

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 16th October 2014 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery  
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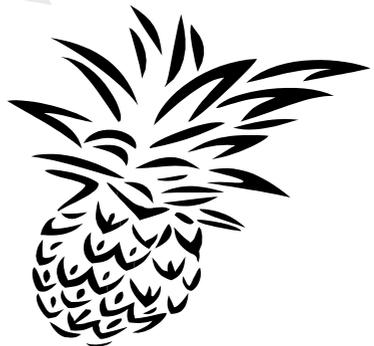
Discussion: September 2014

General Discussion

## **Editorial Team:**

Kay Daniels  
Trish Kelly  
Ross Little  
Helen Clewett

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## Meeting 21st August 2014

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am  
The 18 members and one visitor present were welcomed.  
A total of 13 apologies were received.

### General Business

Ross opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Unfortunately due to the wet weather we are experiencing quite a few opted to stay at home instead of being brave and joining us for what ended up being a fine day for most of the meeting.

Ross handed out replacement copies of our July Newsletter as there were some printer errors / problems with the first printing which were not obvious when the Newsletter was initially handed out at our July meeting. Of course the August edition with all problems solved was also handed out. Hopefully for our printers Natalie and Irene at Copy That, Ballina, who recently installed new equipment, only for it to let them down, the problems get solved and are over soon. Our e-mail mail-out was not affected.

### Show and Tell.

Ross told us of the name changes that are current:  
A distinction has now been made between the two *Edmundoa* 'Alvim Siedel' forms where this name covered both the variegated and albomarginated plants. The variegated plant is now referred to as *Edmundoa* 'Brazil' while the albomarginated form will remain referred to as *Edmundoa* 'Alvim Siedel'. (photos p.10)

*Deutorocohnia brevifolia* ssp. *chlorantha*, it is no longer being recognised as a sub species, but as a cultivar. It is now listed in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (BCR) by Geoff Lawn as *Deutorocohnia* 'Chlorantha'. (photos p.10)

Les wished to make a statement about Bromeliads and nomenclature and gave an example he came across when he was working as an officer with the Quarantine Services. Some 40 years ago, he saw six plants of *Cryptanthus maritimus* imported into Australia. These plants with the same name had five variations and over time the naming has continued to proliferate so that today, Les believes there are upwards of 40 different names for what was the same plant with very little obvious difference between all of the plants. Les' advice to everyone is not to purchase any bromeliad from anywhere without seeing the plant before purchasing so you know what you are getting.

Les then went on to tell us about his recent holiday in S.E Asia and the stunning Nurseries he visited and how beautiful the tropical grown Bromeliads were in comparison to those grown under sub tropical and temperate conditions. The consistent heat and humidity enhancing the colours, size, surface sheen and bloom of the plants.

Ross reiterated Les' comments on nomenclature and also spoke of his many experiences of buying plants unsighted and agreeing that the only way to get the Bromeliad you want is to 'sight buy'. Often those special or harder to find clones or your preferred colour type are best bought by seeing the plant for yourself to be absolutely sure you are getting what you want. If buying by mail order ask for photos as a way of guarantee.

It was suggested that if you use your mobile phone and photograph a plant you see somewhere, that is not for sale and has no visible name tag, this may help in purchasing the plant at some other time or getting it identified.

Many of the members present voiced their experiences of buying plants from advertisements, online sales such as e-bay etc. Meg told of her experience of being blocked by one such seller as she had declined a 'second chance buy' to purchase a bromeliad at the asking price.

Dawn spoke of her recent experience with incorrectly named raffle plants. Several months ago Dawn selected a plant from the raffle table with the name *Acanthostachys* on the label, the plant has turned out to be a *Tillandsia*. Dawn knows what an *Acanthostachys* is and showed us a lovely flowering section of one from her collection. Dawn now waits with anticipation for the *Tillandsia* to grow and flower. Sleuth Dawn "Never trusts the name on a label". (photo p.9)

A little advice from Ross to those who grow *Deutorocohnia* as some of these have scapes up to 2.50mtrs long such as *Deut. brevispicata* which is in flower in the gardens of PineGrove at the moment. When you think these long scaped plants have finished flowering **do not** be tempted to cut them off as they will produce flowers on the old scape many times over, each successive season. Keep a eye on visitors who have a tendency to snip and clean for you as they wander about the garden or oooops there goes next years flowers. Keep long scapes staked clear from paths to reduce the snipping temptation. (photo p.9)

Debbie had a large *Vriesea platynema* var. *variegata* (variegata – meaning beautiful), which is well grown in a large pot but it has not flowered or pupped and Debbie was wondering why? (photo p.9)

Many suggestions followed, a little more light as Debbie has it growing on her verandah, with Spring just around the corner a feed of slow release fertiliser, about two heaped teaspoons for that sized pot and plant and she should see some positive results in Spring.

