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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 17th December 2015 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery

114 Pine Street Wardell 2477

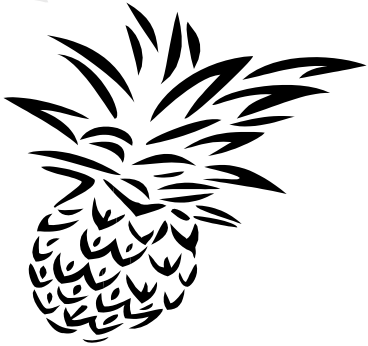
Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: November 2015

General Discussion

Editorial Team:
Kay Daniels
Trish Kelly
Ross Little
Helen Clewett

pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com



Meeting 15th October 2015

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 22 members and one visitor present were welcomed.
A total of two apologies were received.

General Business

Ross welcomed members to the meeting and reminded everyone that meetings start at 11.00am at which time competition entries also close. This means every-one needs to be early enough to place their entries on the table and enter the details into the book, have a cup of tea with some goodies and be ready to start the meeting. Don't forget to vote for the competition plants during lunch break.

Last month there were no grower's comments because there was too much background chatter and comments could not be heard properly on the recording. Please do not chatter unnecessarily during this time! Whisper.

Members entering plants in the competition are asked to write some notes about their entry plant because more cultural notes are needed - something that is meaningful and will help other growers attain quality in growth. The internet is very useful as Kay discovered for finding information about your plant and Ross is always willing to help with information.

It is Puya flowering time at The Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens Mount Tomah. Plants are starting to spike now in mid October, in a month they will be at their peak when it would be worth going to have a look if you are down that way.

Some plants that have been moved out into the open for better light over winter may need to be moved back into the shade now that it is starting to warm up.

Ross also warned about keeping plants out of the sun when at Meetings, yes we have a shade cover and trees but the sun does move therefore you must be mindful of this. Two plants Marie had brought along for the auction have shown signs of sun damage in just the short time the meeting was on. Even though some plants are considered sun tolerant if they have been shade house grown extra care must be taken when leaving them exposed to the sun even for a very short period. These were *Quesnelia* 'Farro' and *Canistrum fosterianum*. Even with the damage which will eventually grow out these plants plus the *Stanhopea nigroviolacea* Les brought in raised $65 at auction. Thank You to the buyers.

Comments from Lucas Bauer on p.5 of the October Newsletter were very much appreciated, it is always good to get follow-up, please keep them coming.

Les's article on p.15 of the October Newsletter raised the issue of formulas as some growers like as much information as possible written on their labels as opposed to only the plant name. General agreement was that it is entirely up to the person selling the plant as to how much information is written on their labels. Ross feels that the plants registered name on a label is sufficient as the rest of the parental information is what the BCR is for. As many people have internet access on their mobile phones or tablets etc. these days the BCR information can be accessed anywhere anytime if one desires to check parentage on a plant or search for additional information about the plant. However some plants are not registered when they are released under formula by the hybridizer, with many of these being complex hybrids many individual names are required to cover a single grex. Perhaps only the very best of a grex should be kept, named and registered to help maintain a high standard. Some complex hybrids can have many parents in the crossing with some of these having two or three word names each, that's a lot of names needing to fit on a single label. Most people would rather just write one name e.g. *Neoregelia* 'Banshee' not:
((*carolinae* variegated x Hannibal Lector) x Norman Bates) **X** (Blushing Tiger x Norman Bates)

Lets break this complex formula down:
((*carolinae* variegated x ('Rafa' x 'Skotak's Tiger') x ('Hannibal Lector' x 'Skotak's Tiger')) **X** (('Perfecta' x 'Marnier-Lapostolle' F2) x ('Hannibal Lector' x 'Skotak's Tiger'))

We could break this formula down even further but I feel that most people would prefer writing *Neoregelia* 'Banshee' on their labels and refer to the BCR for the rest of the information. I for one certainly don't wish to write that formula on every label every time I write one and hope I've got all the brackets in the correct positions. This discussion was in consideration of plants being entered into com-petition under formula with thoughts being: formulas are fine when being entered into a competition for the first time by the hybridizer after which the plant should be registered and only be entered into competition by name not by formula.

