



# East London Bromeliad Society South Africa

NEWS  
LETTER

March  
2024

Established: 25 July 2009

ELBSSA is an Affiliated Society of



Bromeliad Society International

*Our aim is to promote and encourage awareness and interest in  
Bromeliads in East London and all of South Africa!*

## From the Editor



We had a lovely, busy February meeting hosted by Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall in their lovely, rambling front garden. A breezy, hot afternoon, all went well with a good crowd of thirty two of us in attendance.

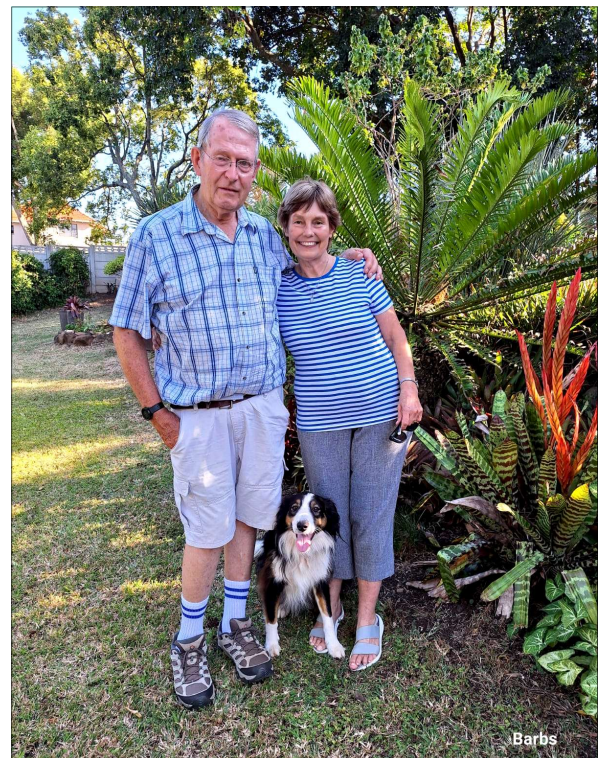
It was great to welcome country members from KZN Len and Kathy Moriarty who visit Cefane around this time every year and luckily co-insides with an ELBSSA meeting. Always great to see you both!! and thank you very much for the donation of stag horn ferns that were used as lucky draws. Much appreciated by the lucky winners!

It was also awesome to welcome new local members to the tribe, Roderick Ketterer and Marinella Prata, and Lionel Kretzmann. We hope you will enjoy your association with the society and of course collecting the most amazing array of bromeliads, it is hard to choose a favourite genus, there is so much to choose from; the varieties available are endless, spectacular and diverse in form, colour, leaf patterning, for sun or shade, adaptable and water-wise to many different environments. There is a bromeliad or Tillandsia for all kinds of different spots in a garden. They are just so

collectable and more so if you are blessed with that collectors gene, how do you stop yourself?!

We are all hoping for some more rain to break the incredible heat and humidity that we have been experiencing, it has done a fair amount of damage to some of our members bromeliads. Would it be possible to make a shade cloth canopy using stakes to protect a hot spot temporarily in the garden? We are experiencing lovely hot, sub tropical weather, ideal for bromeliads that originate from Central and South America, not so much for humans at this time of the year!

A huge thank you to Boots and Alison for sharing their garden with us and stepping into the breach once again, to provide a 'home' for the meeting this month. It is truly appreciated.



Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall, and Sushi, our hosts for the February meeting, next to a gorgeous clump of *Lutheria spleniet* just starting to colour up.

**East London  
Bromeliad Society  
South Africa**

**BROMELIAD  
Magic**

**R10 Entry Fee**

Bromeliad & Tillandsia  
Displays and Sales,  
Plus Many Other  
Exciting Vendors too!

**23 - 24  
March**

**at Little Beacons Pre-Primary School**  
45 Avalon Road, Beacon Bay

Sat: 9.00am - 4.00pm  
Sun: 9.00 - 3.00pm

**Refreshments will  
be on sale**

BY BOOK

**Bromeliad Magic Show weekend, 23-24 March. Next Meeting: Sunday 28th APRIL, to be hosted by Mavis and Terrence Downey at 64 Hallett Street, West Bank. We hope to see you at these events.**



The committee and I am sure society members, and the public, are looking forward to later this month when we host our Bromeliad Magic Show. See you all soon, together with your plants on show!

Barbs.