Kay H. kindly brought in a tray of viviparous pups from a *Tillandsia secunda* that she brought in late last year in flower. We thank Kay for her generosity as each member present received a pup to grow.

Laurie showed three flowering Tillandsias, *Till. recurvifolia*, *Till. B.S.A. hybrid ??* and *Till. tenuifolia*, all very dainty and colourful for such tiny plants. (photo p.9)

Helen displayed her *Tillandsia* 'Cotton Candy' which she had shown and spoken about several meetings ago, it is now covered in flowers making a great display and the envy of many. (photo p.9)

Doug Binns kindly took us on a journey of the Oaxaca State in Mexico and briefly into Costa Rica when he spoke of a recent trip he made to see Bromeliads growing in their natural environments.

Doug researches the particular species he wishes to find before he travels so he has a reasonable idea of where he can locate these bromeliads and the type of terrain he is likely to encounter.

Doug began his story in Costa Rica, a country of tropical rainforests, diverse flora and fauna, set up well to cater for Eco Tourism as it is within short air travelling distance from the USA, with many in Costa Rica speaking English. Also accessible are the lowland rainforests and higher elevated cloud forests which contain great quantities of epiphytes and animals which the Costa Ricans protect for their tourism value.

Doug's main interest lies with terrestrial bromeliads such as *Hechtias*, *Dyckias*, *Puyas* and *Pitcairnias*, so he made his way to Mexico to see *Hechtias*, mainly visiting Oaxaca State. He also particularly wanted to see *Hechtia matudae* which grows near the town of Tepoztlan about 1 ½ hrs by bus from Mexico City.

Doug travelled mainly by bus in Mexico as driving a car, particularly down the 'wrong' side of the road was rather intimidating.

To get to some of the sites where the bromeliads grow often takes some negotiations with taxi drivers as the actual areas may not be just out of town. Doug told of the story of having been taken by a taxi driver, after much negotiation, out to a site some 15 kilometres from town and asking if the driver would pick him up at the spot some hours later, of course, hoping the driver would honour his undertaking, fortunately for Doug he did. Doug found that as a general example, the country folk in Mexico were very kind and helpful.

When investigating the terrain after being 'dropped off' Doug found a mountainous area with near vertical faces covered in metres and metres of *Pitcairnias* about to flower, another area of the range was covered in *Hechtias*, one being *Hechtia rosea* growing out in the open amongst rocks in very hot dry condition in contrast to the *Hechtia rosea* he has growing at home which does not like exposed conditions. Doug climbed to higher areas of this range where he saw unusual areas of scrub amongst areas of rainforest, the scrub was growing in loose scree with *Tillandsias* growing on the scrub and *Hechtias*, *Agaves* and other bromeliad species growing together.

Doug also visited an area nearer the coast of tropical lowland deciduous rainforest where he saw *Tillandsias* growing saxicolously amongst the trees in very hot dry conditions with other bromeliad species.

Doug is inspired to make the trip again to see more of the Central and Latin American countries and much more of their unique flora.

## The People Behind the Plant Names

by Len Colgan 2014

It is possible that some collectors are not fully aware of *Tillandsia ehlersiana* and *Tillandsia klausii* and why Renate Ehlers is so emotionally attached to them.



*Tillandsia ehlersiana* was named and described by Professor Rauh in 1984 in honour of Klaus and Renate Ehlers, almost an unknown couple to the bromeliad world at that time. The ending "iana" usually signifies a husband and wife pair. During one of their many expeditions to Mexico together, they discovered this plant.

**Distribution:** Southern Mexico, Prov. Chiapas, near Ocozocoautla, 700 m, on steep granitic rocks, in deciduous forest.

