

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

Edition: December 2022

Agenda: General Discussion



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



Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month  
Next meeting January 19th 2023 at 11 a.m.

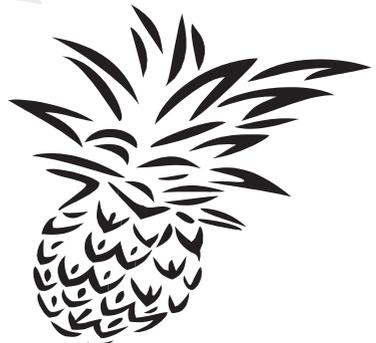
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## Meeting 17th November 2022

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am  
The 12 members present were welcomed.  
Two apologies were received.

### General Business

A reminder to our members that we get incoming mail each month from other Groups/Societies, once sorted and entered into our library you may borrow it. Alternatively go to Bromeliads in Australia (BinA) <http://bromeliad.org.au/> and click on **Club News**. You will find there are 12 Groups from around Australia and you will be able to read many of their Newsletters/Journals.

Gift Swap - bring a gift, it can be a plant, a gardening related item, book or even a box of chocolates if you like, place a gift get a gift in return. Our usual order of selection being those who attended the most meetings of the year get to go first. I know there are three people who have attended all 11 meetings this year, two at 10 and so on. I think there'll be some pushing and shoving in that first rush !!

November meeting was our last competitive Popular Vote meeting, points will be tallied for the year with trophies and shields presented at our Christmas Party.

Our Popular Vote competition will begin again in January 2023. Don't forget it's all about participating and having fun, so let's hope all members join in and let's not get too carried away with the competitive spirit. We have seen some great plants tabled in 2022, keep up the good growing !

With the incentive of 'John's Decorative Objects' we have seen some wonderful entries in our Decorative section from members who didn't think they could do it. I think they've surprised themselves at just how well they have done, congrats to you all. Don't give it up you're all doing fantastic pieces of art.

A Bromeliad Glossary - Third Edition 2022 compiled by Pamela Koide-Hyatt for the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) has arrived for those who pre-ordered. A Bromeliad Glossary is very handy to have at hand especially when reading Bromeliad books, Journals and Newsletters. A necessity for editors, we can't be expected to remember every terminology, this publication helps. The Bromeliad family has grown and the number of genera have increased, these are listed in Appendix II and some discarded ones. Also listed are many people who have made significant contributions to the study of Bromeliads. There are some useful illustrations to help identify plant parts, inflorescence parts and another for floral parts. Appendix VI is an interesting section on the phylogeny of trichomes.

I'm sure those of you who acquire this publication will find it very useful.

## Show, Tell and Ask!

Mitch is doing some research into finding aluminium plant tags at a reasonable cost. They can be a little more expensive but being longer lasting than the styrene tags we all use now, they can be more cost effective. Aluminium tags can be easily 'embossed' with a ball point pen or engrave your plant name into the label with an engraving tool, these labels will be readable long term. Being made of aluminium they won't fade or perish in the sun.

We then discussed correct naming of Bromeliads and labelling. To correctly identify Bromeliad species plants, check these against the written botanical descriptions and keys. Hybrids can have their names and identity checked on the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (BCR) at <http://registry.bsi.org> for those who wish to be assured the name they have on their plant actually matches that which is registered. This is what Keryn and I did when checking the identity of her *Billbergia* 'Muriel Waterman' and realised it wasn't that but another plant with similar foliage - *Billbergia amoena* var. *viridis*. Another one sorted for Keryn !

Admitting to my recent *Aechmea* / *Wittmackia burlemarxii* error opened another can of worms - to hyphen or not to hyphen e.g. burle-marxii. It appears that under ICN - International Code of Nomenclature rules 2016, art. 23 the hyphen is optional. However as some web sites are type sensitive you may need to try your search with hyphen in and also without the hyphen.

"Art. 23.1. The name of a species is a binary combination consisting of the name of the genus followed by a single specific epithet in the form of an adjective, a noun in the genitive, or a word in apposition, or several words, but not a phrase name of one or more descriptive nouns and associated adjectives in the ablative (Art. 23.6(a)), nor any of certain other irregularly formed designations (Art. 23.6 (b-d)). If an epithet consists of two or more words, these are to be united or hyphenated. An epithet not so joined when originally published is not to be rejected but, when used, is to be united or hyphenated, as specified in Art. 60.9.

60.9. The use of a hyphen in a compound epithet is treated as an error to be corrected by deletion of the hyphen. A hyphen is permitted only when the epithet is formed of words that usually stand independently, or when the letters before and after the hyphen are the same (see also Art. 23.1 and 23.3)."

