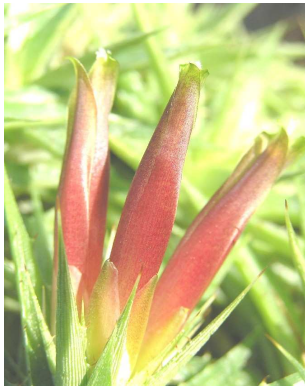


# S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE



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Number 5  
September / October 2008



*Deuterocohnia lotteae*



Published by:-  
**THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

**Email address:**

**Secretary** - [tillands@senet.com.au](mailto:tillands@senet.com.au)

**Web site:** <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

**Meetings Venue:**

Maltese Cultural Centre,  
6 Jeanes Street,  
Beverley

**Time:** 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month (unless advised  
otherwise)

**President:** Mr. Len. Colgan,  
1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, 5046 82969426

**Secretary:** Mr. Derek. R. Butcher  
25 Crace Road, Fulham, 5024 83567728

**Pots:** Available Feb., March, Sept., and Oct., meetings 83514876 Ron Masters for order or pick-up.

**2008 Meeting dates:**

Sep 14<sup>th</sup>, Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - Plant swaps & auction

**Coming Events - 2008**

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Any species plant

**October 12<sup>th</sup>**- “4 corners” Educational Demonstrations - hands on

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** - Sales Day

**Applications for membership always welcome.**

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb. to Feb.

Several reference photos courtesy of “fcb.org”



### July meeting from the Secretary's desk

CONGRATULATIONS to Bev Masters for producing our first Brom gazette in colour

We now have a remote control gadget for switching on the heating the Hall. Needless to say only our Peter Hall (no relation) was able to get it to work. More will need to be instructed!

### Adam Bodzioch talked on the plants brought in for display

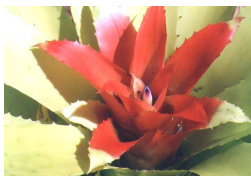


Aechmea  
*racinae*



Aechmea *racinae*  
Var *tubiformis*

First there was a blast from the past Aechmea *racinae* only here it was the rarer variety *tubiformis*, so called because the leaves form a tight tube compared to the type species. To those who follow Padilla's book – Bromeliads' remember she got her colours mixed up!



Nidularium *fulgens*

A Nidularium *fulgens* called 'Watermelon' because of the colour of the primary bracts was still showing vibrant colour 3 months after flowering..

Two Tillandsia *rhodocephala* were in flower. One, owned by the Secretary was apparently a hybrid from its flower which had taken 14 years to emerge and called temporarily 'Rhodohoodoo'. The other owned by Adam was closer the mark had been induced. Adam had mounted his plant but it may have been better potted. In the wild this species grows on the ground with so many rellies that each holds the other up. Perhaps the mounting caused the plant to droop but at least we know that there is one truly named in Adelaide. I wonder if it offsets!!

Bob McGregor brought in a large inflorescence of Aechmea *spectabilis*. Last time he brought in plant and flower but this time sanity prevailed!



Aechmea 'Malva'

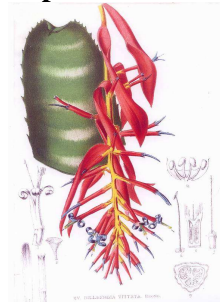
Adam had brought in a flowering Aechmea 'Malva'. This plant has an interesting story having been collected in Brazil by Wally Berg and identified by Harry Luther as Aechmea *mulfordii* but given a cultivar name 'Malva' because of the mauve leaves. Adelaide in the winter is not conducive to mauve colouring! As an aside I am always chiding people who persist in putting the species name followed by the Cultivar name. My view is that if they are clever enough to know the parameters of a species description then they should not need to repeat that species name!

Wintertime always seems to bring out flowering of Aechmea *purpureo-rosea*

### And now to a perennial problem.



Bill *vittata* Abendroth



Bill *vittata* paint 1871.

When is a Billbergia *vittata* a Billbergia *vittata* and not a hybrid with Billbergia *amoena* to give us 'Chas Webb' and all the other look alike. The easy way is to remember what the flowers look like on Billbergia 'Domingos Martins'. Everybody must be growing it by now even to arguing about how many white splotches do you have on each leaf This has a brilliant looking inflorescence and is typical of a true B. *vittata*. Please don't go by the cross banding on the leaves! Look for red sepals and dark blue petals.