In 1988, Renate named *Tillandsia klausii* in honour of Klaus. She chose that particular plant because Klaus had to shuffle up a steep rise covered in all sorts of vicious prickly plants to collect some from the open ground at the top. When he returned down, he was bleeding with numerous prickles in him. They then had to race off to apply medication, and Klaus spent considerable time recuperating in a swimming pool. Renate just had to name the species after her beloved husband.



**Distribution:** Southern Mexico: Chiapas, near Tuxtla Gutierrez, highly localized on steep rocks.

Since those introductory appearances in the early 1980s, Renate has become a legend in the bromeliad world, especially in her native Germany. Despite no university qualifications, she has named and described over 100 new bromeliad species, predominantly tillandsias, many of which she collected with Klaus or others after his death. Her private herbarium was mindboggling before she donated it to a university.



What is the most reprehensible omission in this whole story? There still is not a *Tillandsia renatae*.

◀ Of course, I am unashamedly biased, because she named and described *Tillandsia colganii*.

**Distribution:** Bolivia. Dept. of Santa Cruz, Prov. Mendez: Paichu-Canon, 2700-3200m. The plant is currently known only from the type location. It was collected for the first time in July, 1993 by Len Colgan from Australia, Ewald Heger, Wolfgang Krahn and Helmut Alber from Germany.

## My Vertical Garden / Living Wall

by Meg Kerr 2014

A few years ago I was watching a gardening show create a vertical wall garden or as I prefer a 'living wall' of plants. I decided to research further information on the benefits of creating such a wall.

Living walls are useful for courtyards, rooftops, balconies, hiding unsightly areas and also indoors: uses here include — wall dividers, foyers and reception areas. Living walls create their own micro climate and the plants receive greater exposure to the sun and increased air circulation. Air circulation lessens the risk of plants suffering from mildew, fungus or disease. These gardens are low maintenance and weed free once completely established. Energy bills are reduced due to thermal and insulation properties of the living walls. They also lend themselves to the use of recycled materials, promote noise reduction and provide aesthetic benefits. The wall can be planted with a wide array of plants, including edible and ornamental.

I decided I would like to have a living wall using bromeliads for the plantings. This decision was based on the sheer number of pups growing and the lack of room in my shade house. After a lot of thought on the type of wall I wanted I decided I would try and locate an old wire bed to use as the wall. This proved harder than I imagined. Eventually, after asking numerous people if they knew where I could find an old bed, I asked the right person.

Initially he wanted to know why I wanted an old bed, after explaining what I planned to do he decided to tease me by saying he thought he would try the same idea. Eventually he told me to come and pick up the old bed at his place; unbeknown to me he had driven around with the bed on the back of his truck for days and was pulled over by the police for not having the bed secured. He then took it back home and sent me a message that if I wanted the bed to come and collect it or he would give it to someone else.



Once collected, we had to remove the three iron legs that were on the bed, we then purchased some old recycled hardwood timber to encase the bed in a frame. Self-tapping bolts were used to fasten the timber frame to the steel frame of the base, the holes were predrilled. Star pickets were drilled and bolted to the hardwood frame at the back to use as posts to hold the frame upright. Holes were dug and with the help from a neighbour the frame was dropped into the pre-dug holes and the timber at the bottom settled on cement pavers to prevent the base wood from rotting. As additional support, a brace was bolted to the house bricks and the top of the vertical wall frame.

No mix was required as the bromeliads used are epiphytes. The base was covered with 50% black shade cloth. We attached the bromeliads to the shade cloth using black plastic cable ties. These were put through the webbing of the base and the shade cloth and then pulled tight to support the plant upright against the shade cloth. Not an easy task!



Black plastic cable tie.



I thought about various designs, but in the end I used most of my favourites, and tried to find a balance using colours, stripes variegation, and spots. The plants I used in this project are mostly pups / offsets and when fully matured the wall should be completely covered and have loads of visual appeal. I am even considering making another one if I can source another old bed base.

Black plastic cable tie attaching the plant to the shade cloth.



