

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month
Next meeting 18th October 2012 at 11 a.m.

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

Discussion: September 2012

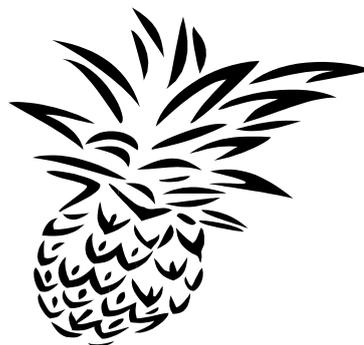
General show & tell

Editorial Team:

Don Beard

Ross Little & Helen Clewett

pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com



Meeting 16th August 2012

The meeting was opened at 11:24am. A pair of Queensland brom. enthusiasts, Rowan and Linda, were welcomed along with 26 members. Apologies were received from 13 members. Ross, of undisclosed vintage, was having a birthday. To his delight he received a beautiful strawberry topped (yes you guessed it) chocolate cake. Congratulations Ross, and many, many, thanks for all the hours of effort and thought both you and Helen generously donate to the group.

General Business

Again your editors are pleading for members to provide articles/presentations. Just a thought....if there were no articles/presentations, then there would be no meetings. Ross pointed out that with the current membership one article per member every two years isn't asking too much.

Ross also mentioned that we are emailing our newsletter to a number of societies/groups and individuals, with the prospect of receiving some articles in return (this has already occurred on a number of occasions). One recipient of the newsletter, Joy Clark sends plants for the raffle, many thanks Joy.

Ian Hooke, president of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, rang and commented on the high quality of our newsletter. He suggested that we may like to have it presented on the BSA website, along with other journals/newsletters, at a cost of \$30 / year. General consensus says we don't need more members, so it is most likely we won't take up his offer.

The BSI in its Journal, Vol. 62 (2), March - April, 2012, has published Ross's article on Bill Morris (50 years as a Trustee to the BSI) within an article compiled by Peter Tristram. More recognition for Bill.

Thank you to all raffle participants. Another \$122 for the coffers.

Members' Show and Tell

Dawn brought in a beautiful dark *Aechmea* for identification and thence the raffle. The old mother is nearly black. The young pups appear variegated. This plant is very healthy and in bright light shows as purple-red. The plant has never flowered for Dawn, however Laurie has plants that have flowered. A fair amount of discussion was held regarding the plants identification. Within the recent past the plant would have almost universally been called *Aechmea* 'Mirlo'. However, Geoff Lawn recently pointed out that the name with precedence was *Aechmea* 'Purple Heart', and that is what Dawn should name the plant. An article in September's New York Journal by Herb Plever should help resolve the enigma which we have printed: *Aechmea* 'Mirlo' - A Saga on pp. 10 - 13.

Jeanette presented a small multi-branched *Vriesea*, purple in the centre with a red/yellow inflorescence. Ross suggested the 'barbarosa' group but could not be more specific.

She next showed a *Tillandsia* which may or may not be as labelled i.e. *Till. queroensis*. Ross suggested it was possibly *Tillandsia latifolia* var. *leucophylla*, a plant which not many in the group has flowered. Ross will check photographs and confirm. After checking it was identified as *Tillandsia latifolia* var. *divaricata*.

Kay brought two broms in for identification: The first was *Neoregelia spectabilis*, with pink fingernails and grey and pink banding..... the more sun the more pink. The second was a X *Cryptbergia* but that is as far as the identification went. These will take plenty of sun.

An *Aechmea* received earlier in the month from Reg needing identification was labelled as *Ae. miniata* is in all probability *Ae. 'Beads of Coral'*.

Ross displayed an *Aechmea burle-marxii* in flower. It has been in his possession for a number of years and possesses yellow sepals, yellow-green petals, and eventually bright orange berries. Quite a nice plant.

Laurie produced a host of *Tillandsia* including: A *Till. ? tenuifolia* which may be an *Till. aeranthos* hybrid. Ross will look into this a little further.

Two other *Till. tenuifolia*, one a little darker than the other, these plants flower regularly with pink bracts and sepals and white to light blue petals.

Till. 'Kayjay' or *Till. stricta* X *Till. aeranthos* cross done by Ken Woods of the ABS. The plant flowers every 12-15 months or at every new growth, the flowers are a very nice dark purple.