From Eric Gouda: "No, you are not free to insert or delete hyphens in names. If a name was published with a hyphen and the two words separated by the hyphen are nouns, it should be maintained. If the hyphen is separating an adjective and a noun, it should be removed, like 'flavo-violacea' should be 'flavoviolacea', but 'burle-marxii' should be kept this way if published this way".

Some of us write thousands of labels so yes we do understand spelling mistakes are easy made and lazy typing occurs. However it only takes a few moments to check such publications as Bromeliaceae Names and Synonyms for spelling or use the Bromeliad Taxon List at: <https://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist/>. To follow the Taxon List is the most logical thing to do when writing labels for hyphenated species names or if in doubt, check the protologue.

A **protologue** is a scientific publication in which a new species is described or a scientific publication in which more than one new species are described, in the latter case each of the descriptions is the protologue of the new species.

Fortunately there is a percentage of members of each Group / Society that often go a few extra steps to keep us up to date with name changes and the identity problems that often arise and most are more than willing to pass this information on to those not so inclined, so please don't shoot the messengers of corrections.

A question asked:- "where did the burle-marx name come from"?

Roberto Burle Marx (1909 - 1994) was a Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world famous. He is accredited with having introduced modernist landscape architecture to Brazil. He was known as a modern nature artist and a public urban space designer. He has over 50 plants named after him in his honor e.g. *Alcantarea burle-marxii* (Leme) J.R.Grant and of course the plant that began this discussion *Wittmackia burle-marxii*.

Keryn has been busy in her garden conducting her spring clean up where she found she has quite a few issues that need to be dealt with. Taking photos and bringing them to our Group meeting was, as she felt, the safest thing to do to not spread the pests around. (four photos page 5)

**Photo 1:** shows a white powdery coating over the roots of the plant and was found on the inside of the pot. This is a tell tale sign of root mealy, hose this off or cut and remove roots completely and make up a new potting mix containing 10% sand or add coffee grounds to the surface of the mix. Root mealy will be gone. For chemical treatment use Pyrethrum, Confidor or Malathion.

**Photo 2:** wrinkled leaves can be a sign of quilling brought on by dry conditions that causes the leaves to stick together. The leaves can be gently pried open or loosened up using lukewarm soapy water. (Rinse plants out afterwards)

**Photo 3:** is soft brown scale (SBS) that has no specific breeding season which means infestations need regular treatment year round until eradicated.

**Photo 4:** is a Fly Speck scale, a common pest of Bromeliads. There are two generations per year and seem most prolific in spring and summer. This pest can be treated with chemicals as above or use Rob Smythe's Canola White Oil.



The white powdery looking stuff around the root ball is Root Mealy.



Wrinkled leaves can often be a sign of quilling caused by dry conditions. Keep plants well hydrated.



The light brown spots on the leaves of your Bromeliads are soft brown scale. *Diaspis bromeliae*



The black spots are Fly Speck Scale. the scourge of Bromeliads. *Gymnaspis aechmeae*

## Neoregelia 'Anna #...' Numbers Explained

by Ross Little



*Neoregelia* 'Anna #14'  
shown by Michelle Hartwell

A plant named *Neoregelia* 'Anna #14' was on the competition table this month. Ross explained the history of these numbers (#) as it was explained to him by both the acquiring sources.

Peter Tristram from Repton NSW imported a shipment of Bromeliads from Chester Skotak of Costa Rica. On release from quarantine, John and Genny Catlan from Jacobs Well Qld. purchased a small percentage of the plants and Peter kept the remainder.

Both sets were named independently, with the Catlan acquisitions 'code named' after Genny's mother, Anna.

Some 63 *Neoregelias* were given the 'Anna' name and number (#) coding as 'Anna #1' through to 'Anna #63'. This was easier and shorter for them to write on a label rather than writing the full complex hybrid parentage which was entered into their record book. They are mostly individual hybrids from different crossings NOT a single grex as thought by some growers.

Other nursery owners also acquired some of these 'Anna #..' plants and gave them names and registered them. As a result, many of the same *Neoregelias* ended up with multiple different names. This of course is an unfortunate and undesirable situation which to this day is still unresolved e.g:

*Neoregelia* 'Hyperball' = *Neo.* 'Heck'

'Wild Gossip' = *Neo.* 'Garnish' and possible links to 'Milagro'.

'Hot Gossip' = *Neo.* 'Predator'

The argument again arises that the hybridizer should select the best from the grex, name them prior to release and scrap the rest.