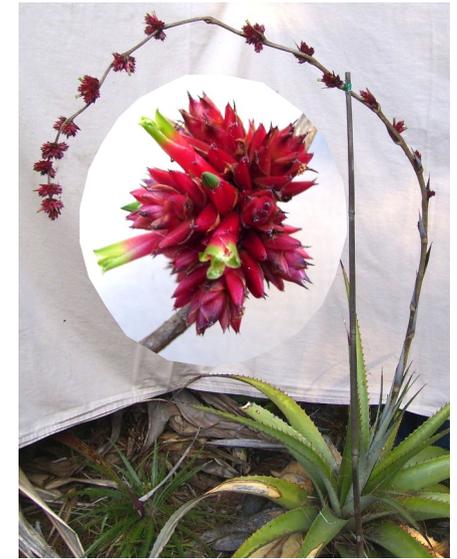
*Vriesea* 'Warana Mist' unreg.  
1st Open Meg Kerr



*Neoregelia* 'Nelson'  
1st Novice Flo Danswan



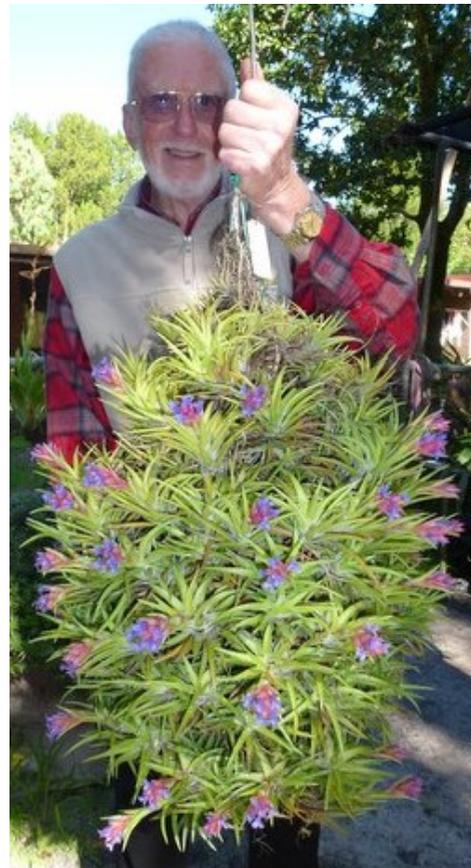
*Cryptanthus* 'Spearmint'  
grown by Les Higgins



*Deuterocohnia brevispicata*  
grown by Ross Little



*Aechmea* 'Red Ribbons'  
Judges Choice Trish Kelly



*Tillandsia neglecta*  
1st Decorative Laurie Mountford



*Vriesea platynema* var. *variegata*  
grown by Debbie Smith



*Tillandsia* 'Cotton Candy'  
grown by Helen Clewett



*Neoregelia* 'Lambert's Pride'  
grown by Trish Kelly



Mixed group of *Tillandsias*  
grown by Laurie Mountford



*Acanthostachys strobilacea*

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little, Derek Butcher and Lesley Baylis

## **Edmundoa 'Alvim Seidel' and now 'Brazil'**

Addendum to the BCR 8/2014 by Geoff Lawn, BSI Cultivar Registrar.

To avoid confusion, Geoff has decided to split the two variegated forms of *Edmundoa lindenii* (widely-grown in U.S.A. and Australia at least ) into two separate cultivar names.

The albo-margined form will remain registered as ***Edmundoa 'Alvim Seidel'***. Grows to 1 1/2 metres, with white primary bracted inflorescence and white margined foliage markings.



The green-leaved form with central yellow stripes and white bracts is registered as ***Edmundoa 'Brazil'***, to honour its origin. Mature rosette to 1-1/2 metres (or more) diameter. Mid-green leaves mottled darker green, with greenish cream / yellow central stripes. Erect, short, nest-like inflorescence of white scape bracts and white petals.



## **Deuterocohnia 'Chlorantha'**

information reprinted from the BCR

Published in 2013 was the Doctoral Dissertation on the genus *Deuterocohnia* by Nicole Schuetz where the old genus *Abromeitiella* was finally laid to rest as being within *Deuterocohnia*.

The species *Deut. brevifolia* was redefined and it would appear that the subspecies *chlorantha* of Schultze-Motel has finally bitten the dust.

This subspecies is widely grown in California and Australia in particular. Moreover, it has never been propagated from seed as far as is known but by offsets and as such can acquire cultivar status .