## February Meeting

Dudley spoke about our upcoming Bromeliad Magic Show to be held on the 23-24 March, then gave a short over view of Nidularium, which was the Plant of the Month for February before the splitting demonstration was tackled.

Brenda Wegner is co-ordinating the arrangements for the show, so any questions or offers of assistance, please contact her; 082 743 2141, e-mail: [brendawegner@gmail.com](mailto:brendawegner@gmail.com)  
Brenda has e-mailed a duty roster to everyone, so please contact her to claim a time slot that suits you to welcome visitors, take entry fees, sell raffle

tickets and advise the public about voting for their best choice to win the photographic entries on the show and also their best choice of winning Artistic Expression creation. We need at least



Lyn Wegner's creation.  
L. Wegner



Lyn and Dudley showing more examples of what can be created.  
BK Black

three folks on duty at a time split between morning and afternoon duties.

Plus members are needed to walk around the displays and mingle with the public, and answer any questions they may have. There will be plenty of folks around to assist, if you don't know the answer, we are all learning together. It is always a fun atmosphere and there will be refreshments available.

Members brought along a few examples to the meeting of Artistic Expression creations to give you some ideas to have fun creating something WoW! let your inner child come out to play. As Pete said, you can be like him, not the least bit creative, and he won last year!!!!

Also, most important, bring your bromeliads and Tillandsia to add to the display, remember if it is looking great to you, the public will be blown away, so please contribute. We will help you with the form to be completed and allot you an exhibitor number on Friday morning before the show. We are hoping for another bumper show.

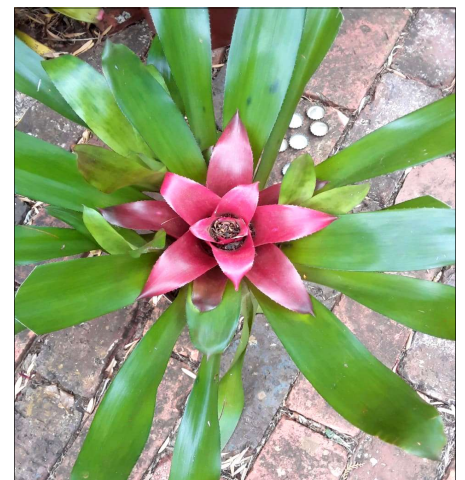
## Nidularium

### Dudley Reynolds

The genus *Nidularium* is often overlooked for the more popular genera such as *Neoregelia* and *Aechmea*. It is a relatively small genus, comprising of approximately 45 species. They are endemic to the lower canopies of the rainforests in Brazil.



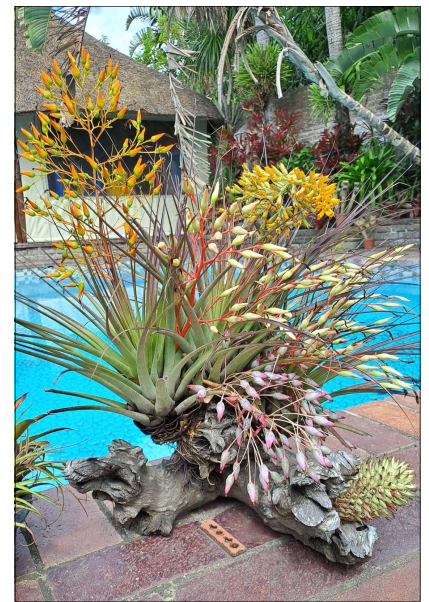
Now called *Nidularium amazonica* fcbs.org



*Nidularium* 'Casimir Morobe' L. Wegner



Lyn Odendaal showed a cascade of brom filled pots.  
L. Odendaal



Brenda Wegner created this stunning arrangement.  
B. Wegner



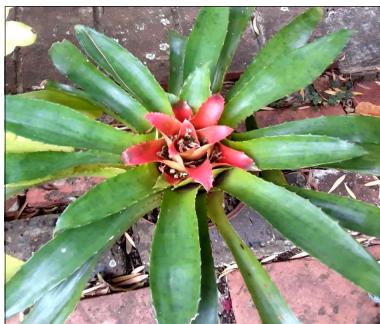
Dr Pete Pfister's winning entry last year, you cannot miss the dragon! Tracy Moss's Cryptanthus creation in the background.  
BK Black



The genus was introduced into horticulture in 1870 by Linden.