### July meeting cont:

There were several examples of *Tillandsia* on display to show that even at this time of the year we have few equals around Australia. For those into names there was a *T. stricta albiflora* on display with pale blue flowers which doesn't follow the false latin name. I say false because there is no such variety. This leans me to albinos and was part of Len's talk in Cairns. Why do some species sometimes produce albino plants – ones with inflorescences almost totally white? Hiroyuki Takizawa considers them worthy of a formal forma *alba* name and has published several.

Leme has described an albino *T. stricta* as forma *nivea*, which would be a more correct name for the pseudo 'albiflora' if the petals were white.

Recently a Queensland grower of species seed said he had got white flowers in a few from a batch of *T. stricta* seed. I immediately gave him a new challenge. Self set the white flowered ones and see what you get. Anecdotal evidence suggests that seed from *T. 'Druid'* does not produce faithfully the white flowers.



*T. streptocarpa*



*T. tenuifolia*

Of especial interest was a plant collected by Eric Gouda where he was uncertain of identity. It was coming into flower and my guess was *T. streptocarpa* if you looked at the species in the broad sense as suggested by Lyman Smith. Many of us are aware that Eric treats all *T. tenuifolia* under a broad brush approach and we wonder why he does not apply the same theory to his find in 1996!

Then it was Len and Derek's turn to tell about their exploits at the World Conference in Cairns. Perhaps the greatest buzz was to read name tags and realise that they were an Email contact or just a name in the Journal. Because there were well over 300 in attendance it meant a lot of peering at name tags!



Official opening - Peter Waters, Joyce Brehm, Derek Butcher

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### First things first.

Your Secretary is now an Honorary Trustee of the Bromeliad Society International and his acceptance speech was the shortest on record. He said he was lost for words!

At the banquet on the Sunday evening he presented two Cultivar Registrar awards to two New Zealanders and then announced his retirement from International Cultivar Registrar effective the end of 2008.

We had to get used to various accents because there were people from around the world but luckily all spoke English. I saw a Hermann Prinsler on a name tag and immediately started talking to him about his variegated *Neoregelia*. I saw this stunned look on his face but pressed on. It seems he was not the Prinsler of *Neoregelia* fame but the Prinsler of *Aechmea* sp from Ecuador fame. A plant that has now been resolved as probably being *Aechmea penduliflora*. Anyway my approach had broken the ice and we were shown a booklet on his large nursery in Germany mainly on bonsai. It also seemed that his hobby was encouraging the re-publication of old Botanical books of the 1800's. He even gave one of his prints of a *Guzmania* to Margaret. At other times Margaret and I had to stand with others to have our photo taken – once with a Japanese chappie who spoke very little Aussie English. I am sure our mug shots will be winging around the world on various websites and we have no control as to whether we looked intelligent or not. As for chance bumping into people we met Hiroyuki Takizawa, of *Tillandsia* fame in the lift just as he was making his way home. Needless to say he still had time to show us two photo albums of his new twins of which he was greatly proud.

## July meeting cont: - World conference

Wednesday saw plants being brought in for the judging entries but our interest was in the Tillandsia Participation Event, which started at 7.30am and finished past 10pm. If you are a Tillandsia grower you are expected to be dedicated. When we have these at Albury we all sit at a round table with nobody the boss except for Chris Larson as timekeeper and a democratic dictator, and we all give a presentation. At Cairns, things were a bit different because we had a gallery to see how we operated. For want of a name these were the outer circle who were not expected to speak too much! Sessions were taken by Andrew Flower from NZ on aberrant behaviour, Len Colgan on different colours of flower in the same species, George Stamatis on Tillandsias in South Africa, Mick Romanowski, Vic on trying to find Tillandsias in the wilds of Peru, Derek Butcher on natural hybrids, Greg Aizlewood, Qld on Tillandsia identity or missing name tags, Peter Tristram, NSW on silver leaved Vriesea and how you do not tell the difference between Vriesea and Tillandsia using herbarium specimens, Barry Genn, Qld on hybridising, and John Olsen, Qld on another way to look at the many forms of *T. capitata*. As you can see a lot of food for thought and chances of pertinent comments being made.

Most traipsed off to Fasta Pasta for a sort of high tea only to bring their heavily loaded stomachs back to the evening session which mainly was the showing of photos and bragging about them.

At 9.30 pm there was a chance for Kerry Tate, from the outer circle to show us how -8C frost in Northern NSW can create havoc with your outside plantings!