Each rosette is on average, 2cm diameter and each leaf is green with scattered lepidote trichomes on the upper face with about 10 tiny spines each side. While slow growing it can form quite large mounds in large shallow pots. In nature the species grows on rocks but it seems quite happy growing in a minimum of soil in cultivation. (photographed and grown by Ross Little)

## **Wild Orphans**

by Dennis Cathcart 2014

This might also be subtitled: 'Are you letting taxonomy spoil your plant hobby?' Right now you might be saying "What"?! A little background: The other day I was copied on a correspondence regarding bromeliad species in cultivation going by cultivar names. These plants I will call 'wild orphans' because they may be legitimate species, named or unnamed, but have entered cultivation without treatment by taxonomists. In other words, these plants were taken from the wild and brought into cultivation without being examined by someone qualified to identify it. So why is this a problem?

First let's talk about how plants get named before they enter the world of horticulture. In a perfect world (where have I heard this before?) a plant is found in nature by someone that is qualified to record the pertinent data of its biotope which can include the precise location, altitude, exposure, substrate, other plants in the community, abundance, variation and other data which may be pertinent to identifying the plant. Such a plant with data would then go to a qualified taxonomist who could possibly identify it based on his knowledge of the species or he could compare it to other similar plants previously recorded by researching data in published literature and specimens in herbaria which are scattered around the world. If a blooming plant with sufficient data is available and the plant does not match other previously described material, then the plant is carefully delineated. Measurements and notations of the size and shape of the reproductive parts and foliage are made, comparisons noted and the plant is sketched and described in Latin with all available data recorded. Such a description is then submitted along with a proposed name and its etymology in proper form to a publication with scientific standing in the field of the subject and it is then published for peer review. If no significant arguments are made then the plant with its new name and description is usually accepted as valid, at least for the time and a new species is born.

This process can take time, lots of time. First the plant or plants collected have to be in a condition sufficient to be worked on with all the parts intact, especially the inflorescence and flowers. Many plants have been described with only an inflorescence and leaf and some with less, but normally a complete plant is desired. If the plant is sterile, that is to say not in bloom, then often it must be held for a time until a bloom presents itself and can then be examined. Currently it is all but impossible to describe a new species sans bloom. So, lacking a bloom, someone has to cultivate the plant until it blooms or another plant that has a bloom will need to be collected in the wild. If the plant is deposited in an approved location, such as a collection maintained by a botanical garden or the

collection of a known taxonomist, when the plant presents a bloom it can then be examined and possibly described. If the plant is held by a private collector, the plant's provenance could be put into question. It is also well known that many plants will grow differently in cultivation than in the wild and thus makes them less desirable and less accurate for comparison to other similar, wild taken plants.

Sometimes a plant is so radically different than any others previously found that giving it a name is usually easier. Plants that may be different but similar to other species are much more difficult to describe. Hard evidence is needed to produce a valid argument for the new taxa. Natural variations make multiple specimens valuable to see if these variations are intraspecific and rise to the level of justifying a new taxa. This process takes time, sometimes years, and data from more recent collections can derail earlier concepts. If this is all getting confusing, try to remember that it's part of the answer to the original question of how a new plant enters general horticulture.

So let's assume that a new plant is found, all the data is recorded, blooming material is present and a taxonomist is available to examine it all. That's a pretty tall order in itself. Taxonomists are a fairly rare breed. Sure there are lots of them overall, but when you consider the size of their task, that of describing every living organism on Earth, it's a wonder that it happens at all. You have to realize a few things that are pertinent to our discussion. We were discussing how a plant is described as new 'in a perfect world', but the world of taxonomy is far from perfect. Plant taxonomists are people like the rest of us with private lives and personal interests. Many of the foremost taxonomists, people that have described countless species of plants and animals, were not 'professional' taxonomists in so much as taxonomy being their primary occupation. Actually, such professional taxonomists are very limited in numbers and exist mainly in institutions such as museums, botanical gardens, universities and such and have huge workloads and often too, taxonomy is only part of their job. Many if not most such institutions these days have money woes and taxonomy as a pure science is often pushed to the outer fringes of duties to be done.