Another Laurie had to show was a flowering *Till. tenuifolia* var. *surinamensis*, flowers are all blue/purple with pink bracts.

Laurie explained how he glues his tillandsias to timber, for a more natural look he mixes sand, dirt, sawdust etc. with the glue.

Ross has been noticing recently a plethora of incorrect names being attributed to broms. He stressed the importance of getting the name right including punctuation and even minor spelling corrections and difficult to pronounce names.

A variety of research tools is available to the collector including; Species and Hybrid lists in books and journals; websites eg: BCR for hybrids (most up to date list) or FCBS for species and hybrids; personal communications with group members and outside experts etc. Always be prepared to change the name on the label if research shows it to be incorrect. Remember, getting the name correct comes down to you the collector or gardener. Many hybrids don't have official names (Registered), but it behoves us to get the names as correct as possible. Always inspect the inflorescence with the flowers at anthesis before attempting to name the bromeliad.

When doing a search on either the BCR or FCBS always enter the name in full as abbreviations can cause a nil result:

Neo. will give a nil result, written in full as *Neoregelia* gives a result.

Neoregelia 'Mr. Odean', nil result, *Neoregelia* 'Mister Odean' a result is found.

Punctuation means apostrophes (') etc., left out can give a nil result also.

Keep in mind that some growers give their plants a grex name, meaning that the plants belong to the group of plants that were the progeny of the same parents, pollinated, conceived, matured as seeds, germinated, and grown as seedlings in a group. Consequently a variety of individuals results, many with quite disparate features, and all with the same grex name. An example, *Billbergia* 'Helen of Troy' a John Catlin grex, is shown in last month's newsletter (top photo p.9). This grex derives from a *Bill.* 'Trojan Tiger' X *Bill.* 'Hallelujah'. Because of the number of different plants in the ancestry one must expect great variation. The plants in the photo are each entitled to its own name. Additionally Shane owns another equally distinctive grex member. Here one should remember to ask the grower or nurseryman if the name on the label is registered and if not, what sort of name it is.

Sometimes the converse is true i.e. the same plant with three different names. Don't buy because of a new or different name, buyer beware. Laurie mentioned a similar situation occurs in the orchid world where many examples of the same plant are given different names, perhaps to help the sale process.

Ross exhibited a *Billbergia pyramidalis* var. *pyramidalis* and mentioned another *pyramidalis* in the market with narrower silver-grey leaves and a smaller flower head. This first plant has been incorrectly called *Bill. pyramidalis* var. *concolor*. Unfortunately this plant has blue tipped red petals and is therefore not 'concolor' in which the petals are all red. It seems this plant may well have been named *Billbergia thyrsoides* in 1830 by Matius.

Derek Butcher in his article in "Uncle Derek Says" on *Billbergia pyramidalis* or the search for the totally red petal form, says that there has never been a totally red petal form. He also says all the forms of *pyramidalis* can be catered for by the one species. There are of course a number of cultivars which should retain their names. Butcher then proposed to change the official description of *Bill. pyramidalis* to include all forms...a relatively easy and sensible fix.

One wonders then about the photo seen in "Blooming Bromeliads" by Baensch and Baensch 1994, p. 87 which not only shows red petals but also red stigmas for a plant labelled *Bill. pyramidalis* var. *concolor*.

Recently there have been a number of complaints regarding name changes made by botanists. The complaints mostly being that the changes are unnecessary and difficult to make universally. However any changes that are made, are made according to the rules of taxonomy.

Briefly, in the 19th and early to mid 20th centuries, botanists of different nationalities who were exploring the New World, often did so without knowledge of the work of others, perhaps even on the same plant. Sometimes, after returning to their country, many years could pass before the plant would be described (in Latin the universal language) and officially named. Meanwhile another botanist in another country may well be describing the same plant but naming it differently. It often took many years before the correct name was determined, and that would be the name given to the plant described in an approved publication, earliest. These days the time from plant discovery to the time when the plant is officially named and described in a scientific publication can be a matter of

months. Still, some old names keep popping up every now and then in the literature, which may in fact be the earliest name for a particular plant and everything else being equal, the correct name. This name is then given to the plant and the other name or names for this same plant which have been in use but which were published at later dates are called synonyms and the names are said to be placed in synonymy.

