

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

Edition: January 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 February 17th 2022 at 11 a.m.

**Editorial Team:**

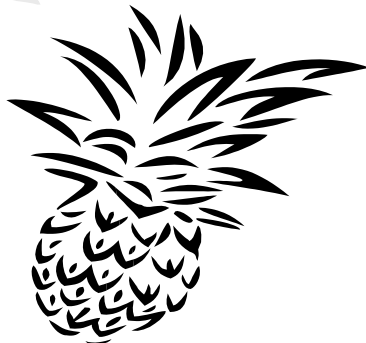
Ross Little

Helen Clewett

Lesley Baylis

[pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com](mailto:pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com)

**Life Members:** Gary McAteer, Coral McAteer  
Debbie Smith, Shirley Smith



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## **Meeting 16th December 2021**

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am

The 11 members present were welcomed.

Two apologies were received.

### **General Business**

Our Christmas party is upon us again announcing another year has passed. All in all it hasn't been too bad for our Group having to abandon only two meetings during 2021, those being July / August. Covid-19 unfortunately is still preventing some of our interstate members from attending regularly, hopefully we'll see them in 2022 with the opening of our borders and restrictions being lifted.

Even though our Christmas get together was only a small affair we all had quite an enjoyable day. We were a little lucky on the day regards the weather which had been wet, wet, wet until the morning of the beautiful sunny day we then enjoyed. However as the last of the guests left the heavens opened again !! A very pleasing lunch was had with each member bringing a plate, except for Verde the parrot who came for lunch and chatted to all (photo p.9). The trifle and pavlovas put smiles on our faces as they were brought out and Mitch's vegan chocolate tart raised a few mmmmmms as well. Those of us watching our waist lines (not) didn't leave those dessert dishes untouched either. Thanks to everyone for the food brought along, with predominantly empty dishes to take home, I think that said it all, a totally enjoyable lunch.

Each year our small band of growers have fun competing against each other in the Popular Vote Competition, again we saw each section well supported with some fierce competition for top honours. However there can only be one winner in each section, results back page and photos p.8.

Congratulations to those who entered each month making the competition quite a tight finish. The point score tally was very close at the end with only a single point separating first and second place. The quality of plants shown each month were of a very good standard. For those who didn't enter, don't forget you get a point just for entering, so there's 11 points if you enter every month. Placings are: three points for first place, two points for second and one point for third. Consistency in entering every month and earning a point or two can win over only entering and winning a few times during the year. Also by entering the competition each month it shows off your plants and gives us some topics to discuss, especially if you're showing a not often seen specimen.

Thank you to those who assisted in running the Group during the year, to Coral for her donations of tea, coffee and cups etc. and for brightening up our meeting area with the Christmas decorations, chocolates and candy canes. Also thanks go to Debbie our raffle co-ordinator and her helpers. A special congratulations and thank you to Debbie and Shirley who were presented **Life Member** badges for their over 10 years of service to the FNCBSG NSW.

Also thank you to those who have contributed articles for your Newsletter. We've had articles sent to us from members who haven't been able to attend regularly, these are greatly appreciated as are all articles received. Photos of your garden growing achievements have also been well received as not all plants in a collection are able to be transported to meetings to be shown off. This is your Newsletter, so send us your photos and articles, they only need to be short stories, one and two page articles including photos are perfect. We asked how members are coping with Covid-19, Mitch told us of his hybridizing exploits and Kaylene in this issue tells how Covid got her back into the garden and helped bring her neighbourhood together through her covid-cakes.

### **My Covid-19 Survival Story**

by Kaylene Guthrie

There are many tales of survival of the Covid-19 Pandemic - but now 2 years on, this is my story of how our family are weathering the ongoing 'Covid Waves' by introducing some interesting activities which have fostered some enduring neighbourly support and interaction (in a 'Covid safe' manner of course!).