Gloria mentioned that members need to contribute more to meetings rather than it falling to Ross to do all the talking and organize topics. She suggested that members take turns to preside over meetings and raise a topic of interest. Each member should take a turn as a guest speaker and find information on a plant that you would like to show, or talk about success you may have had with a plant or method of growing. It was agreed to do this starting in January. A calculation of our monthly attendance shows each Member only need give a single, short talk every 18 months to two years, this is not a big ask to help your Group.

Show, Tell and Ask!

Keryn brought in some pups that had been badly damaged. She is losing pups off her mini Neoregelias which are being stripped/shredded and eaten overnight. The general consensus was that it is rats looking for water so it was suggested that she put trays of water out for them. Naphthalene flakes could also help. Keryn had 2 plants to be identified, the first identified as *Billtanthus* 'Red Burst'. The second plant was a very interesting Neoregelia which looked familiar but was unable to be given an immediate identification. Some possibilities were *Neo*. *fosteriana* or *farinosa* however after some checking these were put out of contention. During the past month a photo of the plant was sent to Geoff Lawn and Derek Butcher for discussion with early thoughts being *Neo*. *pineliana* or a hybrid of it. Derek thought of those days back in the 1990s when there was a chance of running into species Neoregelia and of when he got one called *Neo*. *pineliana* rubra which he linked being close to *Neo*. *magdalenae*. More research showed that *Neo*. *magdalenae* had a synonym: *Neo*. *elmoreana* which had been in cultivation under the name of 'Star of Brazil', this we found had been imported into Australia according to the Pinegrove Ledger BBK #2448. NO our homework is not complete yet, a flowering plant is required to be butchered and checked against *Neo*. *magdalenae* and var. *teresae.* For now we feel Keryn can write *Neo*. *magdalenae* ??? on the label of her plant.

Ross drew the Group's attention to p.12 of the October Newsletter which is an introduction to the Taxonomy of the *Bromeliaceae* - The Flower Parts. This article is in response to Keryn's inquisitiveness regards her plant identification from the previous month. Hopefully it will help her in looking closer at the floral parts of her plant and be helpful in distinguishing between her *Aechmea distichantha* or *Aechmea wittmackiana* when comparing to the written descriptions of both plants. This month we have another part of the article on page 14 to help guide Keryn along with her decision making: Taxonomy of the Bromeliaceae - Leaves.

Ross had a plant tagged as *Tillandsia fasciculata* hybrid, Guatemala, Imp. In the mid 1980s the parentage was guessed at as being *Till*. *fasciculata* x *velutina,* this of course was incorrect with many of these plants being passed around with the wrong name on their tags for 30 years. This error / confusion has finally been corrected with hopefully all agreeing the best fit is *Till*. 'Hal's Nidus'. (article p.10)

He also showed a 1m x .75m coconut fibre matting roll he purchased that is generally used for lining baskets. Cut into strips and attached to old fence palings it has proved to be very successful for propagating seed on. (photo p.9)

Tillandsia 'Chalky White' was on show, a medium sized plant with a tall multi branched inflorescence with white petals.

Another plant on display in bloom was *Tillandsia cyanea* var. *tricolor* showing off its blue petals with a white centre. (photo p.9)

Also explained by Ross was why he ties the pups of *Neoregelia pendula* onto their hangers, this is so the stolons will grow up straight. This helps in potting them up more easily as normally this is a candelabra type plant having long elongated pendant stolons (hanging down), the plant turns upright along the stolon which makes potting them a little more awkward.

Our attention was also directed to a large Aechmea in the garden that is starting to spike which may be *Androlaechmea* 'Samson' or perhaps *Androl*. 'Dean'. We will be able to see which is correct when the inflorescence is more developed.

An interesting and unusual plant shown was *Acanthostachys strobilacea* in flower, it also had viable seed pods ready for collecting in older flower heads.

