

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 21st February, 2013 at 11 a.m.

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

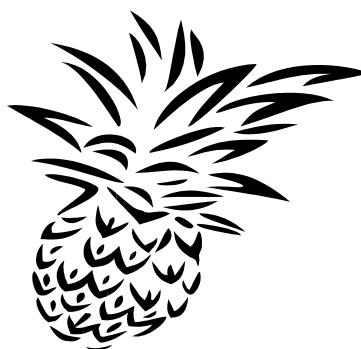
Discussion: January 2013
General
Topics for 2013

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Meeting 20th December 2012

This was the final meeting for the year and the FNCBSG NSW Christmas party as well. Some 30 members and guests attended, with apologies from nine members unable to grace the occasion. Very few formalities pervaded the meeting with the exception of two enjoyable events. viz. The presentation of Annual Awards and the distribution of Christmas Draw plants. Editor's Note. One supposes that the gorging on delectable tit-bits followed by additional carnivorous activities designed to further enhance the waist-line, is really a formality. However, for the purposes of this report, this activity will fall in the category of just plain good fun.

The annual awards are for those individuals who over the past 12 months have demonstrated the best ability to grow bromeliads. This ability and knowledge hopefully being gained from, or at least incentivised by, the study group. These abilities are expressed through monthly bromeliad shows, the Novice Popular Vote, the Open Popular Vote, and the Judges' Choice. The winner and place-getters score points which are totalled over 12 months and have resulted in the following victors.

The deserved 2012 winner of the Novice Popular Vote was Kay Daniels. Congratulations Kay on a job well done. Kay now advances to the open ranks and will continue to share and demonstrate her growing skills. The bromeliad grower extraordinaire, Marie Essery, has done it again. As in 2011 Marie has won both the Open Popular Vote (a very close affair) and the Judges' Choice. Now that Marie has loaded up her trophy cabinet again, perhaps she would be willing to edify we lesser mortals regarding her real growing tricks. Congratulations Marie, your efforts we would emulate...if we could, your plants are sights to behold. Thank you all show competitors. The recent competitions have attracted a host of high quality entries. Keep up the good work, don't forget to make these shows fun events and make the judges work harder in 2013.

The second formal event was the Christmas Draw for members. The contributed plants were spectacular. No rubbish here (see photos p8; see also Trish's article p3). Everyone received a brom worthy of collecting, with plenty being left over for the next month's raffle. Remember, the monthly raffle is one event to which most members eagerly look forward, so keep the quality coming and nothing but delight for all raffle winners will result.

As mentioned previously there was a profusion of good food and drinks. However these mouth watering commodities didn't just appear out of the blue, thanks have to be apportioned to those individuals responsible for providing them. Also a big thank you to those members who set up this spread and assisted with the eventual clean-up, and to John Crawford who volunteered to barbecue the steaks and bangers and was so successful at it. This sort of effort occurs on a monthly basis, so thank you to those people also, your labours are appreciated.

Thanks is also warranted to those members, who throughout the past year have provided articles for the newsletter, or talks and demonstrations. Also our gratitude should be lavishly applied to those members who look after plant sales, gardening materials, and the library...Helen, Trish, Marie, and Kay. These people often relinquish their quality time at the meetings for the benefit of others.

As with great food, the best is left for last. An especial thank you must go to Ross and Helen, both of whom work tirelessly for the benefit of the FNCBSG NSW. The effort these two contribute during the year is mammoth. The number of hours donated willingly each week is more than substantial and would amount to a well paid job. Additionally these people provide one of the best possible venues available for a bromeliad study group.....'PineGrove'. This pair is truly the heart and soul of the FNCBSG NSW.

It is the summation of all these efforts made on the behalf of others which makes this study group reasonably special and a pleasure to be part of; it also allows it to function like a well oiled machine, with its only form of fuel and lubrication being the monthly raffle. Given the efficiency of the study group, it is probable that little needs to change going forward. However, if any brilliant thoughts condense, please allow them to precipitate.