Having worked full time in the Acute Hospital environment as a Nurse and Manager for over 42 years, I thought that I had seen most things - but this Covid Pandemic was like no other in my life time. For the first time in my adult life, I was able to watch the Pandemic unfold in a timely and sequential manner - having just retired and able to leap out of bed each day to see the progression on the news - rather than retrospectively catching up with the news at the end of a long day at work.

Early in the pandemic I considered myself lucky, as my confinement to home was not constant nor ongoing. I happened to be the 'Uber driver' for an 'essential worker' during the initial lockdown period. This allowed me to leave my home each day. During these times I made good of the 'essential requirements' of visiting the supermarket not just for myself, but for our elderly neighbours and friends as required. I also attended another 'essential' duty monthly by assisting a GP conduct surgical procedures in the local area. My husband Clive was an essential health worker in the hospital setting - so life for us during the lockdowns was not as constrictive as it was for so many others.

During these Covid times, I gardened a lot and worked on my ever growing Bromeliad family of plants. I have always gardened and have always had bromeliads - I just didn't have a lot of time during my full time working life to get to understand them, tend to them and admire them as they deserved. I also played my drums (yes, I have a real drum set) - a skill that I learnt in my retirement following my early years of learning and playing classical piano.

During my career as a Nurse Manager, I worked constantly with Strategic Planning. It was with this history and experience in mind that I conjured up the idea of involving our neighbours in a Friday Night get together "Covid Style" as a means of surviving the rather restricted nature of the unfolding pandemic.

This suggestion was put to our neighbours as the **"Covid 19 Mental Health Strategic Plan" for the 3 families**. I named the event **"Wine on the Fence-line"** - and it has continued ever since. *NOTE: this Mental Health Plan predated the actual Government's Mental Health initiative!* The neighbours embraced the concept immediately and it has been one of the most wonderful weekly gatherings with very few meetings missed over this 2 year period. We sit in our lovely big yard under the shade of the Norfolk Island pine near the fence-line with our fold up chairs, wine and finger food. It is here that we debrief over the latest developments of the pandemic and attempt to solve the problems of the world!

The neighbours just love it. It has really lifted our spirits during these rather difficult and unusual times. I can honestly say that we have a real appreciation of our neighbours, who previously only really saw each other when driving off in their cars. We just love and look forward to our Friday nights! In winter we light a little fire in a brazier and sit around that for the event.

We even held an Anzac Day Dawn Service on the roadside in 2020, with each neighbour at their driveway entrance holding candles listening to the portable radio sounding the 'Last Post'. My cream can mail box was adorned with red flowers from my bromeliad garden. Of course we were all in our PJ's and didn't look too bright up close!

Once this event kicked off and became an ongoing hit, I thought there must be another unique way of mapping the Covid Progression. This is when the **"Covid Cake"** concept was born. Of course these cakes were consumed along with the wine - on the fence- line!

**I have now made 11 Covid Cakes over the 2 years** of the pandemic plus a cake related to the American Presidential Election in November 2020.

## The cakes in order of the Covid Story include:



Picture of food colouring stained hands indicative of **"poor hand hygiene"**. This was not a cake, it was a great photo that was used to demonstrate the "germs" left on our hands when they are not washed adequately. My daughter used this image

when teaching her primary school children the importance of Hand Hygiene!



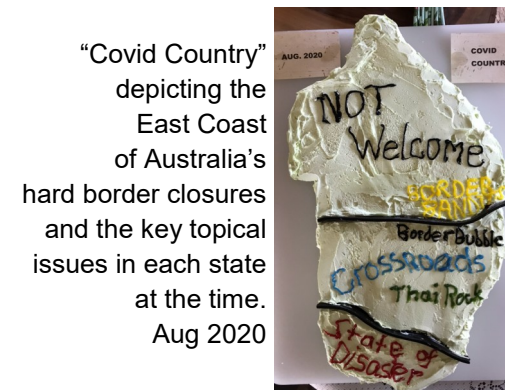
Covid 19 Virus Cake  
April 2020.



Flattening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Covid Wave Curve in NSW (statistically correct) - May 2020.



"The USA Election"  
depicting the Democrats and Republican States won / undecided - November 2020.