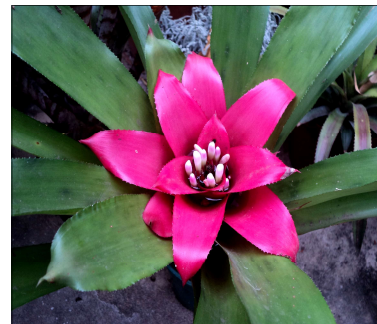
Living in the lower forest canopies indicates that most of the genus prefer shady conditions. Several varieties are variegated and some have lovely burgundy leaves. The inflorescence remains attractive for many months and is nestled in the reservoir of the plant, giving it the common name of the 'birds nest' bromeliad. Small, often white flowers emerge from the centre of the cup.

They are very stress tolerant and can survive with strong winds, sea mist, dry periods and freezing conditions. If potted, a porous potting medium is required as they are natural epiphytes, so need a well draining potting mix. Depending on which SEASON and the weather conditions, they need water on a regular basis.



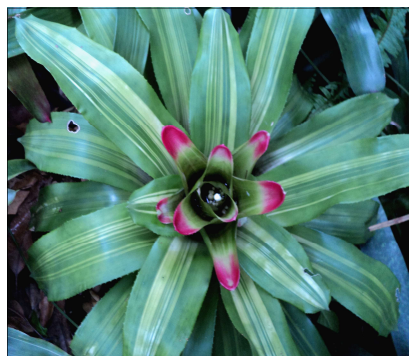
*Nidularium fulgens*

L. Wegner



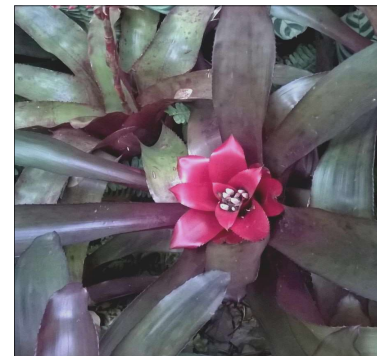
*Nidularium* variety

BK Black



*Nidularium innocentii* var. *lineatum*

BK Black



*Nidularium innocentii* var. *innocentii*

BK Black

## Splitting Bromeliads

Pete brought a big clump of *Lutheria* (formerly *Vriesea*) *glutinosa* to be split. It had developed quite a few pups, this genus tends to produce axial pups coming out of the centre of the plant which are difficult to separate from the mother. You risk losing the mother and the pup. Pete, Dudley and Dave got stuck in and managed to demonstrate to the members just how to do the job safely. There were also a few grass pups growing around the base which were saved too.

Another option is to allow your bromeliad to form a nice clump to make an attractive display. This does not usually suit *Neoregelia* with their rosette form for instance, which are best grown separately to let the plant grow to its full potential without squashing the leaves.

If you want more pups to grow, separate your pups from the mother only when they are at least more than half the height of the mother to ensure survival and good growth. The old mother, if not in too bad a condition, or a very special plant, might continue to produce one or more pups.



The huge clump of *Lutheria glutinosa* that Pete donated to be split, out of which 3 nice sized pups and a few grass pups were rescued and used as lucky draws.

BK. Black

### For our newer members, a brief recap on splitting bromeliads:

- When you are planning to separate your bromeliads you will need to decide whether you are going to plant them in the garden, mount or pot them. You will need pots, potting medium (which needs to be free draining), labels, which you can make out of yogurt or ice-cream containers, use a permanent marker to write the details. Try to keep your plants labeled if it comes with the correct name, you will thank yourself much later!!!
- You will need secateurs, loppers, even a small saw for some of the thick woody stems or a sharp, old knife to do the job.
- Bromeliads can start forming pups, (also called off-shoots or offsets) at any



The boys in action trying to cut through the tough woody joins holding the pups to the old mother plant.

L. Friend



Dave showing us how to split a clump of *Neoregelia*.

BK. Black



time, but most start 'pupping' after they bloom; and then the mother plant slowly dies off over the next year or so, having replaced itself with the pups. You can choose to leave the plant in a clump and just remove the old mother. Most pups grow off the side of the mother plant at the base or on long woody stolons. Some varieties, like *Lutheria glutinosa* that was split at the meeting, have an axial pup coming out of the centre of the mother plant's leaves. You do risk losing the mother trying to remove these kind of pups, so wait till there is more than one of decent size. By removing pups from most bromeliads, you speed up the process of the mother plant perhaps producing one or more pups. The other type of pup seen on *Lutheria glutinosa* were grass pups. These grow around the base of the mother and in the case of some *Alcantarea* varieties, they are the only type of pup the mother produces. When big enough they can be carefully removed and grown on. A tip: these grass pups can be placed in the water of the cup of another bromeliad where they root easily before potting them on.