Thursday while others judged and set up the sales area, the plebs were allowed to have breakfast with the birds, which was literally correct. It meant an hour's bus drive to a bird sanctuary near Port Douglas. It was a great experience having birds of various kinds swooping on your table and most were house trained. What I did find confusing was that the queue for eating went around in a complete circle and you did not know the beginning or the end. Eventually all were fed and we had a chance to wander around the sanctuary.

I won't mention the main events because these are covered in the 'Bromeliads Downunder' proceedings, which you can borrow from the Library.

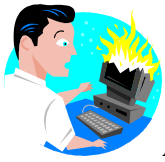
Talking of proceedings we will be publishing ours for the Adelaide Conference some time after the event. So many things happen at these conferences that are worth reporting on, including candid camera type shots, and we want to be able to do this.

Things missing from the Proceedings book were

1. The long queue to get into the sales area that was caused by the long queue waiting to get out and pay for their purchases at the one machine. I can assure you it was worse than the bunfights we have at our Sales area at Shows!
2. Prize winners
3. A hilarious, entertaining and drawn out Auction, which raised lots and lots of money for Harry Luther's Identification Fund.
4. Never organise a banquet/dinner where the guests are supposed **to go past** the servery area and be seated. What happens is that the food is just too tempting and it did not take long for impromptu queues to form. Luckily the dessert course was achieved in a much more ladylike way! Such were the delights offered even the diabetic ones decided to forget their diet!

Len finished off the session by showing some of the photos of the displays and competition plants. There were certainly many large colourful well-fed plants to catch the eye and be commented on. Some photos were obtained at great risk to the photographer especially in the competition plants area, which was more squeezy because of the number of plants. Interestingly the arrangement and judging took days with the plebs barred from entering this sacred sanctum! Just how did Big Len creep in undetected?!

Luckily for our own Conference in 2009 we will be concentrating on displays.



### August meeting from the Secretary's desk

It was interesting that nobody (other than Hon Pres) noticed the intentional error in the spelling of Bigeneric on the last page. I had thought about giving a prize! Talking about names, those interested in a little bit of Botany will have new words to learn if we are going to return to OLD Botany. It seems that Bromeliaceae is one of the few to move away to the 'American' system.

Margaret says that hearing aids are great because it means I have no excuse to not hear, **but** it also means I don't speak as loudly which can be a disadvantage at meetings!

Now that the World Bromeliad Conference is over we can now concentrate on Bromadelaide 2009.

Over 50 people have already registered so things are becoming serious regarding planning for volunteer helpers over the weekend. Being involved means you have a greater chance of meeting and making contact with other people from around Australia and the globe. AND it is great fun!

### Winter brag

Lead by Adam and we were very pleased to see how Colin Waterman grows his plants as well as all the other braggers. It is only called Winter brag for want of a name but it does give a chance for members to bring in plants that they are pleased have survived the winter – so far!

First up were the billbergias. How many noted that the flowering B. Silver Sheen' had flowers closer to the true B. *vittata* than the plant brought in at the July meeting and called B. *vittata* – see comments & reference photos on page 2.

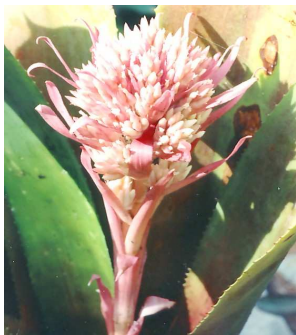
If you look in the records you will see the parents of 'Silver Sheen' shrouded in mystery purely because hybridists are not too fussy in identifying the parents they use. In this case it appears that there are at least double the amount of *vittata* genes that any other species that may be involved!

Getting to know plants other than their looks is fascinating!



Billbergia 'Kyoto'

Then we saw how unstable variegation can be from offsets on a Billbergia 'Kyoto'. Rob Smythe has just written an excellent article on the reasons for it for the Queensland Journal. He points out that leaves are produced in a spiral fashion and the meristem which is primed to become an offset on the inside of the leaf may be next to the variegated part of the leaf. If so you will most likely get a variegated offset. If the meristem is a bit off the variegated area then you get different variegation if at all! Therefore, an offset not to your liking should be removed!



Aechmea gigantea

It was good to see Aechmea *gigantea* growing so well. This plant has been in Australia for 40 years but rarely flowers. In fact its first flowering had to be induced by Carbide in Newcastle. Details were sent to Lyman Smith by Bill Morris and is the only herbarium specimen from Australia mentioned in the whole of Smith's Monograph. So Geoff has a special plant there. It must have been grown in the right place because the leaves were red and the plant was holding an upright shape. His challenge will be to flower it. When it is a bit bigger I can let him have a few Plevier's Pills to see what happens!



