

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 16th August 2018 at 11 a.m.

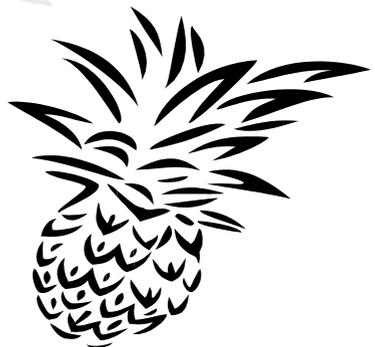
Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery  
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Discussion: July 2018  
General Discussion

## **Editorial Team:**

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## Meeting 21st June 2018

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am  
The 19 members present were welcomed.  
A total of two apologies were received.

### General Business

Concern was expressed that a **Yellow Crazy Ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*)** discovery has caused the temporary cessation of all plant trading in and around Lismore CBD. The source of the infestation is believed to be a contaminated load of filling soil as these ants are predominantly moved from area to area by human intervention. Following the recent discovery of this invasive pest species in the Lismore Quadrangle, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has issued an order to restrict the movement of plants and soil, etc. within a 5 km radius of Lismore. The DPI has issued a blanket permit for all plant stallholders at the Lismore Car Boot Market to enable them to continue trading. However it is recommended for all other plant and soil movements one should contact the DPI or the North Coast Local Land Services (Lismore) for further information.

Briefly discussed was the incorrect numbers of votes in some Popular Vote Competition sections with more votes being recorded than numbers of members present. As the sections are now so crowded together it is possible that some votes have been put in the wrong receptacle. We would hate to think there is a possibility of an exhibitor double dipping!

Kay suggested that some effort by growers should be made into researching their plants before entering into the competitions. The hope is for a more knowledgeable growers comment, just one or two informative sentences about each entry would be appreciated. By doing some research yourself this will not only gain knowledge for yourself and others but it will help you get the correct name and spelling on your entry. Recommended web sites for research on page 16.

### Chores for the month

June's meeting was at the winter solstice, 21<sup>st</sup> June. There is an old and true saying; "As the days do lengthen the cold doth strengthen".

Plants of low altitude tropical origin benefit from annual dormancy of at least six weeks in a temperature not less than 5°C, this reinvigorates plants for the next season. Think of a desirable date for emergence from dormancy, early September is a good time! Count back at least 6 weeks and the plant should be dormant from mid-July.

Some epiphytes appreciate the damper cold weather with fogs and dewy mornings and become active. At Wardell the bulbous Tillandsias are forming roots.

Winter watering should be as miserly as possible, twice in six weeks is probably all that's needed for some plants. Add ½ teaspoon of Potassium nitrate into 10lts of water to restore carbohydrate lost in respiration and maintain a healthy plant.

Be aware of cold symptoms. A catastrophic drop in temperature can cause leaf tissue breakdown. Watery lesions at the base of a plant are probably disease related. Regardless of whether the damage is initiated by cold or disease cut-out the affected parts as quickly as possible. Spread a mild fungicide powder such as Cinnamon or Sulphate over the wound to help the process of drying.

Give as much sunlight as possible to your plants now until September as there is insufficient radiant energy to cause problems. However, be aware of wind chill.

With cold sensitive plants consider removing water from the cup and leaves. Never let a plant remain wet and cold overnight. Minus 2°C is "true freezing point". Liquid in a plant at minus 2°C freezes and splits the cell walls. Plants that survive minus 2°C or overwinter in prolonged or excessive low temperature may have dubious prospects in the following growing season.

Give a gentle pull to any centre leaf that has become discoloured, it has probably died. Clean all debris from the plant's centre and perhaps add a fungicide powder as previously mentioned: Cinnamon or Sulphate.

### Critique and Growers Comments

Judge's Critique was approved of some time ago but never implemented for fear of causing offence. Critique has been added to Growers Comments to increase our understanding of that exhibited plant. Please write a few words about your exhibit for you to read when awarded. All plants on the show bench are worthy of appreciation. Descriptive notes of plants not successful in the three placings should be given to the editorial team for inclusion in **Growers Comments**.