Gloria asked about *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* as she noticed the plant Trish had brought along to the meeting looked very different to hers. Unfortunately the plant in question was at home so Gloria was unable to show them together for a comparison. The explanation was that many of these plants have been grown from seed and that this particular group of Hohenbergia are very promiscuous which explains the great variation we see in them. Who was 'dad' ? Ross has a group of *Hoh. leopoldo-horstii* grown from imported seed which is showing a great deal of variation in the plants. Hopefully they will flower in the near future so that differences in the flower spikes can be looked at and checked against the written description. (photo p.9)

At our September meeting Trish asked if members who had received seedlings of *Hohenbergia catingae* var. *elongata* and *Nidularium amazonicum* that they had taken home several months prior if they could bring them to the October meeting for growth comparison. Those that did remember hadn't let Trish down with the growth they had achieved, Marie's Hohenbergia had more than doubled in size with Les's not far behind. Hopefully other members will bring their plants along to the November meeting fingers crossed, however it was felt that Marie's will be hard to beat. Trish showed her *Nidularium amazonicum* which had also grown really well, no wonder Helen put hers away.

Jennifer had a pup and a inflorescence from a large Aechmea ? that she wanted identified, as it was not recognized by anyone, Ross will do some checking on this for her. Appears to be a possible Portmea hybrid origin unknown ?

John was disgruntled about an encounter with a seller at a recent Brisbane Expo when wishing to purchase a Aechmea pup. The seller didn't seem to know the difference between her Aechmeas or Vrieseas and refused to name them or write a label for his purchase. To make matters worse the plant he was sold had mealy bug which he promptly exchanged for a pest free plant. John feels he should be able to name and shame sellers who give the industry a bad name.

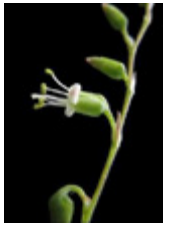
How Easy is Research for Your Notes

Recently members have been asked to help the editorial team out by doing some research and putting together some notes about their **Show and Tell** or **Popular Vote** competition plants. Kay has started the ball rolling this month with the following information she gleaned from the Bromeliads in Australia website www.bromeliad.org.au about her *Fosterella rusbyi*. When on the Home Page of this site go to Photo Index, genus required and check through the list of names where there are photos to compare your plant to which may help you identify it, one often finds some written information on this site also as Kay has below.

Fosterella rusbyi (formerly *elata*)

Notes from Derek Butcher on this plant....
"The saga of the rare *Fosterella* has been resolved! In our last Gazette you may remember Corky's plant which I felt could be *Fosterella vasquezii* and I was waiting for it to flower! It must be a week ago when I returned home to find this plant on my doorstep with a little note telling me all what Corky knows about *Fosterella*. It was in flower! Remember the petals are 7 mm long so you have to get up close and cuddly.
If we went purely on leaf width which is what I did initially at 2cm wide this leads to *Fost. vasquezii* but when you looked at the flower and saw the sepal had a red tip you could see we had a depauperate *Fost. elata*.
If you can remember a couple of years ago Len Colgan got some ex-frozen seed from Heidelberg University in Germany. These would be the only plants of *Fost. elata* in Australia and we can thank Maureen Hick for getting the seed to germinate. The plant is about 40cm in diameter and has wavy dark green leaves with lighter edges and near the centre of the plant these are covered on the top with silvery trichomes making them glisten. These trichomes seem to repel water rather than absorb in similar fashion to Cryptanthus. An attractive plant even when not in flower and if you appreciate *Gypsophila* flowers then you will not be disappointed with the graceful flower spikes."

With a little more research on www.fcbs.org Kay found this little plant is native to Bolivia and Peru.
Don't forget your Groups Library to aid in research also.

A New Bromeliad Garden

by Wendy Buddle 2015

Dear Ross, Helen, Trish, Kay, Les, Ron, Marie and other members too numerous to mention.

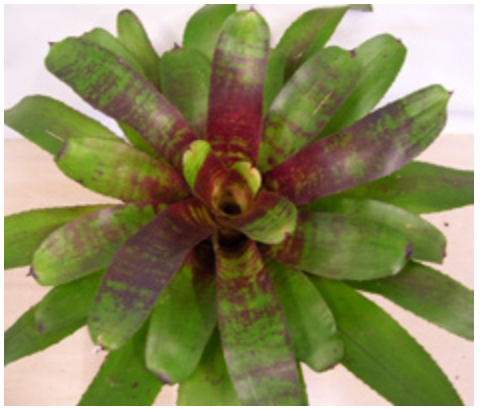
We have settled in very well to our new residence and location and I have established a garden composed mainly of Bromeliads so that I keep up to date with what grows well in which position of our small allotment. Only by trying out different locations have I been able to position most of my plants correctly. Also, having a white house, the reflection adds to the heat so I have been very careful which varieties I have placed to get a full sunny aspect.