Have a happy and prosperous 2013....the Editors.

Christmas meeting report

A marvellous time was had by the 30 members and friends of the Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group at our end of year Festive season celebrations held on 20th December. An abundance of great food, friendship and conversation was shared and enjoyed by all attending.

A special congratulations and thanks goes to the members' fabulous response for gifted plants, these together with the purchase of a select number of plants from PineGrove, supplemented by some very generous monetary donations from several members made our Christmas Draw an amazing collection of superb Bromeliads, of which we all should be proud. Your response and generosity was wonderful with everyone choosing an excellent plant, with some plants left over to be part of the January meeting raffle.

Our very Best Wishes to all Members and friends for a Happy New Year, may 2013 be a successful growing year with lots of great quality plants coming to our meetings both as competition plants in the Open and Novice sections as well as to our fund raising raffles.

Our Newsletter is a great and informative publication for which we must thank our editing team for the excellent work and effort they so generously give their time to producing, thank you Helen, Ross and Don, your efforts are appreciated by all.

My Best wishes to everyone, we have a wonderful group, Trish Kelly.

Variegated Cultivars That Are Sports by Derek Butcher

Because even the most stable of variegates sometimes loses variegation or changes the form of variegation we must look at the way that these cultivars are currently named so that they can easily be identified.

The only reference in the ICNCP rules is in Section 17.15 which states: "The words 'variety' (or var.) and 'form' may not be used in new cultivar epithets. However, when var. denotes variegated the epithet is established with the word 'variegated' written in full". This is not that informative perhaps because variegation plays a very small role in the general world of plant cultivars. Variegation is much more specialised in the Bromeliaceae where the following non-Latin adjectives could apply:

- marginate (outside stripes)
- mediate (solid median stripe)
- variegate (varying width of stripes)
- striate (fine lines)

There are, of course, other adjectives that could be used but regrettably, I do not see us getting a general consensus on what ones to use.

The ICBN rules cover like-plants from the wild where the "normal" version is described at species level and the variegated form at the next level eg. *Aechmea coelestis* v. *albomarginata*.

If you have a plant without variegations it becomes just *Aechmea coelestis*! This is easy to understand.

How Do We Follow The Instability Of Cultivar Variegates?

The word 'Sport' has been in horticultural use for many years but has rarely been formally applied to Bromeliads. A 'Sport' is defined as a visible asexual mutation and occurs in bromeliads where offsets (or pups) are different to the 'Mother' plant. To my mind there is a closer relationship between a 'Sport' and a 'Mother' plant, than that between siblings in a grex and we should record this fact when it occurs.

While variegation can occur in the seed raising stage this is NOT included in this definition.

United States Plant Patent law covers all offsets of a patented plant whether sports or not but is broken by seed raising and this seems to be a firm basis to start from.

The phenomenon of 'Sporting' has become more prevalent in the past 10 years or so because of the avalanche of named variegated plants which are notoriously unstable. Just what do you do with an offset that is different from 'Mother'? To be strictly correct this should be destroyed but in reality they are not destroyed but even nurtured!

As an example, *Aechmea* 'Ensign' (See Baensch Blooming Bromeliads p44) should be an albo-marginate form of *Aechmea orlandiana*. It was raised by seed where the mutation occurred. Note that *Aechmea* 'Ensign' is not a sport of *Aechmea orlandiana*! A sport of *Aechmea* 'Ensign' is 'Reverse Ensign' which has a white median line. These will be linked in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry by a 'Sport' indicator. Any offset of *Aechmea* 'Ensign' which is not albo-marginate (or reverse) should in my mind be called *Aechmea* 'Ensign' sport until such time that it 'stabilises' and someone gives it a name. Even if it loses its variegation it should still be called *Aechmea* 'Ensign' sport and NOT *Aechmea orlandiana* because it still retains the erratic genes and could easily revert back to an *Aechmea* 'Ensign'.