A pup ready to be removed from the basal root area on *Neoregelia* 'DeRolf'. BK Black



*Neoregelia punctatissima* pups growing on woody stolons. Still too small to remove. I like to let them grow in a clump. BK Black



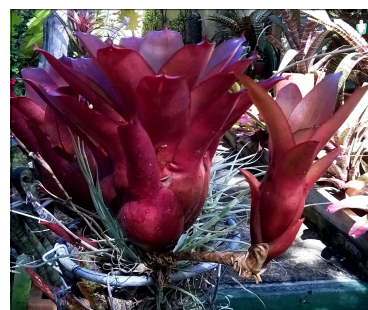
Adventitious or 'grass pups' growing on *Alcantarea nahoumii*. BK Black



Two axial pups can be seen growing from the centre of *Lutheria splenriet*. BK Black



A basal pup on a foliage *Vriesea*. These can sometimes be gently pulled away from the mother stem. BK Black



A *Neoregelia* with a nice strong stolon attaching the pup. You can separate or leave the pup on the mother to form a nice clump. L. Wegner

- Pups are ready to be separated when they reach about half to 2/3 the size of the parent plant. If the pup is starting to form roots, that's a good indication that the plant can survive on its own. They do not necessarily need to have roots in order to survive and begin life. They will form roots. Remember that bromeliads take in moisture and nutrients through their leaves and most can survive as epiphytes and be mounted. Roots are mainly to anchor the plant, to provide stability when potted, or on a host, eg. a tree trunk.
- Pups may be removed by cutting with a sharp knife or secateurs as close to the mother plant as possible. The bigger varieties may need a small saw to cut through the woody stem. Try not to damage the mother plant as it might produce more pups. Some pups can be pulled away from the mother by hand.
- The longer you leave the pups on the mother plant the quicker they will reach maturity (taking nourishment from mom). Feel free to trim back the leaves of the parent plant if they start interfering with the growth of a pup. To encourage the pup to grow, position the plant with the pups facing towards the light. Alternatively, removing the pups a bit smaller will encourage the mother plant to throw more pups sooner.
- Just remember that pups removed when they are too small struggle to develop and will result in inferior plants. It depends on whether you want a bunch of plants (for bedding or to share with friends) or if you just want a few that will mature faster. If you live in a colder climate you may want to wait until spring time to remove pups that would otherwise be ready to remove in the winter as pups don't usually root well when it is cold.
- Once pups are separated you can leave them for a few days in a shady spot for the 'wound' to heal or pot them up straight away but don't over water them. Best to keep them on the drier side till roots form to prevent any rot setting in.
- Alternatively, if you have a number of pups around the mother, you may choose to cut away the mother plant and let the pups form an attractive specimen group (clump) of that particular bromeliad.



- Some bromeliads, like *Neoregelia* look better separated so that the rosette form of the plant can be appreciated. Other genera eg. *Billbergia*, some *Guzmania* and *Tillandsia* often look much better as a clump of specimen plants. **HAPPY SPLITTING AND POTTING!**

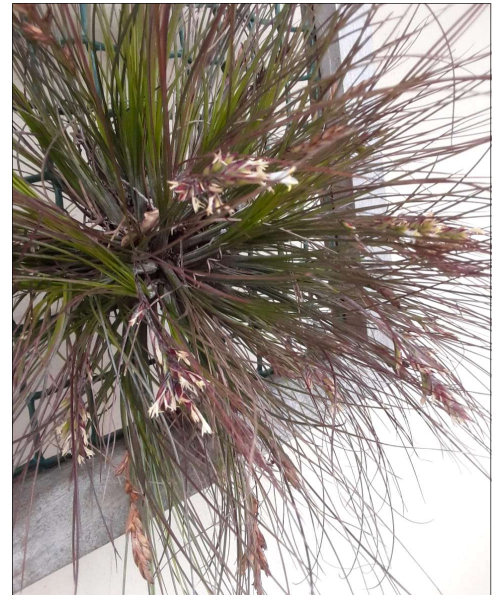
## Species Talk

**Lyn Wegner:** *Tillandsia remota*

This dainty species is found growing epiphytically in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvadore.