It has been a challenge as we only have a very small passageway (1m) along the side and rear of our home, but as we are on a corner block I have quite a good sized garden which faces East, and a smaller one facing South. The Eastern side gets morning sun and I am very happy with the Neoregelias planted there. *Neoregelia* 'Rosy Morn' is coming into bloom now and looks amazing.

Ian has hung a wire mesh along our back fence, and we have had a 75% shade cloth installed from the guttering of the house to the top of the Colorbond fence over the wire mesh. This is where we have hung our Tillandsias, Orchids and Ferns each with their own kind. I have also positioned several Vrieseas at the base of the fence so that they receive just enough shaded sunshine for healthy growth. Ian has installed a sprinkler system around the outside gardens (nozzles positioned to water everything BUT the bromeliads). He is also putting in an overhead sprinkler system to cover the delicate plants I am growing along the back fence - again with only a mist spray and only when necessary.

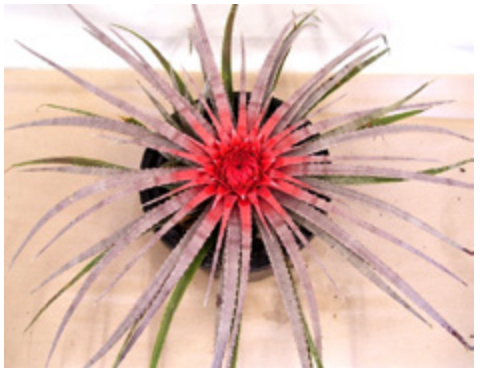
Thanks to you Ross, Helen and other helpful FNCBSG members, Ian and I now have a small understanding of Bromeliads, and we are learning more all the time. Our collection continues to grow, in all aspects, and I have a few people here at the resort awaiting pups from our most successful specimens.

Our best wishes to one and all.



Neoregelia 'Baker's Tiger'
Equal 1st Novice Keryn Simpson

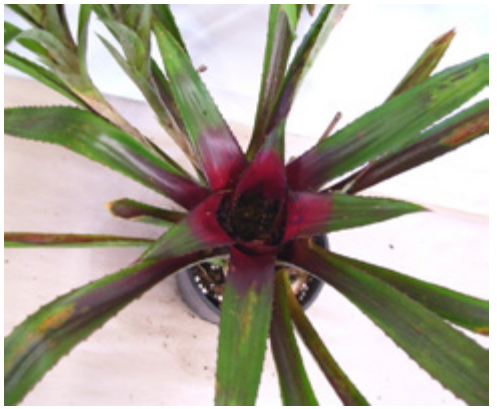
Neoregelia 'Lambert's Pride'
Equal 1st Novice Kevin Jones



Orthophytum burle-marxii
1st Open John Crawford

'A 'Heck' of a Container'
1st Decorative Helen Clewett

Orthophytum rusbyi
Judges Choice Kay Daniels



I.D. asked grown by Keryn Simpson
possibly *Neoregelia magdalenae* ??

Tillandsia cyanea var. *tricolor*
grown by Ross Little

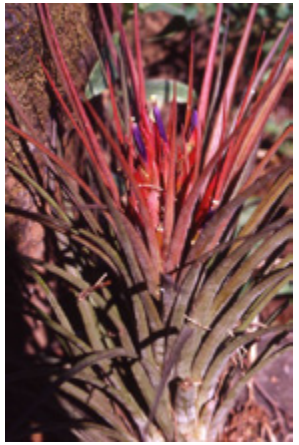
Coconut fibre matting attached to an old fence paling for seed germination.
Each paling has a few of these 250mm strips attached for ease of handling.

A group of *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* grown from imported seed from
Derek Butcher's mate Oscar showing a great deal of variation.
Growing in 200mm pots.