Many of the registered variegated Neoregelias could well have developed as sports and not as siblings within a grex but the Registration form did not allow for this situation. This omission has now been rectified.

Plants that have sported directly from a species include *Billbergia* 'Perriam's Pride' which was originally *Billbergia distachia*.

So please use the word 'Sport' as a temporary measure to cover aberrant offsets. A more direct option is to use the epithet 'Novar' which indicates that a previously named variegated plant has lost its variegation and which could well be just a temporary aberration. For example *Vriesea* 'Gunther Novar' which has a propensity for losing its stripes!

This solution will make it easier for the 'Show Bench' to accept the inevitable non-stable plants that do not agree with the original description or photograph by the quick addition of an epithet. It will also help sellers (and purchasers!) of a plant to know its true relationship with its 'Mother' in that temporary period before possible new naming.

Handy Hint

Recycle palm trunks as garden edges, these will last at least 4 to 5 yrs before they break down and need replacing. Best for this are the Alexander, Cocos and Bangalow type palms as these have a clean skin trunk.

Grow your own garden edging.

A Quick Guide to Bromeliad Problems by Peniel Romanelli

Most bromeliads are fairly trouble free, but Problems do crop up. Some of the more common ones, along with some possible causes are listed below.

Problem	Likely Causes
Pale bleached appearance	Too much sun
Poor colour	Too much shade
Long, floppy leaves Brown or yellow leaf ends or edges	Too much shade Plant grown too dry Cold or heat damage Poor ventilation Mix or water has wrong Ph (most bromeliads like an acidic mix)
Brown spots	Watering in full sun Too much light Cold or heat damage Chemical burns (possibly caused by copper or arsenic from treated wood or misuse of pesticides. Never use oil based pesticides or those containing copper or arsenic.)
Quilling (inner leaves stick together)	Little or no water in cup
Brown or mushy leaves at base	"Wet feet" as a result of over watering, potting too deep or bad drainage.
Holes in leaves	Snails, slugs, insects Watering in full sun
Centre leaves loose, withered brown or whitish or soft, with a smell that would choke a buzzard	Crown rot; possibly a result of stagnant water or poor ventilation

Crown rot can be treated by pulling out the loose leaves, thoroughly rinsing the cup with clean water and filling the cup with a good systemic fungicide for about one hour. Drain, let the plant dry overnight, then refill with clean water. The plant probably won't bloom, but you should get pups.

Reprinted from: Journal of The Bromeliad Society, 1996, Vol. 46, No. 4.

Neoregelia 'Bullis's Margaret'

by Derek Butcher Jan 2013

The word 'homonym' is a rude word to a botanist. In fact he/she ignores it. It relates to a situation that sometimes occurs when a plant found in the wild is given the same name as a previously named plant. The new name is illegitimate under the ICBN (International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) rules and is ignored.

Cultivars (including hybrids) are governed by the ICNCP (International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants) rules and they blithely follow the ICBN rules where first in, wins the prize. Regrettably, they do not allow for the fact that there are professional botanists who are sticklers for accuracy compared to gardeners and nurserymen.

Prior to 1998 there was some excuse for duplicate names because the Bromeliad Society International had no real source of reference. This was the year that the Bromeliad Cultivar Register was published and since that time reference could be made to the online Bromeliad Cultivar Register by those interested. Regrettably, many bromeliad growers only pay lip service to the needs for the existence of a Register. Many plants hit the market named but unregistered.

Let us now look at *Neoregelia* 'Margaret' which was a hybrid registered in 1956 by Mulford Foster. While we have no photograph we would assume it would be vaguely like a *Neo. carolinae*. So it was somewhat a surprise to me in early 2011 when I heard about a variegated *Neo. 'Margaret'* winning prizes in Florida Shows. When I did get a photo of the plant concerned it was certainly not a variegated sport of Foster's *Neo. 'Margaret'*. Further investigation revealed it had been named by Bullis Company who would not reveal its parentage but assured us all that it was unique. We knew that Bullis and others would continue marketing the plant as 'Margaret' and at least we could warn the various local societies of the problem AND put the details on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register as 'Bullis's Margaret'. Any inquisitive grower who always likes to check up on names on labels – like myself – can enquire on 'Margaret' in the search machine on <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php> to get several tantalising clues that can be investigated.