There are many rules for the naming of plants, but that is for another discussion. Name changes can also come about because botanists rearrange where a plant sits in the system. A discipline called Plant Systematics. e.g. a *Portea* may become an *Aechmea*. This requires little effort on our part as collectors, just a responsibility to keep up to date.

Shane pointed out that any generic name change may well effect the name of a bigeneric or in fact determine whether or not the plant is actually a bigeneric, e.g. if a *Portea* species which was part of a bigeneric *XPortmea*, became an *Aechmea*, then the plant would no longer be a bigeneric but a straight *Aechmea*. Here again it is up to us to keep up with the changes.

BREAKING NEWS from Derek Butcher, 17 - 9 - 2012

Apparently Auntie Margaret found mention of xBiltanthus in a Roehrs catalogue for 1947 which predates xCryptbergia. This caused a flurry of activity and it seems this name is valid.

A formal article will appear in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society International but in the meantime prepare yourselves for re-writing labels to xBiltanthus.

When writing a hybrid formula one must always write the seed parent first, this was thought to be carried into the writing of a Nothogenus for a Bigeneric name, for example: *Cryptanthus* x *Billbergia* = *xCryptbergia*

Billbergia x *Cryptanthus* = *xBiltanthus*

Apparently not so, being unsure Derek Butcher was asked the following question: How is it decided which way round the two parents are put together to form the nothogenus of the bigeneric name ? Ross L.

Answer: It does not matter who was mother. Just think about it. Nothogenera are covered by the ICBN rules even though 95% are man made. If a nothogenus starts in the wild who knows what mother was ? Derek B.

Our guest Linda Owens from Goodna, Queensland, gave a demonstration on mounting broms on a variety of timber, in line with her article "A Quick Easy Decorative Way to display Your Bromeliads", FNCBSG (NSW) Newsletter July 2012, p4. The result of her artistic effort was donated by Linda to the Group to be auctioned at the end of the demonstration with Rena being the winning bidder at \$30. Ross, on behalf of the Group, thanked Linda and presented her with a potted *Neoregelia* 'Jaws' and a box of assorted bromeliads of her selection.



Aechmea nudicaulis

(newd - i - cawl ' is)

This is an extremely variable species with many forms, most of which have not been officially named. It is found from Mexico southward, throughout Central America, extending into southern Brazil in South America.

The foliage may be banded, all green or various shades of red. There are several outstanding variegated forms as well. All can be easily identified when grown in bright light or with little fertilizer by the characteristic, pronounced constriction of the leaves, sometimes referred to as a "thumb print".

All forms are of very easy culture and can be grown in either pots or epiphytically on almost anything. While the inflorescence is showy, it is not long lasting. Several of the forms are self-pollinating and produce long lasting, bright red berries.

Reprinted from: The Bromeliad Advisory, December 1987.

How many forms in your collection ? Let us know next meeting.

My Bromeliads and Sunlight by Melinda Barlow

The dedication given to growing bromeliads in Cowra on the Central Tablelands of central western NSW during winter with temperatures that can get as low as -5° C overnight and sometimes only as much as 10° C during the day, is a big ask. The process is a learning curve, taking note of which plants handle the cold best, which plants can stay outside during winter and those that need additional protection are moved inside. This is how I manage my plants during this tough time of year, and it doesn't get any easier in the dry heat of summer.



Bromeliads in my sunroom for additional winter protection.

The plants on the taller shelf unit get sunlight in the afternoons.

It's the plants in our dining room that don't get enough light however I just move most of them outside into the sun on nice days and back in before nightfall.

Bromeliads in my BBQ area.

I wheel the plants on the cart around where ever the sun is for maximum exposure to light. The plants on the other shelf unit get sun in the afternoon.

I'm in the process of removing two wisteria from this area and would like to enclose it with shade cloth, this will be tidier and give more protection for my bromeliads.



We converted our bird aviary into a cactus house which now houses some of my bromeliads which handle the night temperatures better than others. These get sunlight for most of the day and dappled light in the afternoon.

My next project is to add a pond to the garden where, in time, I hope some of these cold hardy plants may grow around it year round.