John's unregistered *Neoregelia* 'Sandy' was justifiably Judges Choice, grown in bright, filtered light was an example of John's care and love for these plants.

Michelle presented a beautiful *Billbergia* of a pale colour. Lack of chloroplasts often makes a plant of delicate colour difficult to grow. As Magnesium is principal atom within the chloroplast, give an occasional treat of Epsom salt (Magnesium Sulphate) or better still Magnesium nitrate.

Coral's *Tillandsia butzii* was grown along the side of her house in a brightly light breezeway given only occasional watering.

Les's *Cryptanthus* 'Black Prince' like many plants called black has never been black, it only ever becomes a muddy brown as light intensifies. The leaf endings have developed a pronounced downward curve with a sharp claw-like ending. Environmentally the claw digs into surface vegetation helping to moor these shallow rooted plants. In cultivation the claw buries into the substrate and the leaf end rots-off. Polystyrene pieces hold the leaf tip above the potting mix until the leaf extends beyond the pot's rim. This plant is in a 150mm X 100mm deep squat pot but the fibrous roots are more suited to a pot of lesser depth. (p.9)

Helen's shallow dish of *Tillandsia filifolia* mounted on wood guarded by three green tree frogs at its base has almost ethereal quality. Some Tillandsias have a reputation of unlikely to produce roots and are therefore glued in place. It was suggested that a suitable glue for this purpose is Shelley's All Clear. (p.9)

Dave's entry in the Decorative Section "Remember Laurie" recalls our late member Laurie Mountford who was the original grower of that particular plant. (p.7)

### **Show, Tell and Ask!**

Some discussion was had about growing Bromeliads in the garden and what precautions need to be undertaken. Gloria told us that she has successfully grown epiphytes in soil in the garden and in pots with few problems for many years. In frost prone areas frost cloth may be required if plants are not grown under the shelter of shrubs or trees. Generally most Neoregelias, Guzmanias, Vrieseas and Aechmeas etc. fair quite well in the open garden year round in our Northern NSW climate with the exception of some very cold sensitive soft leaved varieties mentioned last month.

John and Ross concurred while travelling around Central and South America it is impossible not to walk on some epiphytes in their native locations. They grow so dense in the tree canopy that clumps get too heavy and eventually fall to the ground, some continue to grow forming carpets. However careful one is not all can be stepped over or even rescued and placed back on a tree stump or rock.

Ross spoke of his recent travels in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico and the many amazing Bromeliads that were seen, mostly Tillandsia. Of note were *Tillandsia kalmbacheri*, *imperialis*, *eizii*, *ponderosa*, *calothyrsus*, *butzii* and many many more visual feasts. He highly recommends this tour to any would be traveller wishing to see Tillandsias in habitat. The tour is so well organized one will certainly not be disappointed. Many tales and photos in the near future.

John showed two of his Vrieseas that have been growing side-by-side, one showing signs of quilling whilst the other is perfectly fine, he asked WHY ??? A photo of John's plant is on page 5 with an article in response to his question.

**Quilling** by Jerry Raack reprinted from: BSI Journal - 1982 V32(6)

What's that, your bromeliad is growing up looking like a soda straw? It is probably the victim of what is commonly known as "quilling".

Quilling is the cementing of the leaves together causing the plant to be very tubular in shape. It is generally caused by lack of good moisture while the plant is in an active growing period.

I have found through my years of growing that certain genera are more susceptible to quilling than others. These genera are *Vriesea* and *Guzmania*. Rarely do Aechmeas quill, although I have had *A. racinae* var. *tubiformis* and *A. 'Foster's Favorite'* quill. Within the genus *Vriesea*, certain hybrids and species are notoriously consistent in quilling. Among these are *V. × morreniana*, *V. ensiformis*, and unfortunately *Vriesea 'Viminalis Rex' × V. hieroglyphica*, which is a superb hybrid with nicely banded foliage and a fantastic, long lasting, branched, blood red inflorescence with, of course, yellow flowers. Within the genus *Guzmania*, the most likely to quill are *G. Feurn*, *G. Fantasia*, and occasionally *G. Exodus*. In addition other species of *Guzmania* and *Vriesea* will quill if grown very dry.