It has long needle-like green leaves and resembles a grass. *Tillandsia remota* is a clumping species and quickly forms an attractive ball form. The inflorescence has green/yellow bracts and white scented flowers. I found this very interesting and will investigate (smell!!) mine to check if it is very fragrant, or vaguely fragrant, as described!

I grow mine in a picture frame, on a piece of tree fern, hanging from a wire and in wire baskets in bright airy spots. They don't receive much water. They are very easy to divide. I would class them as fascinating as they look like a grass that is growing epiphytically and are very easy to grow.



*Tillandsia remota*

L. Wegner

## February Raffle Winners

- David Rathbone chose *Neoregelia silvomontana*.
- Christine Kretzmann chose *Guzmania* 'Patricia'.
- Eldon Weyer chose *Neoregelia* 'Sharkicelli'.
- Christo van Wijk from Rustenburg chose *Alcantarea* 'Aurora'.
- Les Biggs from Queensburgh chose *Neoregelia* 'Mai Kiwi Rose'.
- Corlius van Rooyen chose *Neoregelia* 'Marmazonica'.

Raffle tickets sold: Local 43 and Country 73.

**Give-away plants:** There were lots of give-away plants for members to help themselves to.

- Members can buy their raffle tickets @ R10 from Lyn Odendaal at the door when you collect your badge from Betty Heunis.
- Members are welcome to supply quality bromeliads or *Tillandsia* for the raffle selection. You can claim the cost of your plant that is selected by a winner from the Treasurer, Lynn Friend.



February Raffle Winners, Lionel and Christine Kretzmann, David Rathbone and Eldon Weyer.

BK. Black

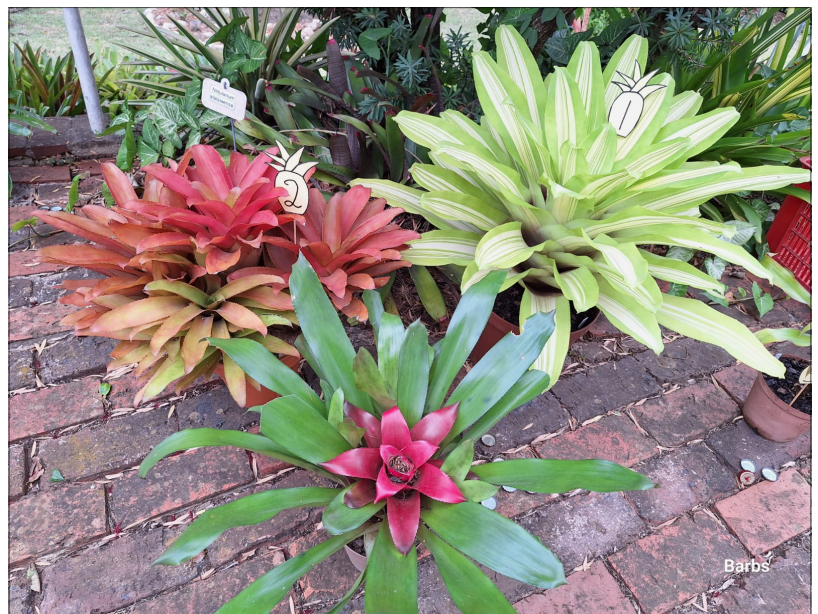
## Plant of the Month - People's Choice - *Nidularium*

A very colourful selection of winners for February! Well done to the Winners!!

- 1st: *Nidularium* 'Bahia Variegated' - Robert and Tracy Moss
- 2nd: *Nidularium ataliaiense* - Dave Gower
- 3rd: *Nidularium* 'Casimir Morobe' - Dr Pete Pfister

Also in the draw: *Nidularium* no name, *N. 'Stripes'*, *N. rutilans*, *N. campos-portoi*.

Please remember to place your plants for



Plant of the Month Winners: Back, 2nd: a lovely clump of *Nidularium ataliaiense*, 1st: *N. 'Bahia Variegated'* and front, 3rd *N. 'Casimir Morobe'*

BK. Black



selection before 2.20pm so that everyone at the meeting has a chance to place their vote for their best choice.

## 50-50 Draw

R220.00 was raised in the draw and Dave Gower won R110.00

*Thank you for your support and good luck with our next draw. Lady Luck awaits!!*

Purchase your tickets from Lynda Gower when you arrive at the meeting.