Neoregelia 'Dr. Lecter' - Shane Weston
1st Open and Judges Choice



Ananea 'Scorpio'
1st Novice -- Tib Paulsen



Tillandsia latifolia var. *divaricata*
and close-up of inflorescence



Tillandsia aeranthos clump
also a close-up of a inflorescence.



Aechmea burle-marxii with fresh inflorescence and older orange/red berries



Billbergia pyramidalis
as *concolor*



Billbergia pyramidalis
as *thyrsoides*



Billbergia pyramidalis
var. *pyramidalis*



Aechmea caudata, *Aechmea gamosepala* var. *nivea* and *Aechmea nudicaulis*
showing some springtime colour

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little, Derek Butcher and Jeanette Henwood

AECHMEA 'MIRLO' - A SAGA by Herb Plever

This article incorporates 'Mirlo' material developed from a lengthy exchange of e-mails between this writer, Derek Butcher, Geoff Lawn and Michael Kiehl, whose valuable contributions will be discerned from the text. Derek, the former BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar (BCR) is from Adelaide, Australia. Geoff is the current BCR registrar and is from Perth, Australia. Michael is the operator of Michael's Bromeliads Nursery in Venice, Florida, USA.

In the May, 2012 issue of Bromeliana I placed a photo of a plant I had been growing for many years. I had gotten the plant without a label from the late Henry Turner, and I asked if any reader could identify the plant. I received a reply from Michael Kiehl, who stated that the plant in the photo was what he is growing as *Aechmea* 'Mirlo' (photo p?). Lyn Wegner (South Africa), Alton Lee (Florida) and Ross Little (Australia) also responded that the plant was *Ae.* 'Mirlo'.

This was a surprise to me, because I had grown a very different plant labelled *Ae.* 'Mirlo' that is shown in the 1984 photo on page 2. I checked *Ae.* 'Mirlo' in Don Beadle's pioneer 1998 Bromeliad Cultivar Registry and found it was listed as a cultivar made before 1970 by Edward Hummel. It was described as: "*cv. of victoriana v. discolor(?) x orlandiana(?) - (See 'By Golly') - Upright rosette w/ strappy copper amber leaves - also in variable form w/red central stripe called 'Purple Heart' ? - softer leaves than 'By Golly' - John Atlee said "It has bright luminescent pink stripes in the center of the leaves, lengthwise, along w/dark stripes embedded in dark red leaves - low light only" - Bromeliad Treasury 1983 said "Purple black glossy 1½" - 18" leaves...rosette of open graceful arching form..."*"

The question marks after the putative parents indicate Beadle, our first BCR Registrar, was making an educated guess, necessary because Hummel was extremely secretive and never revealed the parents of his hybrids. Don Beadle thought 'Mirlo' was very similar to *Ae.* 'By Golly' (*victoriana v. discolor x orlandiana*). The new BCR (<http://www.registry.bsi.org>) repeated the 1998 description, and the further comment by Derek Butcher in an e-mail to Geoff Lawn: "*'Mirlo' means "blackbird" in Spanish*" was added to the description.

The BCR photos for *Ae.* 'Mirlo' showed a plant similar to my "unknown" plant, with dark mahogany-red leaves and an upright conformation but with no red striped variegation on the leaves. (But note a suggestion of a stripe on the upper right leaf in that photo shown at the top of page ?, about which more later.)

This description was helpful but not definitive, and it raised other questions and issues. To me there is a patent contradiction between "*Upright rosette w/strappy copper-amber leaves*" and the later Bromeliad Treasury 1983 description of a cultivar (made before 1970) with "*Purple black glossy 1½" - 18" leaves...in a rosette of open graceful arching form..."*" See the plant (photo ?) I photographed in 1984 in a noted California collection that has an open conformation and dark

leaves with a purple-black hue in accord with the Bromeliad Treasury description. It is not an upright plant with mahogany- red leaves like the 'Mirlo' in the BCR photo.

Thus perplexed, I turned to Derek Butcher who has files of original source documents, or access to them, as well as great skill from long years of experience to sort out identification issues in cultivars. And I kept the knowledgeable Geoff Lawn, current BSI Cultivar Registrar, in the loop.