"Covid Country"  
depicting the East Coast of Australia's hard border closures and the key topical issues in each state at the time.  
Aug 2020



Australia's National Vaccination Program Rollout - Feb 2021 (Pfizer).

Photos and cakes by Kayelene Guthrie



Mask Mandate - Easter,  
April 2021.



Delta Wave  
in  
NSW  
(statistically  
correct)  
July 2021.



"Lismore Unchained"  
Snap lockdown lifted September 2021.

Greater  
than 80%  
double  
vaccinated  
NSW  
"Freedom  
Day"  
October  
2021.



Covid-19 Ag  
PCR  
vs  
RAT  
January  
2022.



So..... We have all been through so much in just a 2 year period. As human beings, it is interesting that although at times there has been unrest, distress, tragedy, scepticism and ongoing political criticism, what a collective effort there has been, what incredible breakthroughs in science and technology and also incredible examples of strength, ingenuity and the ability to adjust during times of adversity. The majority of people are playing by the 'rules'. We have become so well versed in so many changed practices - many of which we will continue, not just for our own wellbeing but for the sake of the greater good.

I hope that you have enjoyed my Covid Journey. Stay Safe "All will be well".



John Crawford hasn't been able to attend meetings over the past few months still likes to keep in touch by sending photos of some of his flowering collection.

The plants in both photos here are grown from seed collected by John in Bahia State, Brazil many years ago.

The plant above is possibly a *Hohenbergia*, it needs the flowers to be dissected and compared to various botanical descriptions.

Left is *Billbergia portearia*  
Refer: FNCBSG NSW Newsletter  
January 2019, pages 4 and 5.





Debbie and Shirley Smith  
Awarded Life Membership



Keryn Simpson  
Decorative Champion 2021



Ross



Kayelene



Helen Clewett  
Open and Tillandsioideae Champion  
2021



Mitch Jones  
Judges Choice Champion  
2021



Keryn and Dave



Michelle



Coral  
and  
Gary



Verde the eclectus parrot



## Meaning of F1, F2 and F3 in Hybrid Bromeliads by Mitch Jones

Hybrid or seed grown bromeliads are often referred to as F1, F2, F3..... It is just the accepted nomenclature in which we can distinguish hybrid bromeliads between the different generations.

**P** = Parental generation; the parent individuals from which offspring are derived.

**F1** = The first filial generation; often a constant breeding hybrid type.

**F2** = The second filial generation; the progeny from crossing or selfing the F1.

**F3** = The third filial generation; the progeny from the crossing or selfing the F2.  
The number increases for each subsequent generation.

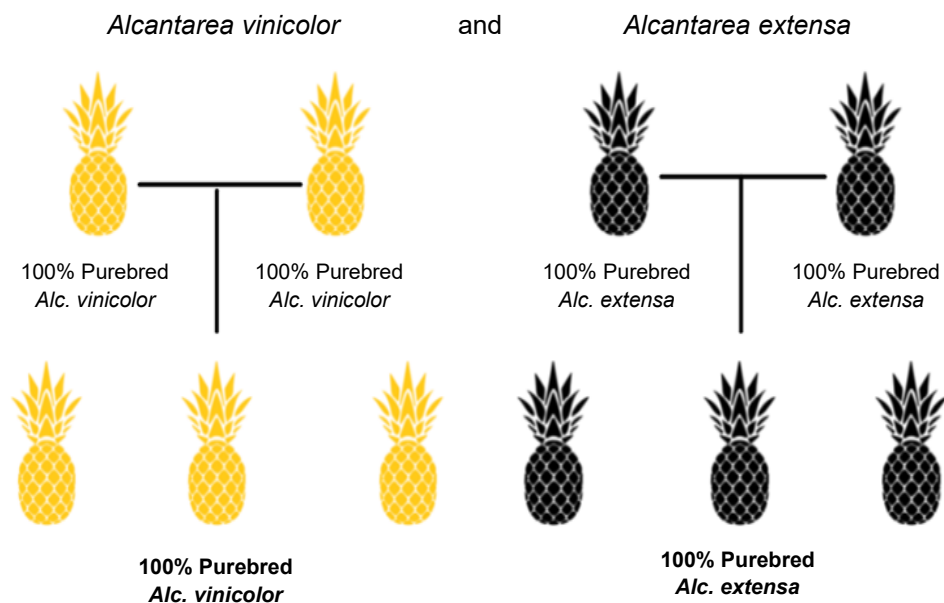
**Filial meaning:** 1 - Denoting the offspring of a cross.