It is well known however that much plant and animal taxonomy is and has been done by amateurs. Now don't think that these amateurs are somehow not qualified to do this work, often they are trained in the subject but don't work for a scientific institution. Other's however are self taught but intensely interested in a subject and have risen to elevated positions in the taxonomic communities otherwise reserved for PhDs. These more exalted amateurs were prevalent in the last century with many physicians, businessmen and others also dabbling in taxonomy with broad acceptance in the scientific community. An example that I like

to use of a more recent 'amateur' is that of Lawrence Klauber who was broadly recognized as the world's leading authority on rattlesnakes and who described over fifty species of reptiles and amphibians. His 'real job' was working for an electric company and he was an accomplished inventor, mathematician and businessman. All this though is to illustrate my point that taxonomists are not that abundant or accessible and nearly all of them have personal interests outside and inside of taxonomy. Not all taxonomists are interested in working on, say, bromeliads and of those that are many have specialties such as an interest in one particular genus.

Our late friend Harry Luther was a professional taxonomist and a prolific publisher of new species. As close to a generalist, especially regarding bromeliads as you could hope to find. Over the years Harry described hundreds of new species of many different genera including some that we collected. Still though, Harry had his favorites, plants that he would work on whenever he could. Others though were not so favored and he would often put off working on them for reasons only he knew. Over the years several plants that I collected and gave to Harry were similarly neglected or ignored and were subsequently collected and described by others. I did not always like this, but then had little to say as Harry alone decided what to work on and what not to. Still though Harry was accessible to me and to many others and became the go-to guy in bromeliad taxonomy for people all over the world. Other taxonomists are not so accessible. Some are simply unknown to many of us or are inaccessible, ensconced within ivy covered walls out of access to us mere mortals. Others that may be avidly working in bromeliad taxonomy are doing so as individuals, perhaps working on a revision of a genus or other task and are not interested in working on plants outside of their direct project, available time limited by their 'real' occupations.

Our friend in Brazil, renowned bromeliad taxonomist Elton M.C. Leme is by any measure prolific. He has described many new species of bromeliads and has published countless articles in popular and scientific journals and has written quite a few excellent books that have been both scientifically significant and popularly received. Elton often collects his own research material or gets it from trusted allies. His true profession though is that of a federal judge and as such his available time to dedicate to his taxonomic work is limited. This is sad for us as his interests are broad and his work often presents many new varieties to the world of horticulture and clears up many long standing mysteries as well. We selfishly wish that Elton and others like him would have more time to dedicate to the things that we are interested in.

Okay, so we know how plants might get described and the altogether bumpy, long and winding path that they must travel to get described. After that, how do

they reach the horticultural world? Plants described in an institutional environment usually have one of two fates. Some are dried and preserved on herbarium sheets and stored away in a reference collection with no living material kept. At other times they might be propagated with some material being preserved in herbariums and others grow on in research collections. Such is usually the direction taken by botanical gardens. Some if not most of these institutions have as part of their mission the introduction of new species to horticulture. There is no set way to do this. Sometimes pieces of a plant, seed or seedling might be given out to members, to individuals or to commercial interests to propagate and distribute them more widely. This is truly the best case scenario.

But what of the plants that are collected by either those not interested in giving their plants over to a taxonomist or those who have no ready access to one if they did? Many plants for a variety of reasons end up in cultivation, often widely distributed, without any real taxonomic identity. Plants may be collected and sold or kept in private collections without names. Some of these plants may well have proper identities but they are not known to the collector or grower or they could be new. Once a plant is distributed, even if it is labeled with 'unknown' or 'species nova', many times these plants will never be adequately identified and named. So then, what are we to do with them? If a plant is colorful or decorative it is likely to be desirable and people will acquire it. Eventually of course someone could identify the plant as one already known, but only those in a small circle may ever get this identity. More often than not, eventually these plants are given cultivar names. These names serve to help keep track of these plants as they are shared from collection to collection. Eventually there is the possibility of the true identity being discovered, but in reality it rarely happens.

In the conversation that set me off on this tangent, our *Neoregelia* 'Spotted Frog' was brought up. This plant came to us from a Brazilian collector/hobbyist on a trip to Brazil quite a few years ago. It looks as though it could be a form of *Neo. tristis* or another species but we may never know. This plant and our similarly acquired *Neo.* 'Brazilian Pepper' and the old and famous *Neo.* 'Fireball' are all species collected wild but that have entered cultivation without the benefit of having a technical name.