Derek replied that he thought the dark-leaved 1984 photo showed the correct 'Mirlo' and that differences might be attributed to different cultural growing conditions. He added that from the plants grown in Australia he could not tell the difference between those called 'Mirlo' and those called 'By Golly', and he suggested I raise this issue with Michael Kiehl.

Michael responded to my query: "I still grow Ae. 'Mirlo' and Ae. 'By Golly'. They are similar in some ways, but 'Mirlo' is the only one that ever shows variegation. Grown in similar conditions the 'Mirlo' has slightly wider leaves and less prominent spines. It's also not as easy to grow with the desired dark foliage. I find these two along with Ae. 'Perez/Prieto' and 'Black on Black' will become quite black with a little extra fertilizer and less light. The black tends to wash out to ugly red grown here in too bright conditions." Michael attached photos (shown p.?) that show how the pups look on 'By Golly' and 'Mirlo' with the latter showing variegation on the oldest, lower leaf.

In his response, Geoff Lawn also said that when it is over-exposed, Mirlo's stripes will wash out. Note that my pup, grown in reduced indoor light, shows vivid variegation at the early pup stage. So it appears that variegation is strongly affected by the light the plant gets, as is also indicated in the BCR description by John Atlee who said: "Low light only".

Still, I confess I am troubled by the possibilities that either: the two plants pictured (p.?) may not be from the same cross, or that the upright, mahogany- red leaved plant in the BCR photo is just a barely variegated 'Purple Heart'. I can conjecture (without any hard evidence) that the description "*Upright rosette w/ strappy copper amber leaves*" was of plants that came out of Florida nurseries, and that the "*purple black glossy leave open form*" was more or less restricted to California where Hummel was based in Carlsbad. Kent's Bromeliads in Vista, CA also sold Ae. 'Mirlo' at that time; it is listed in their 1972 catalogue and it is likely they got the plants from Hummel's nursery. (This issue is really academic, because you cannot find any purple-black, non-variegated Mirlos that you can buy and test - at least not in the United States.)

Geoff Lawn dug up a 1984 Shelldance Nursery catalogue which lists both Ae. 'Mirlo' and Ae. 'Mirlo cv. variegata', as a variegated cultivar of 'Mirlo'. This supports the view that we are dealing with two separate cultivars.

In the BCR, Ae. 'Mirlo' - now 'Purple Heart' - is treated as a mutant sport of the

original, unvariegated Ae. 'Mirlo'. If this were true then the genetic DNA of the plant would be unstable; we should see offsets from the same plant with different variegations or a reversion to the original with no variegation. There did not seem to be evidence of this, and Geoff remarked that: "...surely someone has a 'Purple Heart' which reverted back to 'Mirlo'?" My plants all have similar, well variegated pups, but we finally got evidence of a sport from Michael who wrote:

"I obtained my Ae. 'Mirlo' in the late 80's. The plant was nicely variegated on dark glossy foliage. As with many variegated plants a percentage of pups came with no variegation. Over the years I sold both 'Mirlo' (reverts) and 'Mirlo' variegated. Eventually I started culling the non-variegated pups and took 'Mirlo' off my list. I currently have just a pot or two of 'Mirlo' variegated, but because it is unstable I don't offer it on our published list". This data is further proof that the variegated Ae. 'Mirlo' now called Ae. 'Purple Heart' is an unstable sport.

When I was informed by the respondents to my request for identification in the May issue that my "unknown" plant was Ae. 'Mirlo', I checked its description(s), and I discovered for the first time that on the BCR the variegated form of Ae. 'Mirlo' was called Ae. 'Purple Heart'. At almost the same time, Geoff Lawn confirmed that: "Ae. 'Mirlo', variegated form with central red stripes, already has a registered name - Ae. 'Purple Heart'. The BCR entry photo is mine from maybe 20 years ago..... I got mine from Olive Trevor as 'Mirlo' variegated in 1985...I read that it was named 'Purple Heart' but where from? I did have a straight 'Mirlo' at the time but kept only 'Purple Heart' in the end."