I had thought that the problem would stay in Florida but alas we know that 'Margaret' migrated to Queensland so is being grown in Queensland and South Australia. If you do have a *Neoregelia* 'Margaret' that is variegated I recommend you change the label to 'Bullis's Margaret'. It has been suggested by other astute Australian growers, this plant looks very similar to that Skotak hybrid called 'Pemiento' which has been in Australia at least 20 years.



I wonder what
'Pemiento' grows
like in Florida or
don't they grow
'OLD'
hybrids there.

◀ *Neo. 'Pemiento'*

Neo. 'Margaret' ▶
'Bullis's Margaret'

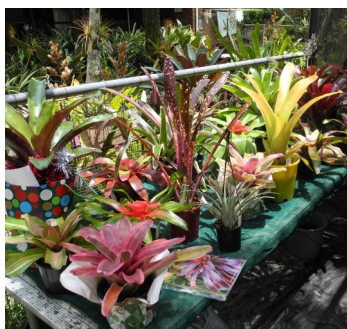




Marie Essery - Open Popular Vote and Judges Choice winner - 2012



Kay Daniels - Novice Popular Vote winner - 2012



A great response by Members for our Christmas Party gift draw.



Photo's supplied by: Ross Little, Don Beard, Wendy Buddle

Puya berteroniana at Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, NSW, Australia.
by Joy Clark

In November a group of Australian society members went to see this Puya in flower. Many of us wouldn't have the room or growing conditions for this large plant and although I have seen pictures of the flower heads it is nothing compared to seeing them "In the Flesh"

A brief history first: In 1985 the staff of The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney collected seed of this Puya, which is endemic to Chile, from Vilches Alto National Park, central Chile. They were grown on for 3 years before planting out in the Chilean section of the rock gardens in the Blue Mountains Botanical Gardens, Mount Tomah. After 5 years they flowered for the first time.

The plants have grown and spread throughout the rock garden and make for a spectacular display when in flower around late spring. The large flower stalks are about 2 metres tall and have a huge cone shaped head of blue/turquoise flowers with orange anthers. A real stand out combination of colours! It is a magnificent sight to see them on mass and very popular with bees and honey eaters.

But note, the silvery leaves are to be avoided by would be photographers as they have nasty hooked prickles running along the edges, ouch! I still managed get photos, skilfully avoiding these prickles and the masses of bees.

Puya berteroniana has adapted well to the climate and growing conditions of the Mt Tomah gardens. Seeing them growing and flowering in a large rocky garden bed almost gives you a glimpse of what they would look like in the wild, minus the damage from forages.



What I Do In My Garden by Danielle Locke

I have been growing Bromeliads in my garden for about 8yrs now, I have never read books on how to grow them, I just learn by trying different things.

One technique I have found works for me, is removing the old flowers from the centre of the mother plant. Many people I know don't do this for their reasons, but what I have found in my garden if I remove these dead flowers, the mother plant tends to look better for a longer period of time. I have left dead flowers in them and I have noticed that they start to smell rotten and die quicker. The mothers that I have removed the dead flowers from don't rot in the centre. It is very easy to remove these dead flowers, I hold the dead flower and twist and it is removed in one single clump.

Just How Durable are Bromeliads ?

Well, they can be pretty tough if given a chance. One Australian grower had the misfortune of a greenhouse heater exploding on a cold night. The greenhouse burned to the ground, leaving the plants scorched and leafless, as well as exposed to the cold. Throw them away ? No! A careful clean-up resulted in literally hundreds of pots of "stubs". It took months, but green began to show. It took a year, but life returned to those stubs. In a year and a half after the tragedy, there were healthy pups growing from the stubs. Patience, care and the plants' natural will to survive resulted in a truly phoenix-like happy ending.