Besides dry conditions, some plants, both species and hybrids, are more susceptible because the leaves secrete a very sugary, sticky substance which, if not washed off regularly and thoroughly, causes the leaves to cement together.

To prevent quilling then, one must maintain high humidity, or, quite regularly flush the plant with water to thoroughly wash it off. There is no better way to do this than in a long, hard summer rain, but that is not possible in the winter in the northern states. Therefore taking a plant to the shower with you may sound silly, but an equivalent bathing procedure is very beneficial. Bathing a bromeliad? Maybe it sounds crazy but it works not only to prevent quilling, but cures it. If you have a plant which has already quilled, take a mild liquid detergent or soap and put several drops into the tight center and fill with water to overflowing. Let this mixture remain for a half hour, then add more water to overflowing. This procedure should produce lots of suds. The soapy water will dissolve the hardened glue substance, and then with the gentle use of a flat but blunt object, such as a plant marker, the leaves may be loosened from the outer-most to the inner-most. Make sure after loosening the leaves that all traces of soap are flushed off the leaves with lots of water. This procedure leaves the plant clean and free to continue to grow by absorption of nutrients through, not only the roots, but the leaves as well.

If you have quilling problems, or encounter them in the future, try my prevention and cure. It works!



photo by Ross Little

It's that time of year again when many plants are flowering, Dave brought along one of those loveable little *Tillandsia stricta* in bloom to show us.

***Tillandsia stricta*** Solander in Sims, Bot. Mag. 37: pl. 1529. 1813.

Type: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, *Banks & Solander s n* (BM).

Distribution: Epiphytic in dry or wet forest, from near sea level to 1680 m alt, Venezuela, Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, northern Argentina.

From: The Endeavour Journals of Sir Joseph Banks, 1768 — 1771.

Endeavour manifest Plantae Brasilienses: Rio de Janeiro

*Bromelia ananas, pseudo ananas, karratas, bracteata.*

*Tillandsia utriculata, stricta, argentea, usneoides*

The Endeavour sailed from Plymouth, England in 1768 collecting plants along its journey before entering Botany Bay, Australia in April 1770.



*Tillandsia stricta*  
drg: Sir Joseph Banks



*Tillandsia stricta*  
shown by Dave Boudier



Bot. Mag. 37: Plate 1529.  
drg: S. Edwards

Taken in part from: Bromeletter Mar/April 1993: "Stricta" means tight or drawn together and refers here to the dense arrangement of the leaves or tight overlapping floral bracts. The short stem forms a rosette with long narrow leaf blades, grey to green in colour, sometimes with a dark purple margin. The bloom scape extends beyond the leaves and floral bracts are brightly coloured, varying from cherry to rose to brilliant pink. They open and spread out as the blue blossom emerges, five centimetres in length. Best of all, *Till. stricta* produces numerous offsets which grow rapidly and in turn bloom in 8-12 months. The plant improves with each succeeding generation. What more could you ask for ?



'Pink Spider, What Spider' ?  
shown by John Crawford



'Remembering Laurie'  
shown by Dave Boudier



'Golden Circle Pineapple'  
shown by Keryn Simpson



*Tillandsia tectorum*  
grown by Gary McAteer



*Tillandsia velutina x brachycaulos*  
grown by Keryn Simpson



*Neoregelia* 'Sandy' unreg.  
1st Open and Judges Choice  
John Crawford



*Billbergia* 'Kolan Flashback' unreg.  
1st Novice Michelle Hartwell



'Frogs in Paradise'  
1st Decorative Helen Clewett



*Neoregelia* 'Razzberry Ripple'  
grown by Dave Boudier



*Tillandsia sphaerocephala* ???  
= 1st Tillandsioideae Helen Clewett



*Cryptanthus* 'Black Prince'  
grown by Les Higgins



*Tillandsia butzii*  
= 1st Tillandsioideae Coral McAteer



*Tillandsia fasciculata* 'Purple'  
= 1st Tillandsioideae John Crawford



*Vriesea* 'Carly'  
grown by Keryn Simpson



*Neoregelia* 'Gold Medal'  
grown by Coral McAteer

## **A Tangled Web - *Billbergia* 'Charles Webb'** compiled by Ross Little

It might be an 'oldie' but it can still draw your breath away when it flowers.