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little

Tillandsia **'Hal's Nidus' to the Aussies and 'Coquette' in the USA**

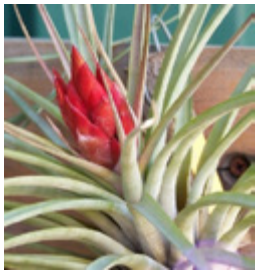
by D Butcher 9/2015



First, let us look at *Tillandsia nidus* described by Rauh in 1983 as a species found somewhere in Mexico some years before. We even had a wrong photo in Journ. Bot. Soc. 31(5): 218-9,1981 and it was finally decided by Harry Luther that it was a natural hybrid between *Till. fasciculata* x *ionantha*. Note that we still did not know where it could be found in the wild! We do know that by 1997 Bird Rock Tropicals nursery, California had it in their catalogue but no location. We do know that Renate Ehlers collected the plant in 2006 near Coatepec in the State of Vera Cruz, Mexico. We do know that with natural hybrids, back crossing occurs making it difficult to know what range this hybrid might have.

Tillandsia 'Minor'
photo by Ron Jell

Now to Australia, where this plant became a Tillandsia Discussion Group relay when Mark Supple of Newcastle showed a photo of a flowering plant of his so-called *Till. fasciculata* Minor. At the same time there had been in circulation a quite different plant going for some time under the name *Till*. *fasciculata* Minor. Here we had the same name used for at least two different looking plants with the more common one having a single spike. It was eventually added to the BCR in May 2015 as *Tillandsia* 'Minor'. As you all know, I shudder at the use of such adjectives when linked to a species name because it means there are differences between this plant and the species, but nobody has bothered to define what are these differences. The advantage of a Tillandsia Discussion Group is that we are often terrible poker players and love to show our hand so others can get involved. This was no exception where it appears the other plant running under the name *Till*. *fasciculata* Minor started its Australian life in the 1980s when Hal Ellis from Victoria was importing plants with Garry Thompson. As is usual, offsets get exchanged and Chris Larson was not happy with the name 'minor' and started investigating. He even cornered Renate Ehlers at the Adelaide Conference in 1995. It was felt that the plant could be Rauh's *Till. nidus* which was still a somewhat unknown quantity at that time. Nothing further was done other than Chris and Maurice Kellett changing their name to *Tillandsia nidus.*



Tillandsia 'Hal's Nidus'
photo by Mark Supple

This then is what we know about the plant in the wild but can we link a plant imported in the 1980's to *Till. nidus* or *Till*. x*nidus* ? The safer option was to give this clone the name of *Till*. 'Hal's Nidus', this name was registered in 2009 with Mark Supple's photo being used as an example. The reason why I picked the name is that if your plant can be traced to Hal Ellis or has a suspect name like 'nidus' you can at least follow the threads. There are certainly other plants that look similar to this plant and have doubtful pedigree which could be linked to 'Hal's Nidus' but that is the decision of the owners.

As for the future where someone is trying to identify a plant at least we have photos of what we consider typical *Till. fasciculata, Till. nidus* and *Till.* 'Hal's Nidus'

Now to phase 2: In May 2015 Ross Little reported that the Pinegrove Nursery ledger revealed *Tillandsia fasciculata* hybrid – Guatemala BBK #2662, 5/86 ► Gleeson AND he was still growing the plant under this name. It looked like 'Hal's Nidus'. May 1986 is a long while ago and what happened to the offsets that escaped from Pinegrove? Were they grown on as *Till. fasciculata* hybrid ? I suggest very little happened but with growers trying to guess father, for example *Till. nidus* and *Till. velutina*. *Tillandsia velutina* is an interesting one because it was not described until 1994 and *Till. fasciculata* x *velutina* has recently gained notoriety with a Gardening Guru on the television. As you also know I dislike formulas because you never know who coined the formula unless you ask questions.

Because nobody has reported importing other than these two references all these lookalikes should be linked to 'Hal's Nidus'.