The moral to the story ? Your bromeliads will do great if you give them a chance.

Reprinted from: Bromeletter, July / August 1982, Vol.20, No. 4.

Ed: This also applies to your hail damaged plants, the damage will grow out.

Helpful Hint

When e-mailing photo's for plant identification etc. if there is a lot of unnecessary clutter, crop it out so the main subject matter only, fills the frame.

What's in a Name

Vriesea splendens

Genus name : established by J. Lindley in 1843 after the Dutch Professor of Botany, H. De Vries.

Species name : means splendid, outstanding.

First described : by Brongniart in 1845, re-classified by Lemaire in 1850-1.

Found in Trinidad, Venezuela, Guiana and Surinam, in the wettest and shadiest levels of the forest, on trees, on the ground and sometimes on rocks.

Popular name : 'Flaming Sword'.

Reprinted from: The First Australian Bromeliad Conference, Melbourne 1981, Proceedings Book.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BROMELIADS

From a lecture given by Mrs. Sydney W. Lawrence at a recent meeting of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

The Bromeliaceae is a great family of plants said to be native only to the tropical and sub-tropical Americas. They were discovered and introduced into Europe by the early plant collectors where for at least a century they have been and still are classed among the finest and most desirable decorative plants. The first two species arrived in Europe in 1690. These were what are now known as *Ananas comosus*, our edible pineapple, and *Bromelia pinguin*.

When the first pineapple grown in England was presented to Charles II by his gardener, the event was of such importance that a painting was made of it, and that painting now hangs in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The introduction of *Guzmania lingulata* occurred in 1776. In 1811 Kew Gardens had 16 species; in 1864 that number had mounted to 100, and by 1887 the total rose to 252 species. By 1894 the Botanical Garden of the Dutch University at Leyden had 334 species.

Many famous Belgian plantsmen played an important role in the introduction of bromeliads and the Botanical Garden at Liege had the largest collection in the 1880's while that Garden was under the directorship of Prof. Charles Morren. Later, the Morren collection was acquired by Kew Gardens.

Vriesea splendens was introduced from the Guianas in the 1840's and about that same time *Aechmea fulgens* came from Brazil. *Aechmea fasciata*, which our Miss Victoria Padilla calls "The Beauty Queen of the Bromeliad Family," was introduced into Europe in 1828 and flowered for the first time in 1846 at the establishment of Van Houtte in Ghent. This one species is now grown commercially by the thousands in many European countries. Vast greenhouses filled with this one species are not uncommon, and *Vriesea splendens* and *Cryptanthus* are grown in almost as great quantities.

The great Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, established the genus *Bromelia* which he named for another Swedish botanist, Olaf Bromel. Many genera of Bromeliads bear the names of other famous plantsmen of early times:

Billbergia was named for Gustave Johannes Billberg, Swedish botanist;
Guzmania for A. Guzman, a Spanish naturalist;
Hechtia for Julius Hecht of Potsdam;
Ochagavia for Sylvestris Ochagavia, a Chilean;
Portea for Dr. Marius Porte, a French naturalist who lived many years in Brazil;
Pitcairnia for Dr. Wm. Pitcairn, a London physician;
Tillandsia for Elias Tillands of Finland;
Vriesea for DeVriese, a Dutch botanist of Amsterdam;
Quesnelia probably for E. Quesnel, a French horticulturist.

Other VIPs – Very Important Plantsmen – have been honored by having their names given to various species of Bromeliads. To name a few; Jean Linden (*Tillandsia lindenbergii*); Charles Pinel (*Aechmea pineliana*); Dr. Richard E. Schultes (*Ae. schultesiana*); Ladislaus Cutak (*Dyckia cutak*); *Aechmea weilbachii*, *Ochagavia lindleyana*, *Nidularium chantrieri* and many others.