The plant measures 625mm tall or 730mm including the inflorescence.

When I first read the parentage written on the label for this plant I knew it was trouble. On one side of the label was *Billbergia amoena* v. *amoena* x *vittata*, on the reverse was *Bill.* 'Breauteana'. By entering the parentage in Advanced Search on the BCR and checking the results *Bill.* 'Wittmackiana' seemed the better match. A check on the BCR indicated *Bill. pallescens* as seed parent for 'Breauteana', the parentage on the label seemed to be incorrect requiring investigation. Using The New Bromeliad Taxon List I found *Bill. pallescens* is now a synonym of *Billbergia amoena* var. *amoena* which tangles the web as to a proper identification.



Who better to ask to help untangle this web than Derek Butcher who supplied the following articles and suggested *Billbergia* 'Charles Webb' to be the best fit. I hope our readers enjoy catching up on some of this history as much as I did.

### ***Billbergia* 'Chas Webb' / 'Breauteana'**

by Derek Butcher in Bromeletter 34(2): 7- 9, 1996.

Those who went to the Adelaide Conference would have seen the botanical painting of *Billbergia* x *Breauteana* lent by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. It is ironic that this helped me convince (I think) them that the plant they were growing as *Billbergia vittata* was probably this hybrid OR 'Chas Webb'!

First let me say that there are not many *Billbergia* species being grown in Australia but there are lots and lots of hybrids. Many of the watchspring species are self fertile and there appears to be less hybridization with these but even so it is not easy to identify the various species. On the other hand the other group are rarely self fertile but are easily hybridised. Just one example is the over use of *B. vittata* and there are many plants in collections which are almost the species but not quite. If the label is lost my first thought is *B.* 'Chas Webb' (or should it be?)

I have had Baker's Handbook of the Bromeliaceae (printed in 1889) for many years and have referred to it from time to time to check on old names. It was only very recently that I realised he also described hybrids, but only *Billbergia*. I still find this strange and can only assume that the reason is the ease with which these species hybridize.

*Billbergia vittata* and *B. nutans* were favourites. So it was a surprise to find a description of *B. x Breauteana* which I had been looking for in all manner of places, but not the right one.

The description was:

*Billbergia* BREAUTEANA Andre (*vittata* x Bakeri) Synonym CAPPEI  
Leaves - 10-12 in a rosette, lorate, obtuse, horny, 60cm or more long, 5-6cm wide at the middle, copiously banded with white at the back, the marginal prickles minute.

Scape - over 30cm long with several large bright red bracts towards the top.  
Inflorescence - a lax drooping panicle, the lower branches 3-4 flowered, subtended by large red bracts.

Sepals - linear oblong, 2.5cm long, pinkish white tipped with violet.

Petals - twice as long as the sepals, bright violet-blue.

Ovary - cylindrical, pale green, deeply sulcate, 2cm long.

This cross, which was made by M. Andre in France, has been distributed by M. Bruant of Poitiers, and I think also by someone in Belgium. Described from a plant that flowered at Kew, Dec. 1886. *Billbergia* x *collevii*, x *oberthueri*, x *joli-boisii* and x *rhodonensis* are similar hybrids between *speciosa* & *vittata*, raised by Van Geert (see De Vos in Belg Hort 1882, 334) and *B. herbaultii* hort., another raised by Maron.

To add to the information (confusion?), I noted there was very little difference in this description and that given for *B. vittata*. The differences do show up when you consider *B. vittata* sensu Lyman Smith and Elton Leme.

Let us have a change of direction and look at the Australian scene (in the meantime you might like to check your *B.* 'Chas Webb' against the above description!)