Tillandsia 'Coquette'
photo by Dennis Cathcart

Now to phase 3: In August 2011 Dennis Cathcart registered a *Tillandsia* 'Coquette' for an alleged natural hybrid found in Guatemala which Harry Luther had decided was probably (*rotundata* x *capitata*). We do not know who may have imported this to Australia but we do know that Pamela Koide Hyatt was selling TX137 at the World Conference in Cairns in 2008. TX137 became *Till*. 'Coquette' too. John Olsen tells me that there seemed to be few for sale but he bought one which still has TX137 on the label.

Are you interested in having an almost correct name on your plant and I don't mean formula? Nobody has dissected a (*rotundata x capitata*) or even a (*fasciculata x* query) to show they are the same even though they look it. If you can trace your plant to its origins you will know what name to use. If you cannot, then put the problem at the door of those who change labels without recording their actions and just call it Tillandsia hybrid.

Acknowledgements:
Thanks to Ross Little and Geoff Lawn for their valued input.

Tillandsia nidus Rauh & Lehmann, Trop. Subtrop. Pflanz. 41: 19-22. 1983

Plant stemless, flowering to 20cm high, Leaves numerous, narrow, erect, occasionally secund, making a large rosette 5 – 6cm diam.

Leaf sheath indistinct, ca 3cm long, 1.4cm wide, pale brown lepidote.

Leaf blade erect, narrow triangular, to 20cm long, 1.4cm wide near sheath, channelled, long attenuate, green, dense grey lepidote.

Scape very short, 2 – 3cm long, 4mm thick.

Scape bracts 2 – 3, membranous, ca 2cm long, much shorter than the primary bract.

Primary bract leaf like, erect, the bottom ones with its sheath as long as the spike with long filiform dense grey lepidote blade, the upper ones shorter.

Inflorescence nestling, exceeded by the leaves, 8 – 10cm long, 5 – 8cm wide, densely bipinnate, with 10 – 14 erect, complanate, short stemmed, 4 – 5cm long, 1.5cm wide, ca. 5 flowered spikes.

Flower bracts densely imbricate, ca. 4cm long, 1.2cm wide, keeled, with short hooked tip, membranous, carmine red, at the bottom green, laxly lepidote, smooth, (when dry strongly nerved) much exceeding the sepals.

Sepals 25mm long, 6mm wide, acuminate, keeled, membranous, free, reddish at tip, otherwise whitish.

Petals 4cm long, 3mm wide, pale violet with white edges and a blunt weakly reflexed tip.

Stamens and Style protruding. Filament 22mm long. anther 7mm long.

Ovary 7mm long.

Habitat central Mexico without exact location.

Holotype BGH 46 409 in Heidelberg (HEID)

Charcoal

"Charcoal" is a common form of carbonized wood which has many good garden uses. An understanding of its properties and functions will be helpful in the correct application of it, especially to house plants.

Charcoal itself has no food value. Its most important use to plants lies in its ability to collect and conserve ammonia. This remarkable function is one of the marvels of science and nobody has been able to explain it. If pieces of charcoal are in the soil it will be found that roots will cling to it to absorb the collected ammonia.

When organic fertilizer begins to decompose, one of the first products given off by the bacteria is ammonia gas. This gas is extremely volatile and easily escapes but if a grain of charcoal lies next to a grain of fertilizer, it will absorb 80 times its own bulk in ammonia and will hold it for the use of the plant roots. It is the ammonia forming capacity of bone meal, fish meal, natural manure, compost and such organic fertilizer that we pay for and the gas should not be allowed to escape.

Charcoal has other equally valuable properties**:**

- It is the worlds most perfect purifier.
- It acts as a continuous factory for the destruction of injurious acids.
- Wherever evil organic gases are given off, charcoal will absorb the odour.

A sprinkling of charcoal over the compost heap or over the freshly fertilized lawn will not only prevent odours but will conserve the ammonia.

For house plants it has many good uses**:**

- It sweetens the soil.
- Saves fertilizer.
- Checks damping-off of seedlings.
- It affects the soil texture and quality and neutralizes overly large doses of acid plant food.
- It encourages root growth of plants grown in water and helps to keep water fresh.