## Mini Auction

The total proceeds raised for the society from the Mini Auction was R675.00 this month. Well done to all who bid on the plants!



Dave Gower conducting the Mini Auction.  
BK. Black



It was great to welcome country members from KZN Len and Kathy Moriarty.  
BK. Black

## Thanks

- A big thank you to Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall for hosting the February meeting.
- Len and Kathy Moriarty from KZN for the donation of stag horn ferns to use as lucky draw plants.
- Dave Gower, Dr Pete Pfister and Lyn Wegner for lucky draw plants.
- Andre Eybers, Dr Boots Horsfall, and Lyn Wegner for donating give-away plants.
- Dave Gower and Lyn Wegner for donating plants for the Mini Auction.
- Jean Rathbone for delicious tea time treats.
- All the committee members for pitching in and making it another great meeting.



## Member News

- A very big welcome to new local members, Roderick Ketterer and Marinella Prata and Lionel Kretzmann.
- It was great to welcome country members, Len and Kathy Moriarty from KZN to the meeting. We love meeting our country members!

## Upcoming Society Events

**23-24 March Bromeliad Magic Show** to be held at Little Beacons Pre-Primary School. Information and details will be e-mailed to you before the show. Just spread the word amongst all your friends and family. We are advertising via the What's On, posters, Whatsapp and Facebook.

### Upcoming activities for the year:

- April:** Mavis and Terrence Downey at 64 Hallett Street, West Bank.  
**May:** Margie and Dougie Baker in Nahoon.  
**June:** Les and Andre Dry in Beacon Bay.  
**July:** AGM and 15th Birthday Bash! Venue needed.  
**August:** We need venues for August and the following two months.  
**September:** Possible bus tour to Bathurst!  
**October:** Venue required.  
**November:** End of year Christmas Function. Venue required.

As you can see, we are needing venues for some months. We are appealing to members, if you are

interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Lyn Wegner. It need not be a daunting experience and it is so much nicer to meet in a garden environment than the hall, which we try to save as an emergency venue if the weather is bad. All we need is access to a plug point for the urn and the sound system.

## Upcoming International Events



**World Bromeliad Conference 2024 - 'A Florida Treasure'** To be held on 22 - 25 May 2024 in Palm Beach, Florida, USA. The hotel venue will be the West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel. This is sure to be a wonderful experience for bromeliad lovers from all over the world.

## Glossary of new Bromeliad Terminology

We are maintaining a list of new terminology used during meetings when talking 'bromeliad language'.

### From the Treasurer Lynn Friend



Are your subs due? You can pay me at the meeting or you can do an eft directly into the society account. Please put your name as a reference on the deposit so that I can identify the payee.

#### Standard Bank

**Account Holder: East London Bromeliad Society South Africa (ELBSSA)**

**Branch: Vincent Park**

**Branch code: 051001 for efts**

**Cheque Account Number: 10169269351**

You can contact me,

Cell: 083 318 1179

or [lynnfriend1@gmail.com](mailto:lynnfriend1@gmail.com)

Aegeotropic	Ageotropic means growing in all directions ie not affected by gravity. <i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> is an example of an ageotropic plant
Bigeneric	A plant that is the result of crossing two different genera. It will have an 'x' in front of its name, eg: x <i>Anamea</i> Scorpio. The bigeneric name will be a cross between the genera involved in the parentage, as in the above case: <i>Ananas</i> and <i>Achmea</i> = x <i>Anamea</i> .
Bract	This is a specialized leaf found below a flower or on the stalk of a flower cluster and sometimes brightly coloured
Caulescent	Stem-like growth
Compact inflorescence	Branched inflorescence.
Digitate inflorescence	'Finger-like' with 'branches' coming from one point. <i>Tillandsia disticha</i> has a digitate flower spike
Discolor	Having two different colours. In a bromeliad leaf it usually means a green leaf with red underside
Epiphyte	An epiphyte is plant that grows attached to another plant/tree but it is not a parasite
Flavo	Yellow margin on the leaves
Grex	A group of plants with the same parents
Hemiepiphyte	This is a plant that spends part of it's life cycle as an epiphyte
Inflorescence	Includes the flower stem and the flower head with usually small, sometimes insignificant flowers
Imbricate	Overlapping sections eg, on the inflorescence of <i>Tillandsia concolor</i>
Lanceolate	Large at the base then tapering to a point
Lithophyte	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Mesic	A growing habitat containing a moderate amount of moisture
Myrmecophyte	Ants inhabit the base of bulbous <i>Tillandsia</i> varieties. An example <i>T. bulbosa</i>
Novar	A variegated or albomarginated plant that has lost it's variegation
Pedice	Flower stalk
Rupicolous	Living or growing on or among rocks
Semi sessile	Flowers on a short stem
Simple	A single un-branched inflorescence
Stolon	Long woody runner or stem from a mother plant that a new pup develops on
Stoloniferous	Pups/plants form at the end of a stolon
Saxicole	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Xeric	A growing habitat containing little moisture or very dry