Neoregelia 'Perfection'

Interesting about name tags. The more you write on a label the more likely you are to make a mistake and this mistake gets inherited by others until they bring the plant to a meeting and has its label scrutinised.

Here we had a fine specimen of Neoregelia 'Perfection' and I hope that Peter changes the label.

Some people refer to this plant as 'Fosperior Perfection'.

It was registered as 'Perfection' by Bert Foster.

### August meeting cont:

In the Neos, George had brought in varying offsets from a *Neo concentrica* hybrid. The main reason for variation was in the positions he grew these plants. One had even decorated a fence post and somehow survived the hot summer in 'full' sun



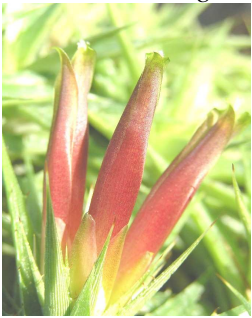
*Aechmea triangularis*

A different way to grow bromeliads is on a rock, preferably on a softish rock and not too heavy. George had drilled a slab of limestone and an *Aechmea triangularis* had become so attached to it, it had decided to stay. It was certainly a smaller rock than that used by Maureen Hick meaning it was more transportable but goes to show we can grow broms epileptically in Adelaide other than Tillandsia



*Encholirium magalhaesii*

There was *Encholirium magalhaesii* putting up a flower spike. This genus has species that are all prickly and this is one of the better ones because it flowers on the dwarf side at about 80cm

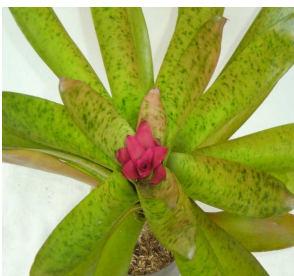


*Deuterocohnia lotteae*

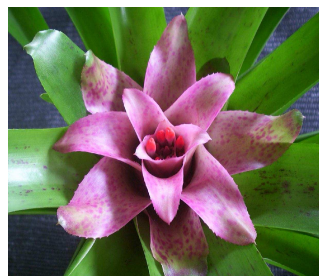
Then to *Deuterocohnia lotteae* that Len was so worried about petal colour which he said should be red. Bill Treloar who won an unrooted offset in the Raffle should be reading this too. The original description by Werner Rauh in 1983, admittedly was in German, but I quote the following – in English. “Petals narrow, tongue shaped, blunt, indistinctly triangular, forming a weak zygomorphic tube, densely reddish brown dotted, with a green bent-over tip, at the whitish yellow greenish base a frayed tipped ligula”. I have been close-up and personal to my plant and can confirm the colour is not solid and agrees with the description.

There were several *Vrieseas* in flower – they do like our winters. 20 years ago we worried about the sturdiness of *Vriesea* and kept them out of the wind in the winter and wondered why they died. Nowadays we know that they need airflow and would rather have natural rain than the stuff that comes out of the tap.

A *Nidularium* was still holding its primary bract colour of a brilliant red. Lainie is on a mission because it was said that the primary bracts will go blue as the inflorescence ages because it is thought the plant was called 'Litmus' She has promised not to use a lime wash because we all know what colour Litmus paper goes!



*Nidularium rutilans*



*Nidularium 'Leprosa'*

*Nidulariums* with spots on the leaves have been given all sorts of fancy names because of the intensity of the spots.

In the wild it is known that *N. rutilans* can now and again have spots on the leaves and sometimes on the primary bracts but they seem to come and go. The same thing seems to happen with the spots on 'Leprosa' in similar fashion as the instability of variegations.

It is very difficult to even guess what names should be linked.

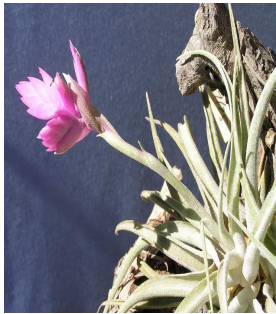
## August meeting cont:



*Tillandsia flabellata*

While *Tillandsia flabellata* is a bit temperamental in the Adelaide heat is best grown as a pot plant. It has a fascinating history which should make interesting because Adam's plant had *T. flabellata rubra* on the label. Why 'Rubra'? Usually this links to the leaves which in this case were green! Or the inflorescence which had red bracts the same as a 'normal' *T. flabellata*. Let us go back to 1887 when Baker described *T. flabellata*. Presumably he only had a dried specimen and did not know the colour of the leaves of a living specimen. Everyone accepted this name until 1957 when Foster made the claim that he had found red leaved plants in Chiapas which meant that all plants found in Guatemala must have red leaves too and thus link with the holotype! All herbarium specimens quoted by Smith & Downs are linked to the red leaved variety! Having decided this Foster proceeded to describe var. *viridifolia* (green leaves). So when Adam gets around to changing his label he should have it as var. *viridifolia*!