### **Bromeletter Nov/Dec 1972** by Olwen Ferris....

"*Billbergia vittata* x ? (*pyramidalis* var. *concolor*). A very hardy hybrid and one of the best for growing out of doors in a lightly shaded area. While not as tall as *B. vittata* it has silver bands on green leaves forming a loose tube with arching leaf tips and in bright light the leaves take on a purplish colour. Flowering at various times in the summer it has a *B. vittata* type inflorescence of rose-red bracts and blue flowers.

This hybrid is in many collections under the name "*B. amoena* hybrid", while a similar plant but winter flowering, and with a slightly tighter, taller tube, is given the name "*B. horrid* hybrid". I think it is possible that these two plants are clones from the same cross. Being unable to see any resemblance to *B. amoena* in the

first plant I selfed this in 1965. The seedlings have the shape of a loosely formed but larger *B. pyramidalis* var. *concolor* with faint banding on the leaves. The flower head arches slightly with the weight of over 20 tightly packed blue flowers above a collar of large rose-red bracts on the inflorescence, the first of these to flower showing the influence of both parents."

Bromeletter Sept/Oct 1974. The following article by Robert Tucker is an interesting one because it clearly has links with our problem. Mind you it adds problems too, because I am aware of the reference to the first four paragraphs, but then the description of the flower baffles me. Is he talking about two plants?

**"A BEAUTIFUL BILLBERGIA"** by Robert Tucker.

Most members would probably have had more experience with bromeliads than I have and would be able to put names to plants that I have not yet seen, so perhaps someone will recognise this *Billbergia* (pictured) and be able to give me some clue as to its identity. This was the second plant to be added to the beginning of my collection about six years ago, it has flourished ever since. It was in my home-town of Blackwood (S.A.) where I found it in some quantity, generally growing in the open ground in full sun. It would form thick clumps in any spot and in winter it would take frost and hail without damage.

The opposite conditions, and Adelaide's heat-waves and dry winds are extreme and did not damage it either.

I have not seen it since in any other collection or garden and think that it might be common only in S.A., but as it was not to be seen at the well kept and very beautiful Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and I knew no collectors there, I found nothing regarding its name or history. There was one plant similar to it at the Gardens, but it had a pendant spike and was not labelled.

About the plant; tubes would average at around 22 inches tall; taller and shorter plants could be found but never much smaller than 12 inches or taller than 30 inches. In shade the leaves would vary from 18 to 22 inches and 12 to 18 inches in full sun. Coloration would vary too in different light, being very dark green in shade to bronzy red in full sun. The mature plant would form a sort of vase-like tube of stiff short leaves in sun or tall tube of long and flat leaves in shade where the silvery-grey banding would stand out the most and last until the eventual death of the plant. Strong sun seemed to bleach out the banding and very hot days would yellow the leaves although they would not burn.

In the ink-drawing I have the dark bands to represent the green of the leaf in one of my shade grown plants, the light bands being the actual greyish banding that was faintly visible on the top of the leaf. I would have darkened in the top-side of the leaf but feel that this would have made the picture too dark. This specimen is about half grown and only 5 months from a minute pup. It would measure 14 inches in height.

About the flower; The inflorescence is more erect than not and has a simple construction. Bracts are vivid pink to red with a covering of white scales that is also present on the stem. Flowers number between 10 & 15 and have white sepals and blue tipped green petals. The inflorescence lasts only a week and sits about 8-10 inches above the centre of the plant but is cradled by the leaves. The pollen is brilliant yellow & the anthers really stand out because of this.

I have grown this as *Billbergia horrid* but this is clearly not correct as it does not have the stiff leaves and prominent spines of *horrid* but the spines are evenly spaced along the margins and are quite sharp. It does have a sort of erect inflorescence like *horrida* but differs in colour of petals. It resembles my *B. amoena* hybrid (*B. amoena* var *viridis* x *B. amoena* var *rubra*) in shape and foliage texture and might be the type but as I have never seen either the type plant or the flower I cannot say. In fact I cannot say if it is even a hybrid as I have never hand pollinated it. I can say that it will not set seed on its own as some do, and I will probably have to self it when its next spike appears to see if it is a hybrid.

