

(Reprinted with permission from the author and taken from the 2018(2) edition of *Die Bromelie*)

[*Die Bromelie* is the journal of the Deutsche Bromelien-Gesellschaft e.V. which is published three times a year, in April, July, and November. It is a beautiful publication, with always stunning photographs, and the articles appear in both German and with an English translation. Peter Tristram, from northern New South Wales, and a member of our Society, is International Coordinator and should you be interested in subscribing to this journal, Peter may be contacted at: international@dbg-web.de]

Brazil is a country rich in bromeliads and no small part of them is endemic, that is, they are found only there. Tillandsias and the tank-forming species of *Aechmea, Neoregelia* and *Vriesea* are encountered in abundance. When you leave the moist coastal areas and pass over the mountain chains to the hinterland, the vegetation quickly changes. Here in the dry areas you can't miss seeing the earth dwelling bromeliads. Genera like *Dyckia* and *Encholirium* can store water in their leaves and stems and thus are adapted to lengthy dry spells.

Plants of the genus *Orthophytum* and its relatives *Sincoraea* and *Lapanthus* are unobtrusive. They often live hidden in rock crevices or amid shrubs and grasses. Only when they begin to bloom does one take notice of them. Their size, too, causes them to be overlooked. *O. horridum*, with a height of 1.40 m, belongs to the giants of the genus.

Their home is eastern Brazil, from the rocks in the Mata Atlantica on the coast to the interior behind the mountain chains which hold back the moist air of the Atlantic. The campos rupestres in particular, rocky locations in Minas Gerais and in neighbouring states harbor many species. Their area of distribution extends from Ceará in the North to Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo in the South.

The genus name *Orthophytum* was coined from the Greek words *orthos* for straight and *phyton* for plant: "straight plant". This is quite evident in the type plant *O. glabrum* and in some others. The rosettes, so typical for *Bromeliaceae* are often only indicated and the leaves are distributed on the extended shoot, which sometimes makes it difficult to tell where the shoot ends and the inflorescence begins. You have the impression that the plant is stretching up to its flower and the leaves wandering up along the lengthening stem.

In most of the species a tuft of leaves forms on the end of the inflorescence similar to that of a pineapple. When the inflorescence bends toward the ground after blooming, the tufts take root and form new plants. This is especially easy to observe in *Orthophytum sucrei.*

Lapanthus consists of the Greek word *anthos* for bloom or flower with the prefix "Lapa". According to the authors Louzada and Versieux "Lapa" has a double meaning. First of all it is a tribute to the Brazilian botanist Maria das Graças Lapa Wanderley (*1947), secondly "Lapa" is the Portuguese word for "rock cave", a reference to the rocky locations where the plants occur.

Finally, *Sincoraea* is a clear reference to the "Serra do Sincora" in Bahia, where the first species, *S. amoena*, was found. In Brazil the members of this genus are called "Raio-do-Sol" ("Sunbeams"). Whoever has seen them in bloom can well understand that.

Until a short time ago the genus *Orthophytum* included about 68 to 71 species. On the basis of recent findings in the area of *Bromeliaceae* genetics, and with the description of new species, dividing the genus became unavoidable.

Already in the year 1908 the German Ernst Ule described *Sincoraea amoena*, a species whose appearance differed markedly from *Orthophytum glabrum* described twelve years earlier by Carl Mez. In spite of that Lyman B. Smith grouped *Orthophytum, Sincoraea* and *Cryptanthopsis* together under the first name. Over the years new species were added again and again; *Orthophytum* acquired a certain diversity. Time and again doubts about the correctness of this taxon emerged. Not until the Brazilian botanists also turned their attention to them, and as the country was better developed, research in the genus gained momentum.

In the Bromeliad Taxon List by Gouda and Butcher the following species numbers are cited: *Lapanthus* = 2 species; *Orthophytum* = 58 species; *Sincoraea* = 11 species.

One species was described as *Orthophytum vidaliorum*, but after a brief time it was given a temporary home in *Lapanthus* until it finally—after thorough investigation—and together with seven species from the genus *Cryptanthus,* [was placed] in *Hoplocryptanthus*.

Orthophytum is currently (Leme *et al*. 2017) classified in proximity to *Cryptanthus*, another genus endemic in Brazil, and these genera, together with *Forzzaea* and *Rokautskya*, form a group.

Orthophytum and its relatives for the most part do not present a great challenge to plant lovers. As houseplants they turn out to be undemanding nurslings since their temperature requirements are quite compatible with those of humans. A not too sunny spot on the window sill and moderate watering will produce good-looking plants. Like every living creature they also need nourishment which can be provided now and then with water-soluble fertilizer. But they require little feeding because as undemanding dwellers of barren areas and rock crevices, they are accustomed to want and hunger. A mixture of well-draining mineral and humus components, about half and half, is suitable. Also, small amounts of slow release fertilizer are recommended. Above all, they do not tolerate cold and wetness. Drying out between waterings is obligatory! If they are overwintered at 10^0C, they must be kept dry and not given water until the temperatures rise. Many plants then draw back into the ground a little and are able to form a kind of bulb. When conditions are more favourable they sprout again and continue to grow.