Some growers favor plant species and are such, let's say 'perfectionists', that they can't tolerate having a plant in their collection with a dubious name. Certainly Harry Luther would not abide man made hybrids and would not even use them in landscapes at the Selby Gardens, but did keep naturally occurring hybrids. My discussions with him though indicated that although he did not like unidentified plants being passed around, he was accepting of the use of cultivar names for them as long as they were linked to some data. So this is and will

always remain a dilemma of sorts but I think the use of cultivar names for these plants for the time being as a means of at least 'keeping track' of them is worthy.

In a nutshell here is the situation as I see it: There are many plants currently in cultivation that have arrived over the years by way of collectors, traders and sellers all over the world. Bromeliads like all plants have a way of finding their way into collections and eventually into the trade regardless of regulations and laws, and very often without proper identification. Identifying bromeliads wild collected is no easy task. It's not like you have a team of taxonomists waiting in the wings for any tidbit tossed their way from collectors who find them in the field and heaven knows many of them rarely or never actually go into the field themselves. Then there is the sad fact that many of those qualified to do this work do not get along or cooperate with their peers in the field. This is unfortunate but inevitable and wastes a lot of effort and causes many opportunities to be missed. Over the years I have collected and imported many plants, including quite a few new ones. On the occasions where I thought that I had something possibly new, I would pass it off to Harry or sometimes to another who might be interested. I can remember many times after hearing the comment that "this could be new" that nothing else happened! I fully expected that Harry or whomever would drop everything and work on MY plant! It doesn't happen that way. So, many times we just continued to grow them and sometimes passed them off with collection data and occasionally gave them a cultivar name pending identification.

Really, what else can one do? We all want new plants but we can't always get just the newly described ones. Though field collecting is getting harder and harder to do (legally) it is still being done. Don't get me started on the ethics of that; while we argue points, species rich forest is disappearing. Getting a good identity on a plant that has been in cultivation for any length of time is practically impossible. The best hope is that another one will be found in the wild and will catch the attention of someone working on that particular genus, get an identity and later show up in cultivation where you could compare it to your plants. Otherwise I think we should just enjoy our plants for their beauty and learn to live with cultivar names for our wild orphans.

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**Information of interest**

In the July 2014 Illawarra Society 'Newslink', copy held in our library, there is an article titled **Low Toxic Pest Control** from Neville Wood that is worth reading.

Les advises to avoid using EC insecticides such as Malathion EC, Rogor 40, Maverick, they are harmful to plants let alone the people using them!!!

## Novice Popular Vote

1st	Flo Danswan	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Nelson'
2nd	Les Higgins	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Spearmint'
3rd	-----	-----

## Open Popular Vote

1st	Meg Kerr	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Warana Mist' unreg.
2nd	Trish Kelly	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Lambert's Pride'
3rd	Marie Essery	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Burgundy Moss'

## Judges Choice

1st	Trish Kelly	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Red Ribbons'
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## Decorative

1st	Laurie Mountford	<i>Tillandsia neglecta</i>
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## Comments from the Growers.

**Flo** grows her *Neoregelia* 'Nelson' under 70% beige shade cloth, at the moment it receives water only when it rains and it is fed with Osmocote.

**Les** grows all his *Cryptanthus* in a shade house but while away holidaying they lived in his house out of the cold. Les is growing his *Crypt.* 'Spearmint' in a wire basket .

**Meg** bought her *Vriesea* 'Warana Mist' unreg. from Alan Phythian, it's grown under 70% shade cloth with plastic over the shade cloth for winter. Meg waters regularly (for her orchids) and uses Crown insecticide for scale control.

**Trish** *Neoregelia* 'Lambert's Pride' was from Kay Daniels as a pup. The plant shown is several generations on. Grown outdoors in full sun it has grown quite slowly to achieve the leaf stacking, no fertilised and receives all the weather.

**Marie** grows her *Neoregelia* 'Burgundy Moss' under 70% shade cloth on the floor of her shade house. Marie uses a little Osmocote when she fertilises and has not watered the plants during winter.

**Laurie** has had his *Tillandsia neglecta* for about 20+ years, over that time it has continued to grow forming this cyclinder of plants, it flowers amazingly. It gets plenty of light growing under a double layer of 50% shade cloth in summer.

**Trish** got *Aechmea* 'Red Ribbons' out of the raffle about three years ago as a pup. It hangs close to the roof of the shade house with 50% black shade cloth, being fed once a year with Osmocote, no pests and diseases until recently when rather large grasshoppers found it.