I thought that the name 'Purple Heart' is misleading and not apt, as the leaf colour is more mahogany-red than purple and the name implies a purple center as in a neoregelia which is not true of this plant. I would have liked to see the name changed to Ae. 'Red Stripes' and Geoff agreed. After our discussions Derek prefers to keep the name 'Purple Heart'. His reservation about a change of name is that it might lead to confusion, and Michael noted that the name 'Mirlo' has been widely known for many years, and he's keeping it to avoid confusing customers. 'Purple Heart' has been listed in the BCR for many years (without our noticing it), and I am now persuaded we should keep the name.

I am among those growers who feel compelled to get correct names on the plants I grow - one of my rationales for relating this complicated saga of Ae. 'Mirlo'. As Uncle Derek is wont to say: "It's all good fun". I thank all the people who wrote to me and identified my "unknown plant" as Ae. 'Mirlo', now called 'Purple Heart'; it provided this editor material for this issue of Bromeliana and the good fun of writing this article.

Many issues remain to be resolved. Perhaps some readers may inform us that they are growing the original Hummel's purple-black *Aechmea* 'Mirlo'.

Article and photo's reprinted from: Bromeliana
Published by The New York Bromeliad Society, Vol. 49, No.6, September 2012.



Variegated *Aechmea* from the May issue of *Bromeliana*, Newsletter of The New York Bromeliad Society, identified as *Ae.* 'Mirlo', now called *Ae.* 'Purple Heart'.



Ae. 'Mirlo' in Australia
by Derek Butcher (from BCR)



Ae. 'Mirlo' (?) 1984 photo from a
California collection



Ae. 'By Golly' pup
Michael Kiehl



Ae. 'Mirlo' pup
Michael Kiehl



Ae. 'Mirlo' pup
Herb Plevier

The Loss of a Society

This month saw the ending of The Bromeliad Society of New South Wales Inc., the Society has wound up due, in the main, to not being able to form a working committee. This took place on the 14th August, 2012, with a 2/3 rds majority vote of those present to wind up the Society's affairs. A disposal sale of all the Society assets was held on 11th September, 2012. Goods on offer for sale were pots, tables, cork and books, whilst the computers and cash registers etc. were offered up for auction. A fine spread for supper was supplied afterwards which was followed by best wishes for the future and farewells to those who attended.

The Bromeliad Society of New South Wales Inc. was founded in 1983 with the inaugural meeting held on 7th June 1983 at the Senior Citizen' Centre, Five Dock with 35 bromeliad enthusiasts in attendance. President Don Cameron opened the meeting, Don being the Society's first President. Ann Boon was the first Secretary and Elaine Luscombe the first Treasurer. Val Tintner, Merv Henderson and John Bisset were also extensively involved in the Society's formation and the Society became an energetic group. Sadly all of the abovementioned folk have departed to bromeliad heaven.

Following on from those early days many others filled committee positions and worked hard over the span of 29 years that the Society functioned and not to mention the 21 years Alice Williams dedicated to the Society and all the years Michael Burger was committed to furthering the Society. Many members have come and gone who also gave generously of their time and effort to further the interest of the world of bromeliads, but without a working committee the Society cannot function.

With best wishes to everyone for good health, prosperity and thanks for being a part of The Bromeliad Society of New South Wales Inc.

Fortunately one of the members of the FNCBSG NSW was also a member of The Bromeliad Society of New South Wales Inc. and was able to attend the sale to try to secure books for our library. The sale began promptly at 8.00pm with a buzz at the sales tables, first in first served, we managed to secure a good selection of books to enhance our Library that is well attended now, with these new additions there will be years of good reading. Several of Victoria Padilla's books, a copy of Baensch', Blooming Bromeliads (English) and Bromeliads by Jack Kramer were purchased at very good prices. We were able to secure several storage boxes full of Newsletters and Journals from other Society's also, which will be invaluable to our Group, these will need to be catalogued before they will be ready for borrowing.

Thank you to The Bromeliad Society of NSW Inc. for passing this very valuable resource on to our Group, I am sure our members will treasure them for many years to come and gain much knowledge.

From Around the Shade House

Why *xNiduregelia* as opposed to *xNeolarium*

In the 1950's Alex Hawkes was part of a break away group from the Bromeliad Society of America BSA (now known as the Bromeliad Society International BSI) during the period 1959 - 1963 this 'splinter group' published their own Journal called the "Bromeliad Paper". Apparently a lot of what Alex Hawkes published in this Journal in those days was not widely accepted.