To date we have collated 17 of the 'Anna #...' plants that have been named and registered, if you know of others named but unregistered let us know so they can be added to our list.

**Grex:** a group of species or hybrids: applied collectively to the offspring of a given cross; literally a flock or swarm. Generally identified by formula involving parents' names by hybridists before allocating a Cultivar name.

Taken from: The Bromeliad Society International's - A Bromeliad Glossary, third edition 2022.



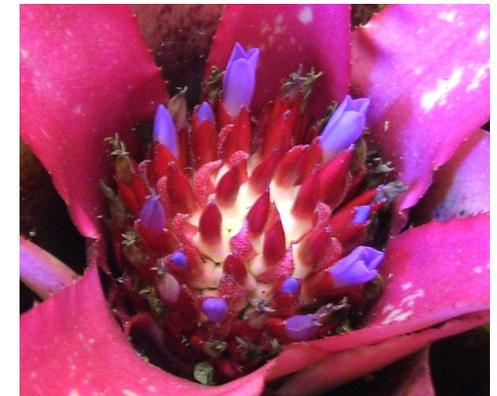
*Neoregelia* 'Cane Fire'  
shown by Kayelene Guthrie



*Neoregelia* 'Cane Fire Median'  
Kayelene's query last month identified



x*Neomea* 'Hummel's Strawberry' shown by Keryn Simpson



Some update photos of Michelle Hartwell's *Neoregelia* 'Laser' unreg. which will be presented for registration as *Neoregelia* 'Skotak's Laser'.



*xVriecantarea 'Seeger'*  
1st Open Helen Clewett



'Tower Brom-Air'  
1st Decorative Coral McAteer



*Alcantarea duarteana*  
shown by Mitch Jones



'Dew Drop'  
shown by Keryn Simpson



*Tillandsia streptophylla*  
1st Tillandsioideae and Judges Choice Gary McAteer



'Abstract'  
shown by Debbie Smith



'Jewellery Shop'  
shown by Kayelene Guthrie



*Pseudalcantarea* 'Silver Candelabra' shown by Mitch Jones.  
A cultivar previously known as: *Tillandsia viridiflora* var. *variegata*, however it is actually a cultivar of *Tillandsia macropetala*, a species that had erroneously been placed into synonymy with *Tillandsia viridiflora*.

See [Detective Derek 11/10](#) for more details at: Bromeliads in Australia (BinA) <http://bromeliad.org.au/>  
*Till. viridiflora* and *Till. macropetala* were moved to the *Pseudalcantarea* genus in 2016.

*Tillandsia velutina* shown by Gary McAteer.

*Tillandsia velutina* is found growing in Guatemala and Chiapas State, Mexico near their common border. In Guatemala, the plant grows in humid forest areas, mostly on volcanic mountains.

**Etymology:** The name is taken from the Latin adjective, *velutina*, meaning velvety.



*Tillandsia rhomboidea (acostae)* shown by Helen Clewett.

This species was previously known as *Tillandsia acostae* until it was made a synonym of *Till. rhomboidea* in 1994 by Harry Luther. Name retained on tag for future reference only.

Its grows epiphytically in rainforests from 750-1300m altitude in Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica.



## Alcantareas - Not All Are Giants

compiled by Ross Little

Mitch brought along one of the smaller Alcantarea he grows for **Show and Tell** *Alcantarea farneyi* (Martinelli and Costa) J.R. Grant, (1995). Type was found in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro: County of Santa Maria Madalena, Desengano State Park, Desengano Peak, Farney 1217 & Caruzo.



The green foliage has very small purple spots and only grows to around 40cm across and up to 70cm high including the simple inflorescence.

So far, this new species has been found only in the County of Santa Maria Madalena on Desengano Peak, including the Desengano State Park at 1600 meters above sea level.

The vegetation where *Alcantarea farneyi* was found is characterized as "Altitudinal Fields". The region is above the altitudinal limit of the Atlantic Forest in the highest peaks of the coastal mountains of eastern Brazil. It is notable for its isolation and the richness of its flora.

Conditions such as low temperatures, full sun exposure, wind and other natural phenomena give this habitat a xeric character. The vegetation, which occurs in island-like masses, appears to be typical of that growing in shallow soil or on bare, steep rocks.

Another small grower that Mitch had to show us was his *Alcantarea duarteana* (L.B. Smith) J.R. Grant, (1995)

It was found growing on rock domes at 1250 -1450 mtrs altitude in Minas Gerais, Brazil. L.B Smith said of this area: "There are a good number of dyckias, a few inconspicuous tillandsias, and a very few not so inconspicuous vrieseas. Bromels are not plentiful enough to warrant a special search but occasionally they can be quite startling."