Among these "many others" is the name of one who perhaps has done more than any other one person in the United States to promote the knowledge, appreciation and use of Bromeliads. I refer, of course, to Mr. Mulford B. Foster, collector and hybridizer of these beautiful plants, several of which bear his name, and one the name of his wife, Racine.

One of his hybrids, *Aechmea* "Foster's Favorite", on November 15, 1949, under Plant Patent No. 898, became the first bromeliad ever to be patented.

It was through the efforts of Mr. Foster that the Bromeliad Society was organized on September 17, 1950. This is an international society, with officers and/or members who are prominent bromeliad growers and enthusiasts in many foreign countries as well as in America. In the United States the Bromeliad Society has very active affiliates – The Southern California Bromeliad Society, The Louisiana Bromeliad Society, and The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

Through the years 1950-1958 Mr. Foster and his wife have very ably handled the editing and publishing of the Society's Bulletin – storehouse of valuable information – and have contributed countless articles and much art work thereto.

Our own Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society was born in April of 1954 with eight Charter Members. Our present membership is 34 and new members are being added constantly. Among our accomplishments have been five outstanding exhibits in the annual shows of The Florida West Coast Orchid Society, two exhibits, also prize winners, at Largo, Florida. One of these was at the Flower Show of District VIII, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, the second at the Horticulture Show of The Pinellas County Horticulture Society.

A feature of these exhibits is usually a Bromeliad Tree and plantings on dark rocks or simulated rocks. Also small arrangements on driftwood for suggested home decoration. In this connection, if you have been thinking that the practice of planting bromeliads on driftwood originated with us in the U.S. in recent years, it just isn't so. The current fad of planting bromeliads on driftwood had its inception some 30 years ago when the establishment of Jules Chantrier in France was creating prize-winning examples of this. Of special interest to Florida members is the fact that of the 19 species of bromeliads native to the U.S. 15 are growing in Florida – 12 *Tillandsias*, 1 *Guzmania* and 2 *Catopsis*.

Fern W. Lawrence

Reprinted from: The Bromeliad Society Bulletin, 1960 Vol.10 (1).

Bromeliads and their Fauna

by Bernard Stoner Western Australia

All plants live in conjunction with a number of insects, birds and other forms of life, some beneficial and many, unfortunately, harmful. Bromeliads, perhaps due to their unique manner of growth, attract a wide variety of life. In Australia, at least not many of these visitors are parasitic or harmful: our bromeliads seem to have fewer enemies than most other plants.

The principal parasites in this country would probably be one of the scale insects. This species forms flat, papery scales, pale brown in colour and is not always noticed until it has become well established and the plant has begun to look rather sickly. It is nearly always found on plants growing in damp, shady situations, aechmeas and billbergias being favourite hosts. This type of scale spreads very slowly and is not difficult to control. If the whole plant is immersed in a solution of Malathion for a few seconds so that every part of the plant is covered by the solution, this may be all that is necessary; removing the plants to a position where they receive plenty of fresh air and light is also effective.

Another form of scale insect known to us as the mealy bug can also be a troublesome pest. Although not many bromeliads are affected by this pest, it is often found on pitcairnia, especially on the inflorescence where it may prevent the flowers from developing. The standard remedy seems to be methylated spirits applied with a brush, but sometimes this treatment seems to do more harm to the plant than the bugs. These insects are often introduced by ants, so control of the ants, if this is possible, might be necessary.

How about ants ? Are they useful, harmful, or just neutral ? There are species of bromeliads, notably *Aechmea mertensii* which are said to need an association with ants nests for successful growth. Obviously it is not the insects themselves which are beneficial but the material contained in the nests. It is quite common to find a flourishing colony of ants in a tube of a plant which has been kept rather dry. There does not seem to be any damage to the plant in these cases, unless the presence of the ants prevents the plant from developing a flower. It might be interesting to conduct a few experiments with ants to see just what effect, if any, they do have. The ants referred to here are small black species which is abundant in Western Australia, but does not poison or sting, thank goodness. Plants growing in their natural surroundings are said to contain an assortment of live-stock, including many ants, but I have never seen any suggestion that these ants are in any way harmful to the plants.