2 - Relating to or due from a son or daughter.

**P Generation:** 100% purebred or parent individual parentage of a bromeliad.

These bromeliads are the fruits of true breeding, meaning they are purebreds or parents which belong to a specific bromeliad species or cultivar. These are derived from offsets of the original registered plant or from a wild population.

Examples:



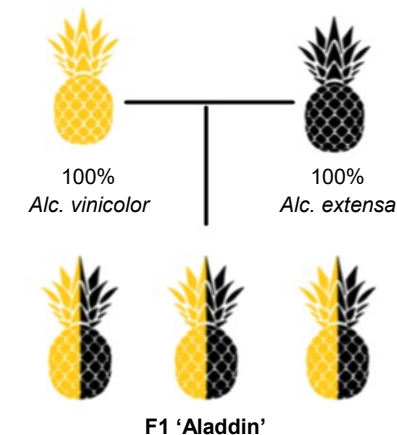
## **F1 Generation:**

50% purebred bromeliad - A

50% purebred bromeliad - B

These bromeliads are the result of the breeding of two purebred bromeliads. Half of each bromeliad is the mother's breed (seed parent) and the other half is the father's breed (pollen parent).

Example: *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' whose mother is a *Alcantarea extensa* and father is a *Alcantarea vinicolor*.



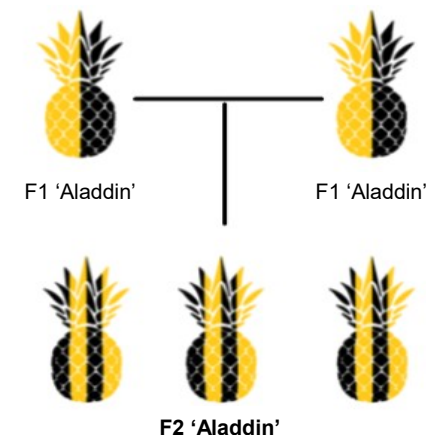
## **F2 Generation:**

50% purebred - A

50% purebred - B

F2 bromeliads are the offsets resulting from the mating (crossing) of two F1 hybrids.

Example: An *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' F2 whose mother is *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' F1 and father is an *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' F1.