Previously described as a Vriesea, Smith amended his original description to Alcantarea where it best fit due to its long, shining white petals.

Startling it is, its dull green leaves reaching out to around 1 m across and up to 1 m high including the inflorescence. Mitch grows them in 200mm squat pots in Brom mix with some cacti mix added into it.



**Aechmea sphaerocephala Baker, 1879.** compiled by Ross Little

Etymology: named in honor of the French botanist Francois Fulgis Chevallier.

Its distribution is restricted to the states of Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo, Brazil where it grows as an epiphyte, saxicolous (on rocks) or terrestrially.



This is a very large species we have growing in our gardens here at PineGrove, Wardell NSW. The flowering plant measuring in at 2.40mtrs across by 1.40mtrs high. Inflorescence is 14cm diameter. Another plant alongside this one is over 2.0mtrs high. Can't wait to see it flower.

It's a shy blooming species not often seen in collections due to its size. This is the first flowering for us after approximately 14 years of wondering which Aechmea species it was.

I say this because we have several unnamed plants from the Aechmea subgenus Chevaliera group waiting for flowering to be certain of their identity. So after 14 years we can finally confirm the identity of this one and what a stunning inflorescence it is.

Apparently it has a very long lasting blooming period of up to 2 years.

We first saw a photo of this Aechmea in 1996 in the book *Blooming Bromeliads* written by Ulrich and Ursula Baensch but never in our wildest dreams did we think we'd flower one ourselves. It always pays to pursue your dreams !!

Key to the Aechmea subgenus Chevaliera:

*Chevaliera* Gaudichaud ex Beer, *Bromel.* 22, 257. 1856.

(Type. *C. sphaerocephala* Gaudichaud, *Ad. Voy. Bonitep/.* 61. 1843.)

Inflorescence simple and strobilate or rarely digitate from a few spikes, often perennial. Floral bracts coriaceous or ligneous; flowers in many ranks. Sepals free or connate; petals with appendages reduced or lacking.

**Plant Names, and How They Got That Way**

Reprinted from: The Hunter District Bromeliad Society Newsletter, June 2001. Bromeletter - The Bromeliad Society of Australia Nov/Dec, 2002, vol 40, No 6.

The current binomial system of botanical names was developed by a Swedish botanist, Carl van Linne, better known as Carolus Linnaeus, in the 18th century. In this system each plant is given two names:

**GENUS** (comparable to an individuals family name)

and

**SPECIES** (like the given name), often an adjective describing the plant.

Plant names are written in Latin (well, sort of !).

Plant Latin is a rather curious mixture of classical Latin and Greek, words from several other languages, and names of men, women, or locations, usually given more or less Latinized endings.

If this person is male his name is latinized and will finished in 'i'.

e.g: *Tillandsia bergeri* after A. Berger, a German succulents researcher.

If a person is female the name will usually finish with 'ae'.

e.g: *Neoregelia carolinae* after Caroline, wife of Edward Morren.

If the epithet is geographically derived, it will usually terminate in 'ensis', 'insus', or 'icus'.

e.g: *Hectia guatemalensis*, occurring in Guatemala.

Among bromeliads more than half the genera are names for people or places; two (*Nanas* and *Puya*) are derived from native names of the plants and the rest are Latin or Greek descriptive terms.

Plant names are written genus first, followed by species - then sometimes by variety, subspecies, or forma. Sort of like, "Last name, first name, middle name last" on government paperwork. "Variety is seen frequently, "subspecies" and "forma", seldom.

That's simple enough, but we're not done yet!

There are rules concerning capitalization, use of *italics*, and names of hybrids, not to mention bigenerics and cultivars.

By the time you finish this, you should have a basic knowledge of botanical nomenclature (or maybe just a headache!).

## Basic Rules

- **Genus:** First letter capitalized. Maybe abbreviated
- **Species:** All lower case
- **Variety:** All lower case, preceded by “v” or “var.”
- **Subspecies:** All lower case, preceded by “ssp.”
- **Forma:** All lower case, preceded by “forma”
- **Natural Hybrids:** (Yes, there are a few of these) Given Latinized names, with the specific name [specific epithet] (all lower case) preceded by an “x”.
- **Bigenerics** (Two cross-pollinated bromeliads of two different genera are given their own name made up from letters of the two parents’ genera, preceded by an ‘x’, e.g; a cross between a neoregelia and an orthophytum would be *xNeophytum*).