I have no means of telling whether plants growing in their natural land are damaged by other insects such as *Coleoptera* and *Lepidoptera* and their larvae. In this country these insects are plentiful enough, but I have yet to find a caterpillar on a bromeliad. Insects can be very selective in their choice of food and of course bromeliads would not be the natural food plants of our Australian insect species. Even seedlings are generally immune to attack by most insects, though they may do have their enemies.

Slugs and snails appear just about everywhere and naturally find their way onto our plants. Seedlings may be eaten occasionally by both these pests and I have known snails to damage an inflorescence by eating the petals. Snails also find the larger species of tubular plants ideal for sheltering in or even for hibernating quarters. The plants are very seldom damaged directly, but a number of snails can block the tube of a billbergia or similar plant, which might prevent the plant from flowering. It is the hardy species which grow out in the garden which attract the snails. These pests have not proved troublesome here in the glasshouse.

Frogs are, of course, well known visitors to bromeliads, often making their homes in the centre of the largest species, especially in hot weather. A large green frog is the usual one found here, sometimes sheltering under the leaves of a pitcairnia or in a hanging basket filled with plants. A smaller known species is quite common locally but not often seen on the plants. These frogs are generally encouraged because they devour many undesirable insects and are harmless both to the plants and to their human owners.

Spiders must also be included among the visiting fauna, but although they do not attack the plants and may generally be beneficial, they are not always appreciated by the plants' owners. Occasionally, a large spider will take over a tubular plant and lay its eggs down in the centre, sealing the top of the tube with a web until the eggs have hatched. Owing to the general absence of suitably succulent insects there is nothing else to attract a spider to the plants. I have not yet found any poisonous species on a bromeliad.

With so much nectar being produced by some species of bromeliads it would be natural to expect the flowers to attract numerous bees. For all I know, this may be the case in their natural habitat, but locally this is not so. It is unusual to see a honey bee on a bromeliad flower, though a few species of native bees will visit now and then. A few years ago, two plants of *Puya alpestris* were flowering and one was in fact visited by numerous honey bees while the other was ignored. This *Puya* flowered again this year and once again failed to attract any bees.

Birds, too, are not particularly interested in the plants in this part of Western Australia. We do not, sad to say, have any humming birds here; otherwise it might be a different story. One would have thought that the various honey eaters which frequent our gardens would be interested, only rarely have I seen one of these birds visit a bromeliad. The nectar produced by most species does not seem to be very sweet, which might account for the lack of interest by most birds.

The habit of mosquitoes breeding in the tanks of bromeliads is well known in their native land. The local mosquitoes, however, do not seem to have thought of this, for I have never found any mosquito larva in the water from any of my plants. Possibly conditions are too dry when the weather is warm enough for them to breed.

Reprinted from:

Journal of The Bromeliad Society International, Vol. 31, No.5, Sept - Oct. 1981.

Novice Popular Vote

**1st Kay Daniels Novice Winner
2012**

Open Popular Vote

**1st Marie Essery Open Winner
2012**



Judges Choice

**1st Marie Essery Judges Choice Winner
2012**

Classify Yourself

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,
or are you just contented that your name is on the list ?

Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock, or do you stay at home
and criticize and knock ?

Do you take an active part to help the work along, or are you satisfied to be the
person who just "belongs" ?

Do you work on committees to see there is no trick, or leave the work to just a
few and talk about the "clique" ?

So come to meetings often and help with hand and heart.

Don't be just a member, but take an active part.

Think it over now, you know right from wrong, are you an active member or:

"DO YOU JUST BELONG"

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