There were several mounted Tillandsia to look at and smell! One that caught Adam's and my eye was a plant that Len had brought in clearly with the wrong name. We knew that Len had brought in Lotte Hromadnik's book on the *T. tectorum* group so he could announce this fact to the world but we beat him to it. You see we have been growing *T. balsasensis* for many years in Adelaide having scrounged spare pieces from Maurice Kellett in Melbourne. I had flowered my plant years ago and in my butchering could not link it to the name. It went into the too hard basket. When Margaret & I were translating Lotte's work for her, we stumbled across this *T. chusgonensis* and although not an exact fit for OUR plant it was very close indeed. So if you have ever scrounged a *T. balsasensis* from Len or Maurice Kellett remember the new name!



*T. cacticola*

Finally, Bill Treloar had to brag about the 3 offsets he had on his *T. cacticola* whereas normally we brag about 2. George bobbed up and said he had often got more but for some reason had never bragged about it!

## Book review by Derek Butcher

### Naming of Names

Review of a Book obtainable from Florilegium Bookshop, Sydney

If you are interested in the history of plant names from the year dot, this is the book for you. There are many drawings/paintings/ woodcuts throughout the book. Some of the more recent ones you can even identify!

I thought that binomial names started with Linnaeus – how wrong was I! We go back to the ancient Greeks who were interested in plants because of their medicinal attributes and in those days they could link names with plants, The problem was that each language had its own name! The Moslems were involved in the European dark ages. It wasn't until the 1100's that Europe started waking up. Here we had Doctors, Chemists, Herbalists going to University knowing what was supposed to cure what but rarely knew the plant concerned. They left this to the peasant women to find. Needless to say there were many fatal occurrences.

The problem was still one of local names for plants and no way to link them. It was not until Linnaeus pushed the idea of linking them according to their sex parts that we had some sort of order.

So if you are after 400 pages of fascinating reading this could well be the book for you. Last price was \$20 plus postage

Special article – by Derek Butcher

*Neoregelia simulans* that is really *Neoregelia laevis* by Derek Butcher Jan 2007.

I could have called this *Neoregelia* species revisited because I just fell over this in my review of this genus. It was in 1990 when Australians first saw a plant called *Neoregelia simulans*. It had been collected in Brazil by Marg McNamara from NSW and I don't know who identified it. It could not have been Elton Leme because he knew what it should look like. In 1993 it was in Adelaide and by 1994 it was with John Catlan in Qld. It is a reliable pupper so would have spread to all parts of Australia. A comment at the time was that the flowers were scented. Whoever identified it must have gone from the meagre description in Smith and Downs based on fragments!! In 1994 I did take the inflorescence to pieces but could find no real conflicting evidence to the data in Smith & Downs. Since then the plant has just grown and flowered without being butchered until now!

In my thirst for knowledge I found out that Pereira and Leme had in fact written an amended description of *N. simulans* in Rev Brasil Biol. in 1985. The hardest part was finding the publication but perseverance won out. The easy part was translating it from Latin! The article was headed 'Emenda Necessaria' which was the case because of the missing bits in Smith & Downs. Here I found amongst other things that the petals were lilac and narrow whereas our plant had white broad petals with a little green line near the centre. A photo showing what *N. simulans* looks like is on page 25 of Elton Leme's 'Bromeliads in the Brazilian wilderness' 1993.

This sent me on a wider search and I chanced upon Harry Luther's article on *Neoregelia laevis* forma *maculata* in Journ. Brom. Soc. 51(6): 269. 2001. Why had this not rung bells? Perhaps we get set in our ways as to what a species looks like and we knew that *N. laevis* never had spots on the leaves!

The problem now, will be to convince others that *N. simulans* is not in Australia unless it has crept in behind my back. The plant we have is *N. laevis* but I leave it up to you to decide if the leaves are maculate enough to call it forma *maculata*.



*Neo laevis*



*Neo laevis*