I would appreciate any answers or hints that you might have regarding this fine and hardy plant. Thank-you. "

There are many clumps of tall tubular billbergias still growing in older gardens around the Adelaide hills including Blackwood and a large property by the name of "Weetunga" bequeathed to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens some 15 years ago. It also occurs in the Adelaide foothills where some of the old properties are being subdivided. How do I know this?

Well, these billbergias look so good when in flower that residents believe they have a fortune to be made, telephone the Botanic garden and eventually get to me. It doesn't take much questioning to ascertain the type of plant they are talking about and they are always surprised how common it is and its market value!! It just has to be *Billbergia* 'Chas Webb'!

The name *Billbergia* 'Chas Webb' originated in 1982 when I was compiling my Checklist of Australian hybrids and Olwen Ferris felt that her plant *Billbergia vitata* x *pyramidalis* (refer Bromeletter Nov/Dec 1972 see above) needed a name. Charles Webb from Sydney was one of the pioneers of Bromeliad growing in Australia and although not a hybridist seemed to be a logical name to use for this robust *Billbergia*. This way his name would be remembered.

In 1993, when preparing for the Adelaide Conference, I saw the botanical painting of *B. Breauteana* in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens which I thought looked like OUR *B. 'Chas Webb'*. Because of Robert Tucker's article and the phone calls about unnamed billbergias I was getting, I felt that this plant must have originated in Adelaide & then spread eastwards. I wrote, sending details to Bill Morris who said he had had this plant as long as 1955 and that it had been seen in the public Gardens at Port Macquarie well before that. This put paid to my theory. He then added that he did not feel the other parent was *B. pyramidalis*

and that Olwen could have been talking about another plant. He had never seen seed on "OUR" plant and I could confirm this. AND remember billbergias hybridise easily so you cannot always assume selfing has occurred.

Doubts, doubts and more doubts. Let us return to Baker's description and the names associated with parentage. Let us also remember that hybrids are made from living material where people do not change names when botanists tell them to do so! So we are dealing in suppositions! *Billbergia Bakeri* became synonymous with *B. distachia* but Baker said that *B. Cappei* was synonymous with *B. Breauteana* and yet its formula was *vittata x amoena*. He also said that this cross was similar to those of Van Geert who surprisingly got 4 different names by crossing two species namely *speciosa* (now *amoena*) and *vittata*.

AND things get worse. The fact that *B. Bakeri* became *B. distachia* had me looking at Leme's natural hybrid *B. x claudioi* whose alleged parents are *B. vittata* and *B. distachia*. You've guessed it - Leme's description is almost identical to that given for 'Breauteana'! Has anyone imported *B. x claudioi* as a plant? Please let me know if you have.

What did I gain from this exercise? Well, a much clearer picture of what *B. vittata* should look like. First the leaves must have decent sized very-dark teeth but the flower should be like this....

Note - (1) The sepal tip is bent outwards - not erect.

- (2) The base of the ovary has a pinkish floral bract, smallish but clearly visible. I have found this continuing story fascinating because it has given me a better understanding of what these hybrids should look like. There is only one thing really bugging me and that is why *B. 'Collevii'* never flowers for me and looks like a straight *B. amoena*!

### **Billbergia 'Chas Webb' and vittata**

by Bill Morris N.S.W. in Bromeleter 34(3); 9. 1996.

I read Derek's article in the last Bromeleter with some interest and would like to make some comments.

The plant now called 'Chas Webb' was one of the first bromeliads I got, around 1955. An old cactus grower in Newcastle was growing it as a terrestrial amongst his cacti. It was a large clump so probably had been in his garden at least back to World War II (10 years earlier). This suggests it was probably in Australia at least in the 1930's which means it is an early European hybrid rather than anything later.

Looking at the plant I have never seen any resemblance to *Billbergia pyramidalis*, and as Derek mentioned in his article, I have never been able to self it. This makes me suspect that the seed Olwen obtained may have come from chance pollination by *B. pyramidalis* even though she believed she had selfed it. However, this cannot be checked until someone can repeat Olwen's experiment.