This is a publication for the **East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa** for the interest of its members. Articles may be used by non profit societies with acknowledgement to the author where applicable and East London Bromeliad Society South Africa. Please use the photos that accompany the article used. If you require higher resolution photos please request them from the Editor.

Any opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Society.

When submitting items for inclusion in this newsletter, please ensure that all facts and information, including spelling, is checked and accurate.

**ELBSSA is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International.**

**Address:** c/o 18 Wentworth Road, Sunnyside, East London 5201 South Africa, brommiesfa@gmail.com

We meet on the last Sunday of every month at 2.00 for 2.30pm, January to November, at various venues around East London.

We have a topic for each meeting and Show and Tell where members are encouraged to bring along their brag or problem plants.

There are member raffles, lucky draws for those present, tea time, library and member plant sales, plus a monthly newsletter sent out via e-mail only.

Visitors are always welcome and can attend three meetings before they will need to join the society in order to continue attending. Annual subs are R150.00 for individuals/families and R60 for students.

### Committee Members

Chairman:	Dudley Reynolds		079 478 2338	dudleyreynolds1@gmail.com
Vice- Chairman:	Dr Peter Pfister		082 625 5533	tanuki@mweb.co.za
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Country Raffles	Dave Gower		063 694 1650	djagower@gmail.com
Country Raffles	Lynda Gower		083 347 4705	lyndag@mweb.co.za
Events Co-ordinator:	Brenda Wegner		082 743 2141	brendawegner@gmail.com
Librarian:	Brenda Wegner		082 743 2141	brendawegner@gmail.com
Catering:	Jean Rathbone		082 640 5650	jean.justcountry@gmail.com
Member Badges & Tea Payments:	Betty Heunis		073 226 1610	bettyheunis@gmail.com
Sound System	David Rathbone		082 824 3585	dilrathbone@gmail.com
Photographer	Brenda Wegner		082 743 2141	brendawegner@gmail.com
50-50 Draw Convener	Lynda Gower		083 347 4705	lyndag@mweb.co.za
Mini Auction Convener	Dave Gower		063 694 1650	djagower@gmail.com



You will find **ELBSSA on Facebook**: type 'East London Bromeliad Society' into the fb search bar. You can request to join the group and will then be able to upload your photos and comments on the wall. The ELBS SA page and other bromeliad related sites are a useful and informative forum to share and 'meet up' with other like-minded bromeliad folks.

You can view most of all the bromeliads mentioned in meetings or in the newsletter at the following websites:

The BSI's official **Bromeliad Cultivar Registry** [www.registry.bsi.org](http://www.registry.bsi.org) which is maintained by Geoff Lawn, the BSI Cultivar Registrar. Plus other information regarding the Bromeliad Society International and bromeliads is found at bsi.org

The new **BSD** or **BSI Bromeliad Species Database** is the 'go to' resource for bromeliad species info on line which can be accessed at [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)

**Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies:** [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) This is another very useful site where you can also reference many bromeliads, clarify identification or just trawl through the site and add to your wish list!

**Encyclopedia of Bromeliads** <http://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia/> (Bromeliad Taxonomists and Growers Society) has photographs. It also now has keys for the genera and sub-genera. If you like to be informed what is happening, just follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bromeliadsencyclopedia> Just type in 'Encyclopedia of Bromeliads' into the Facebook search bar.

For internet resources you can also go to **The New Bromeliad List** for the most authoritative and right up to date list of genera and species, accepted and new names and taxonomic keys developed by Eric Gouda - <https://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia/or> permanent URL for species names: <https://bromeliad.nl/species/<species name>> eg: <https://bromeliad.nl/species/Tillandsia/ionantha> Taxon list: <https://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist>



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Sun: 9.00 - 3.00pm

**Refreshments will  
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