Because of their predominantly small size there is always room for them in collections. They are recommended even for the window sill because of their simple care. The plants become especially beautiful if lots of light is provided. Noonday sun behind glass is poorly tolerated since it quickly leads to burns on the leaves, but otherwise bright light and even direct morning or afternoon sun makes *Orthophytum* compact and gives the leaves a rich covering of scales. Some species, e.g., *O. grossiorum* or forms of *O. saxicola*, become a bright red.

Species that are occasionally seen in culture in Europe:

- *Orthophytum saxicola* is one of the smallest members. At scarcely 10 cm high and relatively compact growth it fits into every collection. There are different forms; one with an almost sessile inflorescence was described by the American botanist Lyman B. Smith as var. *aloifolium*. But the transmissions are smooth and dependent on location. One heavily scaled form, looking almost white, is downright pretty.
- *Orthophytum erigens* came to the market as *O. alvimii*. The stiffly upright plants are a little over half a meter high. The shoots, without long runners and with marginal leaf rosettes, stand close to each other. The growth habit hardly reminds one of a bromeliad!
- *Orthophytum gurkenii* is certainly the best known species. It has a very typical *Orthophytum* growth habit with a leaf rosette on the ground and a tall upright inflorescence. Peculiar is the white cross-banding of scales on the dark green to brownish leaf surfaces.

- *Orthophytum grossiorum*, scarcely more than 20 cm, is not a very large species. In a sunny location it forms a rust brown, somewhat fleshy leaf rosette, out of which the inflorescence emerges. The inflorescence with its fresh green color contrasts nicely with the foliage.
- *Sincoraea ophiuroides* in its growth habit hardly differs from the other *Sincoraea* species. It forms dense, many-leaved rosettes and short stolons quickly producing sizeable groups. The foliage is virtually without scales and glistens in a lush green. When it blooms the centre of the rosette becomes red and the picture is completed with brilliant white flowers.

Orthophytum and its relatives are infrequently used for hybridizing. Generic hybrids have been made, however. There are some hybrids with close relatives, as e.g., *Orthophytum* with *Sincoraea,* or with more distant relatives like x*Neophytum* (with *Neoregelia*) [now x*Sincoregelia*], x*Orthomea* (with *Aechmea*), x*Orthotanthus* (with *Cryptanthus*). It has become evident that the characteristics of *Orthophytum* and *Sincoraea* are dominant. The narrow leaves and the nestlike inflorescence of *Sincoraea*, as well as the extended inflorescences in *Orthophytum,* persist in the progeny.

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ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC.'S
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SHOW
SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, 2019
SCHEDULE

- **CATEGORY I – DIVISION I: HORTICULTURAL – OPEN**

Class

A	Aechmea - Individual specimen plant
B	Billbergia - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted
C	Neoregelia - Individual specimen plant
D	Neoregelia - miniature – Individual specimen plant (Not to exceed 200 mm/8" diameter)
E	*Tillandsioideae - Individual or multiples permitted – May be potted or mounted
F	*Vriesea/Guzmania - Individual specimen plant
G	Bromeliad not listed in 'A' to 'F' - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted

- **CATEGORY I – DIVISION II: HORTICULTURAL – NOVICE**

Class

H	Aechmea - Individual specimen plant
I	Billbergia - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted
J	Neoregelia - Individual specimen plant
K	Neoregelia - miniature - Individual specimen plant [Not to exceed 200 mm/8" diameter]
L	*Tillandsioideae - Individual or multiples permitted - May be potted or mounted
M	*Vriesea/Guzmania - Individual specimen plant
N	Bromeliad not listed in 'H' to 'M' - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted.

- **CATEGORY I – DIVISION III: HORTICULTURAL – DISPLAY AND MULTIPLE PLANTS**

Class

O	Colony of Multiple or Clump Plants--e.g., Aechmea, Neoregelia, Vriesea
P	*Mounted Tillandsias – minimum of two (2) established plants which may be the same or different
Q	Mounted Bromeliad(s) other than Tillandsias – Established plant(s) which may be the same or different.

- **CATEGORY II – ARTISTIC**

Class

R	Basket or Decorative Container – minimum of three (3) plants which may be the same or different. No embellishments.
S	Bromeliad Garden – Any Container – Embellishments may be used.
T	Artistic Arrangement – to consist of predominantly bromeliad material – Embellishment may be used.

- *This class includes *Tillandsia* and allies--i.e., those species affected by the recent name changes, including *Barfussia*, *Josemania, Lemeltonia, Pseudalcantarea, Racinaea* and *Wallisia*.
- *This class includes *Vriesea* and allies--i.e., those species affected by the recent name changes, including *Goudaea, Lutheria, Stigmatodon and Zizkaea.*
- In classes covering "Individual Specimen Plants", pups are permissible on the adult plant only if they are so small that their removal might jeopardize their survival.
- When allowing for multiple plants the key word is "interconnected"—i.e., they must all have a common root system.
- In horticultural parlance the key word is 'home', meaning that this is where the plant(s) has been growing in a natural fashion, either potted or mounted.
- In Category I individual specimen plants (excepting tillandsias) should be potted, unless otherwise noted.
- Pots for entries in Category I, Divisions I, II and III, must be either black or dark green plastic. However, exceptions are provided for classes 'G' and 'N' where non-decorative terracotta [clay] pots may be used for succulent bromeliads such as dyckias, hechtias, etc. and in Division III, class 'O', hanging (non-decorative) baskets are acceptable.