I have always suspected it was a *Billbergia vittata – amoena* cross. If one considers how variable *B. amoena* is, and the fact we have no idea which form of *amoena* was used, there doesn't have to be a great resemblance to any other hybrid of this parentage. Although we think we know *B. vittata*, reading Smith and Downs' description indicates it is very variable also. For example, the description says: "leaves rounded & apiculate or broadly acute, scape erect (!) or decurved, slender or rather stout, scape bracts red, rose, or orange (mine is orange), inflorescence often erect (!)". Also the colour photo in Elton Leme's book, p.101, shows a *B. vittata* which is quite unlike my plant in many ways.

As we don't know what type of *B. vittata* was grown in Europe and used as a parent we really are in no position to make too many accurate comparisons.

As Derek said, "And things get worse".

Apparently Baker listed *B. breauteana* (a possible identification of our Chas Webb) as *B. vittata x B. bakeri* with the latter now reduced to synonymy with *B. distachia*. So I consulted Smith and Downs to find that they list *B. breauteana* as *B. vittata x amoena*.

So where are we? Well, in my opinion, and that's all any of us can offer, *B.*

'Chas Webb' has general characteristics that suggest a *B. vittata x amoena* parentage, and as Smith & Downs list *B. 'Breauteana'* as *B. vittata x amoena*, I will settle on that as the best bet. However, due to the great variability of both parents 'Chas Webb' is almost certainly not identical to *B. 'Breauteana'* as depicted in the Adelaide Gardens painting and 'Chas Webb' should be treated as a cultivar. That is, *B. Breauteana* (?) c.v. Chas Webb.

Now a final word about *B. vittata*. Derek provided a sketch of a flower taken from Smith & Downs and said...

"Note 1. The sepal tip is bent outward, not erect". Now the description doesn't mention this! So I don't think this is important. And when one looks at the other flowers illustrated (B. of fig.687, p.1982) the side views do not show the sepal tips at right angles to the tube (as shown in C. same fig.). If in fact the sepal tips did recurve as shown in fig.C, Smith & Downs did not consider it important or consistent enough to be included in the description. Thus I would disagree with Derek and say that this illustrated character is not important in the identification of *B. vittata*.

To finally confuse the issue further, Smith & Downs list the following names for the cross of *vittata* and *amoena*:

*breauteana* – 1884, *joliboisii* – 1882, *cappei* – 1889, *oberthueri* – 1882, *colleveii* – 1882, *rhodonensis* – 1882, *herbaultii* – 1889, *wittmackiana* - 1891

So which name has precedence for this hybrid (grex)? Presumably the others become cultivars.

## **Novice Popular Vote**

1st	Michelle Hartwell	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Kolan Flashback' unreg.
2nd	Coral McAteer	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Gold Medal'
3rd	-----	-----

## **Open Popular Vote**

1st	John Crawford	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Sandy' unreg.
2nd	Dave Boudier	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Razzberry'
3rd	Keryn Simpson	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Carly'
3rd	Les Higgins	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Black Prince'

## **Tillandsioideae**

1st	Helen Clewett	<i>Tillandsia sphearcephala</i> ???
1st	John Crawford	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> 'Purple'
1st	Coral McAteer	<i>Tillandsia butzii</i>

## **Judges Choice**

1st	John Crawford	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Sandy' unreg.
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## **Decorative**

1st	Helen Clewett	'Frogs in Paradise'
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### **Web Links for Checking Correct Identification and Spelling ?**

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): <http://registry.bsi.org/>

Refer to this site for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

New Bromeliad Taxon List : <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>

Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

Bromeliads in Australia (BinA) <http://bromeliad.org.au/>

Refer to this site for its Photo Index, Club Newsletters, Detective Derek Articles.

Keep these web sites set as desktop icons for quick reference access.

### **Where do I Find the Dates ?**

[www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au) then click "Diary".

Check this site for regular updates of times, dates and addresses of meetings and shows in your area and around the country.