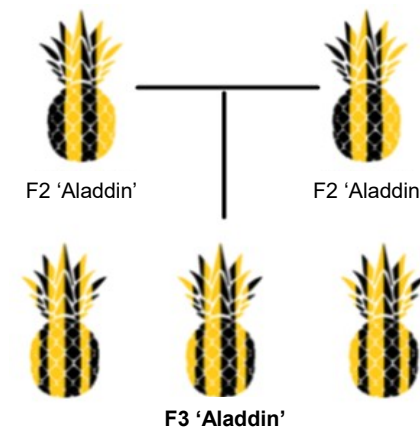
## **F3 Generation:**

50% purebred - A

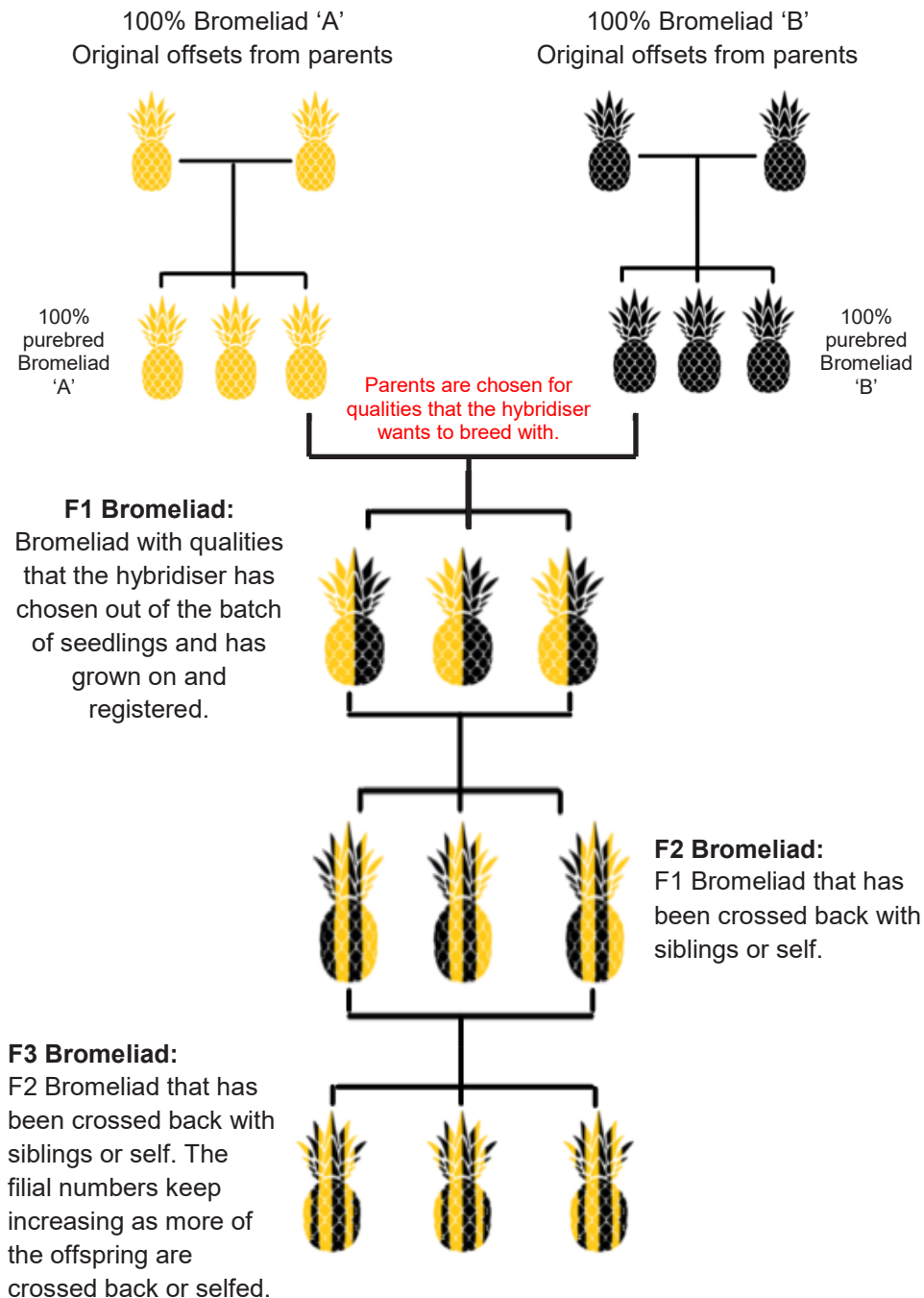
50% purebred - B

F3 bromeliads are the offsets resulting from the mating (crossing) of two F2 hybrids.

Example: An *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' F3 whose mother is *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' F2 and father is an *Alcantarea* 'Aladdin' F2.



## Generation Flow



- As the filial generation numbers increase and are crossed, the qualities from the original F1 generation are lost or dissolved over time.
- It is important to keep the filial generation on the labelled plants if you wish to hybridise with them at a later date or distributing them for sale.
- The filial generations are highly important in non variegated plants and is commonly used in such genus as Alcantarea, Dyckia, Hohenbergia and Aechmea etc.
- Genus such as Alcantarea and Dyckia that are F2 and subsequent generations will display different qualities or attributes such as size, colour, or stability. These generations often display different qualities that are used in future breeding.