Reprinted from:
Bromeletter September / October 1989, Vol.27 No.5
submitted by Evan Williams, Alstonville NSW.
with acknowledgement to "African Violet News and Views"

Introduction to the Taxonomy of the *Bromeliaceae*: The principal organs of Bromeliads

by Wilhelm Weber

Reprinted from: BSI Journal 1981, V31 No.1

Like every other higher plant, bromeliads are divided into the three basic organs: roots, shoot axis, and leaves. As in most monocotyledons the primary root exists only in the germination stage and soon withers. It is replaced by adventitious roots. These are clearly seen in a cross section of a shoot, and if you dissect, for example, a dead tillandsia (it happens sometimes) with an elongated shoot, such as *Tillandsia araujei* or *Till. tenuifolia*, you can trace the roots almost up to the vegetative tip of the shoot. In many epiphytic bromeliads the function of the roots as organs for the absorption of water and nutrition is greatly reduced. Frequently they are hard and wiry without any root hairs and serve only as organs for anchoring the plants securely to their airy habitats.

Leaves

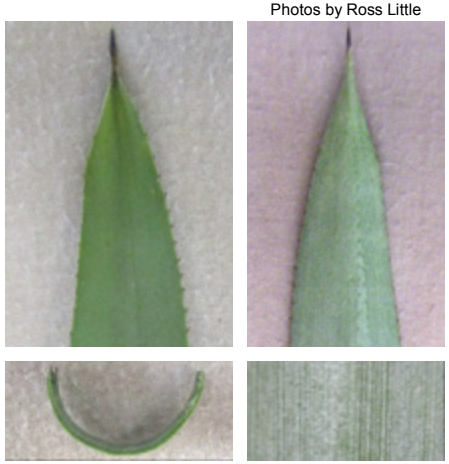
The most important and most varying organs of bromeliads are the leaves. In addition to acting as organs of photosynthesis, they can exercise quite varying functions. For example they can assume the role of the roots, as in *Tillandsia duratii* with its curled leaf tips anchoring the plant to twigs, or in almost all other bromeliads the leaves act as absorption organs for water and nutrition through their trichome scales or by transmission cells on the inner leaf base in the vase-shaped bromeliads that hold water in their centers. In many xerophytic species, such as *Dyckia, Hechtia, Neoglaziovia*, etc., the water storage tissues in the leaves allow them to store water for extended dry periods.

Through contrasting, brilliant colors of the scape and flower bracts serve as showing organs to attract the pollinators and last not least the flower leaves serve as stamens and carpels (micro-macrosporophylls) for generative propagations and thus preservation of the species.