For many years the Nothogenus *xNeolarium* was widely used for the bigeneric hybrids of *Neoregelia* x *Nidularium*. However in the mid 1990's when Jason Grant was compiling his 'An Annotated Catalogue of the generic names of the Bromeliaceae' Derek Butcher asked Jason if it was considered that Alex Hawkes "Bromeliad Paper" was in fact a valid publication. Yes it was a 'valid' publication with the nothogenus *xNiduregelia* being published first in this publication, which means it should take precedence over the later published name of *xNeolarium* rendering this name invalid.

Nidularium rubens not *Nidularium* 'Tapestry'

I recently came across *Nidularium* 'Tapestry', a name I hadn't heard before so to the BCR I went, no I couldn't find any reference to this name there either. The plant I had seen looked very much like our *Nidularium rubens*, a little more re-search required, a few messages sent out with answers coming back indicating it is a plant in collections in Queensland. But where from ? A recent visitor asked if I had any spare 'Tapestry's' indicating to my *Nid. rubens*, a discussion followed as to where this name originated. Leads were followed to several Queensland growers who indicated to look toward the Hobbs'. This lead was followed however Phyllis Hobbs doesn't know anything of the name 'Tapestry' or remember ever naming a *nidularium*.

It has been decided the name 'Tapestry' is an indefinite and not worth pursuing, therefore if you have this plant with this name on it's label perhaps it would be best to check it against *Nidularium rubens* on FCBS when next it flowers.

Be careful with your identifications as *Nid. rubens* has white petals, it has been around in Australia for a long time incorrectly known as *Nid. purpureum* which has red petals. *Nid. rubens* is also not to be confused with *Nid. albiflorum* which it differs from by *Nid. rubens* having a long stoloniferous habit.

Glossary: ICBN = International Code of Botanical Nomenclature

This is the code or rules by which all plant names must abide by for uniformity.

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Tib Paulsen	<i>Anamea</i> 'Scorpio'
2nd	Trish Kelly	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Cafe Au Lait'
	Lesley Baylis	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Pink Spider'

Open Popular Vote

1st	Shane Weston	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Dr. Lecter'
2nd	Marie Essery	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Gulz'
3rd	David Lewis-Hughes	<i>Guzmania</i> 'Apache'
	Laurie Mountford	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> var. <i>uncispica</i>

Judge's Choice

1st	Shane Weston	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Dr. Lecter'
-----	--------------	--------------------------------

Comments from the growers:

Tibby's *XAnamea* 'Scorpio', a bigeneric, basically looks after itself in a pot under a pergola with a fair degree of shade, this plant can tolerate to full sun.

Trish grows her *Cryptanthus* 'Café Au Lait' on a meter high shelf in her shade house, under 50% green and black shade cloth.

Shane's *Neo.* 'Dr. Lecter' is a Skotak cross of (*Neo. carolinea variegata* x *Neo.* 'Hannibal Lector') X *Neo.* 'Norman Bates' and was obtained from a trade with a friend in Adelaide about a year ago. It has doubled in size since then and is grown under 70% biscuit shade cloth about 300 mm (one foot) from the top i.e. a fair degree of heat stress.

Marie grows her *Vr. platynema* hybrid under 70% beige shade cloth. She obtained the plant from her daughter-in-law some time ago. This plant was originally imported into Australia in the late 1970's from the Hans Gulz Nursery in Germany as *Vr. platynema* var. *variegata*, it has now, after some extensive discussion been registered as *Vr.* 'Gulz'.

As previously discussed, it always pays to check your spelling, Shane was asked about the spelling of his *Neo.* 'Dr. Lecter', apparently Lecter is the correct spelling of Hannibal Lector from Silence of the Lambs not 'Lector' as often spelt. It was noted that Shane quotes the same parentage as *Neo.* 'Captain Moxley', (*carolinae* variegated x 'Hannibal Lector') x 'Norman Bates'.

So how does 'Dr. Lecter' differ to 'Captain Moxley' ?

Answer: The white margins are clearer and more defined in 'Dr. Lecter' and the red zonations are more regular and formed in 'Dr. Lecter', where as 'Captain Moxley's markings are all over the place.

Statements and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Group. Articles appearing in this News Letter may be used in other Publications provided that the source is credited