## A Diagram of Bromeliad Habitats

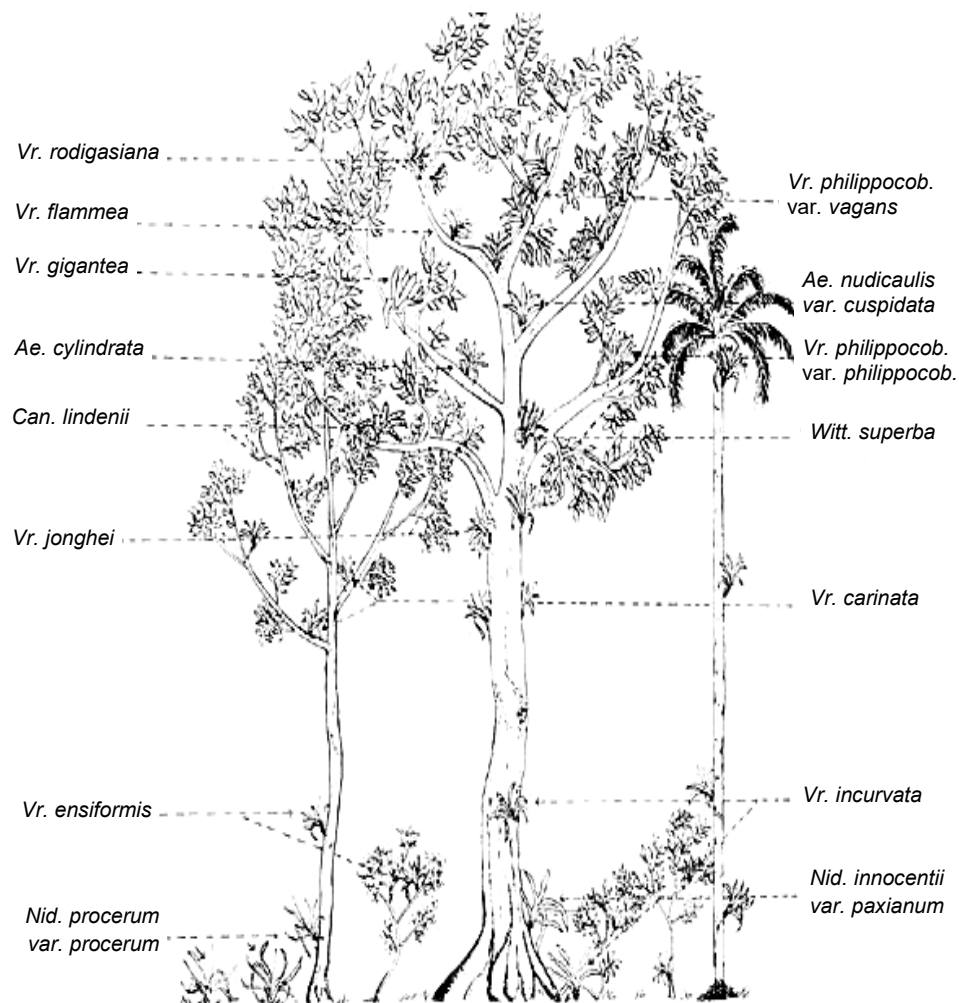
P. Raulino Reitz

Thanks to a series of studies based on ecological observations made in southern Brazil, especially Santa Catarina, by Henrique P. Veloso and Roberto M. Klein, we have a clear idea of the habitat of the commoner bromeliads. It has been proved that bromeliads have no particular preference for any species of tree. There is only an indirect relation to the shape and size of the tree. If, for example, a certain species of wild fig, *Ficus organensis* (Miq.) Miq., has a taller trunk and longer stouter limbs that overtop other trees, then more sun-loving (heliophile) bromeliads will grow on it than on other trees. On the other hand, if a given species of tree prefers shady valleys, then it offers a more favorable ambient for shade-loving (ciophile) species.