Photos by Ross Little

adaxial abaxial

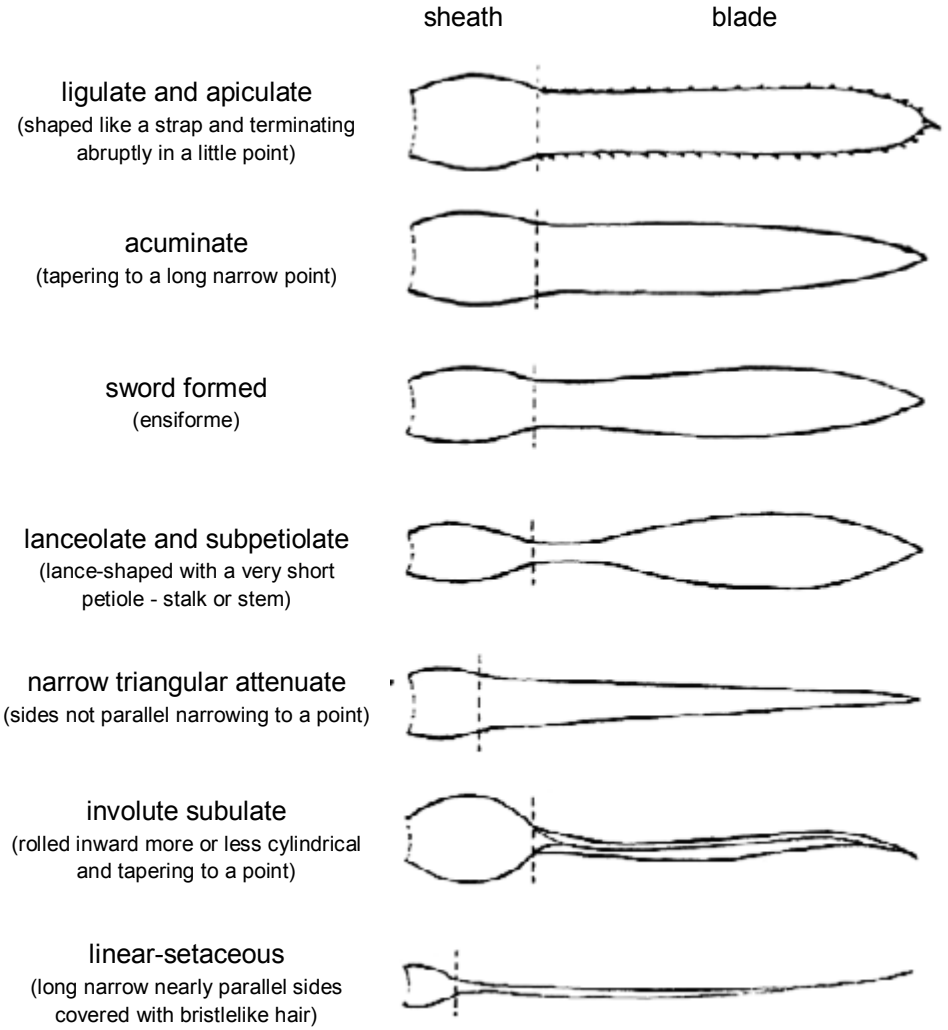
Aechmea wittmackiana leaf sections



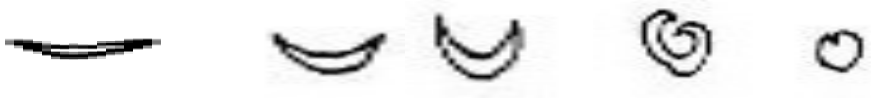
adaxial abaxial

Aechmea distichantha leaf sections

Leaves of Bromeliads



Leaf Cross-section



flat canaliculate involute subulate

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Kevin Jones	*Neoregelia* 'Lambert's Pride'
1st	Keryn Simpson	*Neoregelia* 'Baker's Tiger'
2nd	Coral McAteer	*Vriesea* hybrid ???

Open Popular Vote

1st	John Crawford	*Orthophytum burle-marxii*
2nd	Jennifer Laurie	*Neoregelia* 'Bushfire'
3rd	Laurie Mountford	*Tillandsia punctulata*

Judges Choice

1st	Kay Daniels	*Fosterella rusbyi*

Decorative

1st	Helen Clewett	"A 'Heck' of a Container"

Comments from the Growers:

Kevin selected his Neoregelia from the raffle table about 18mths ago, when re-potted he gave it a small amount of slow release fertilizer and placed it in his growing area under beige shade cloth where it receives morning sun.

Keryn bought her Neoregelia at a Gold Coast Show last year and has been growing it under a macadamia tree. She found using diatomaceous earth has helped with her scale and mealy bug issue, worms were also a problem so she has raised her plants off the ground and is trialling a new potting mix blend of soil, pine bark and polystyrene balls.

John's Orthophytum was purchased from Doug Binns in March 2014, he hangs it up high in the shade house under 50% shade cloth. He noted that in the wild they grow out of cracks in rocks and were much redder than his plant.

Jennifer's Neoregelia was a pup taken 2 years ago from her original plant. Her potting mix is a mixture of Searles Bromeliad and Cymbidium Mix, John Catlan's and John Crawford's mixes which both have slow release fertilizer added. She also waters her plants from the creek rather than using town water.

Laurie got his Tillandsia from Ross 3 to 4 yrs ago, he grows it under green shade cloth and finds it is very hardy and requires little attention.

Kay's Fosterella was a tiny plant discovered in a pot of *Neoregelia* 'Ladd's Gem' growing at PineGrove 2yrs ago. She was told to "grow it out and see what it is", this was the result. The wavy leaves and silvery trichomes are very attractive and the flower spike with its insignificant flowers is over 1m tall. It has been kept in the shade house and has proved to be a very hardy plant needing little care.