## Some Examples

- **Species** = *Aechmea fasciata*, or *Ae. fasciata*
- **Variety** = *Nidularium innocentii* var. *lineatum*
- **Subspecies** = *Tillandsia schiediana* ssp. *glabrior*
- **Forma** = *Tillandsia fuchsii* forma *gracilis*
- **Natural Hybrid** = *Tillandsia xsmalliana*
- **Bigeneric** = *xNeophytum* ‘Galactic Warrior’

Some horticulturally interesting (but insignificant) variations of species may be selected and given cultivar names for example:

*Aechmea lueddemanniana* ‘MEND’, or *Aechmea* ‘MEND  
[or *Aechmea lueddemanniana* cv. MEND — Ed.]

[Perhaps this was not the best example to have given because in this case the cultivar name, ‘MEND’ is written all in capitals, the name derived from:

M - Mildred Merkel

E - Edward Ensign who sowed the seed

N - Julian Nally who gave the seed to Ensign

D - in memory of Ralph Davis

It is the Botanist that gives the genus name to the plant/plant group. I say group because a botanist describes a new species from his/her type specimen or set of specimens that the description and name of the new species is based on.

However a botanist can’t describe and name every single variant of a particular species which may cover a huge natural range over several states or even countries. There are several kinds of type specimens such as:

**Holotype:** The single type specimen from which a species is originally described.

**Lectotype:** A biological specimen or illustration later selected to serve as definitive type example of a species or subspecies when the original author of the name did not designate a holotype.

Some species are given a varietal name because they differ slightly to the ‘type description’ written by the botanist.

**Variety:** A plant having slight but distinct differences which distinguish it from the type of the species; a botanical variety as opposed to a cultivar which is a horticultural variety.

The species name can not be changed easily and should not be changed by use of a pet or nurseryman’s name or a descriptive selling name to make a plant sound more appealing to the buyer. Or as sometimes seen, a name gets changed for sales purposes, a new name means collectors want to buy one, only to find later that they already have it under another name. Buyer beware.

**Cultivar:** A plant produced in cultivation as opposed to one growing in habitat; a horticultural strain.

A **cultivar** can also occur in nature as a plant mutation however most cultivars are from plant breeders/hybridisers who in some cases name and register their creations. Botanists rarely recognise a variegated plant found in the wild as they are so far and few between and don’t reproduce true from seed, these species variants are generally treated as cultivars and given a cultivar name. We have seen evidence of this over recent years with many variegated species being given cultivar names. For example do an Advanced Search on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR) and enter *fasciata* group or *nudicaulis* group into the Notes section and check the results, many of these variegated species now have cultivar names.

### Why a cultivar name ?

For recognition, to help identify or distinguish one plant from another. As there are many forms, varieties, sizes, colours, shapes and leaf patterns to many species how does one describe to a seller just which ‘type’ one is after to purchase. For example if I saw a rather large *Vriesea fosteriana* and asked a seller for just that, I’ll receive a plant but it may not be the same as what I’d seen previously — disappointing. However if I took the time to do some research on the BCR in Notes - *fosteriana* group or check a label and asked the seller for a *Vriesea* ‘Big Red’ which is what I’d seen, when mail ordering, that’s what I’d get.

The moral here of “Why A Cultivar Name ?” is to make us the collectors, plant hunters, admirers and most of all buyers lives easier, enjoyable = happy !!

## Open Popular Vote



- 1st Helen Clewett
- 2nd Mitch Jones
- 2nd Michelle Hartwell
- 3rd Kayelene Guthrie
- 3rd Keryn Simpson

- xVriecantarea* 'Seeger'
- Alcantarea duarteana*
- Neoregelia* 'Anna #14'
- Neoregelia* 'Cane Fire'
- xNeomea* 'Hummel's Strawberry'

## Tillandsioideae

- 1st Gary McAteer
- 2nd Keryn Simpson
- 3rd Mitch Jones
- 3rd Helen Clewett

- Tillandsia streptophylla*
- Tillandsia velutina*
- Pseudalcantarea* 'Silver Candelabra'
- Tillandsia rhomboidea*

## Decorative

- 1st Coral McAteer

'Tower Brom-Air'



## Judges Choice

- 1st Gary McAteer

*Tillandsia streptophylla*

## John's Decorative Object - judged by John Crawford

- 1st Kayelene Guthrie

'Jewellery Shop'

### 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 : <https://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist/>

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 many with Table of Contents Index and there's 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.