On entering our forests one soon sees that certain species of bromeliads live only on the bases of tree trunks or on the ground, others only at the middle of the trunk, still others on the great limbs, and a final group at the ends of the branches. It is a perfect staircase of life, which has also been observed in the animal kingdom. A species falling from the outer branches to the ground, dies. Similarly, a ground species is seriously damaged if we raise it to the top of the tree.

The secret of these levels of life is the preference that each species has for certain intensities of light and relative humidity.

After detailed observation we can distinguish 4 levels in the distribution of species from the jungle floor to the treetops.



Habitat of bromeliads in the forests of the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil.  
(Veloso and Klein, Sellowia, 8:198, 1957)

**The first level is the ground.** On it live the ciophile species; that is, those that need little light and high humidity. They are most notably *Nidularium innocentii* Lem. var. *paxianum* (Mez) L. B. Smith and *Nidularium procerum* Lindm. They grow in enormous quantities in the forest shade, making the densest of green carpets, and on the bases of bushes and trees, especially on the buttress roots of the latter. These ground level bromeliads are partly responsible for the great humidity of the environment, since they hold an enormous quantity of water and form veritable hanging lakes.

**The second or mid trunk level.** Here live the semi-ciophiles. From some six feet up the trunk nearly to the bases of the first limbs of the high trees there is a second level already less affected by the enormous humidity of ground level and with a little more light; it is also on top of the shrubs. This is the level of *Vriesea incurvata* Gaud., *Vriesea ensiformis* (Vell.) Beer, and *Vriesea carinata* Wawra. These species fasten not only on the tree trunks large and small but on the branches of shrubs and saplings that are below the lower limbs of the large trees. It is a space of about 25 feet in depth.

**The third or limb level.** The species which we may call indifferent inhabit the space from the bases of the large limbs to their outer forks. They require a medium light intensity and slightly more humidity than the heliophile species. There are many more species at this level than at the others. The commonest are: *Vriesea jonghei* (Libon ex C. Koch) E. Morr., *Wittrockia superba* Lindm., *Canistrum lindenii* (Reg.) Mez, *Vriesea philippo-coburgii* Wawra var. *philippocoburgii*, *Aechmea nudicaulis* (L.) Grisb. var. *cuspidata* Bak., *Aech. cylindrata* Lindm., *Vriesea gigantea* Gaud., and *Vriesea flammea* L.B. Smith. Here we find the species of the greatest stature like *Vriesea gigantea* Gaud. whose inflorescence reaches 10 feet, and *Vriesia jonghei* (Libon ex C. Koch) E. Morr. and *Wittrockia superba* Lindm.

**The fourth or branch tip level.** Here live the heliophile elements. They require great light intensity and relatively little humidity. They are principally *Vriesea philippo-coburgii* Wawra var. *vagans* L. B. Smith, *Vriesia rodigasiana* E. Morr. and various species of *Tillandsia*. These plants are directly exposed to sunlight.

It is important for the grower to know something of the ecological life of the bromeliads, especially of their habitat in relation to light and humidity, in order to obtain healthy and beautiful plants by cultivation.

The figure shows the principal elements of a tropical forest in the State of Santa Catarina (southern Brazil) which reaches an average height of 80 feet. In these forests there can be distinguished the ground cover vegetation, shrubs (3-12 feet), saplings (15-40 feet), palms (up to 70 feet) and large trees (50-80 feet), all represented here. The placing of the bromeliads in order of their altitude on the trees is based on the observation of more than 100,000 specimens. All the species shown in the figure are indicated by arrows according to their altitude in the forest.

*Itajai, Santa Catarina, Brazil.*

Reprinted from: BSI Journal 1959, Vol.9, No.5.



## **Popular Vote Champions for 2021**

### **Open Champion**

Helen Clewett

### **Tillandsioideae Champion**

Helen Clewett

### **Decorative Champion**

Keryn Simpson

### **Judges Choice Champion**

Mitch Jones



### **Web Links for Checking Correct Identification and Spelling ?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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