JOURNAL

OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

VOLUME 62(1): 1-48 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

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Front Cover: *Guzmania monostachia.* Story on pg. 8

Back Cover: General Display at the BSNZ 2012 Fiesta Show. Story on pg. 20.

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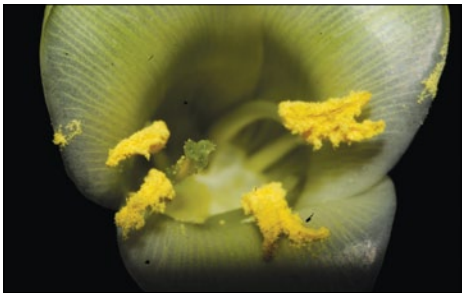

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Editor's Notes

Evan Bartholomew

I'm proud to be moving into my second year of journals. Though the previous volume took less than a calendar year, I feel a sense of accomplishment when I consider the last 6 issues.

I'm still looking for submissions! If you have been hesitating, don't. Now is the time to get articles to me for the 2012 issues.

I figured that now would be as good of a time as any to re-publish the photo and article submission requirements below.

All scientific articles are peer reviewed, and author guidelines are available from the Editor. Authors are requested to declare any article they intend to, or have already published elsewhere.

Permission is granted to reprint articles from the Journal, in whole or in part, provided credit is given to the author and to the Bromeliad Society International.

Please take the time to spell and grammar check your articles. Check your references and plant identifications meticulously. I do edit for grammar and spelling, but articles that are unfinished and not publication ready are much less likely to make it into the journal.

Article proofs will be submitted to the author before publication, so take the time to double check all details when you receive this proof. If a proof has been signed off, and errors are present in print, this is not my responsibility. Things get missed, which is why there is a proof process so that we can work together to do our best to avoid errors. Perfection is a lofty ideal, but rarely attainable.

Photos *must* be in proper print quality. If you are shooting for an article, use the highest setting on your camera, and do not compress the images before sending. 72 DPI photos are fine for publishing on the web, but will print approximately 1/4 of their original size when I do the conversion. You can always make a picture smaller to look good in print, but you can never increase the resolution of a photo once it has been compressed or reduced in size. Many automatic photo import softwares will compress images, so if in doubt, double check your settings and make sure that your images are at least 300 DPI in the size that is suitable for printing.

Photos should never have a date stamp. If this is an automatic function of your camera or software, turn it off. It may help you organize photos, but it is not suitable for printing.

Unless you are an experienced digital photo manipulator, do not edit your photos. I do a conversion process from RGB to CMYK to make photos print ready, and if you've heavily edited color, light levels, saturation, etc. then oftentimes the conversion ends up looking incorrect. Most images need some touching up in order to look proper in print, and since I have a standard working method for everything that is printed in the journal, I am responsible for that editing. Consistency and a unified design aesthetic is important to me, so I edit photos to work well together and present an aesthetic standard throughout the issue.

CONFERENCE CORNER

ORLANDIANA 2012
20TH WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

In less than six months, we will be celebrating Orlandiana 2012 – have you made your reservation? Registration rates increased to $175 on March 1, 2012.

Registration information and hotel rates can be found on the web site, www.bsi.org. The Caribe Royale is a lovely all suite hotel, furnishing refrigerator, microwave and coffee pot in all rooms. The conference committee has worked to offer a fun-filled, educational week of events included in the registration fee.

The committee has added an Art Exhibition and Sale to the week-long event. The Open Call to all artists, all media has been issued. Entry forms can be found on the BSI and FCBS web sites. Deadline to enter is August 1, 2012.

Don't forget: If you or your club would like to learn more about what it takes to host a conference, just e-mail: vicepresident@bsi.org.

Bonnie Boutwell
BSI Vice President

Squirrels, Raccoons and Things That Go Bump in the Night

Jay Thurrott

Figure 1. Two raccoon co-conspirators caught in one trap

One of the attractive features of bromeliads is that they really have very few pests that we have to contend with. We don't worry about the black spot disease that rose enthusiasts in my part of the country battle during the Summer months and those same chinch bugs and sod webworms that destroy our lawns don't have any interest in bromeliads. Nematodes that wreak havoc on the roots of tomato plants and many of our ornamentals could care less about most members the Bromeliaceae family. Indeed, bromeliads just aren't bothered by many pests and the few insects that target our collections are fairly easily controlled. These include the Mexican weevil (a little pesticide application will control these if they show up in your plants, but of course that doesn't hold true for infestations among our native bromeliads in the wild), the lubber grasshopper (a bit of Sevin dust on the little ones, a sledgehammer for the larger ones), and several varieties of snails (a little beer for the snails, a little more for me...and the problem goes away). More difficult to control are those four-footed pest varieties - the varmints. These include the ubiquitous eastern gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis), the raccoon (Procyon lotor), and the nine-banded armadillo (Dasypus novemcinctus). Although they may appear cute and fuzzy (at least the first two), each of these beasties can leave a mark on your bromeliad collection.

Squirrels are notorious among bromeliad growers for stealing tags from plants. Whether this is done accidentally while they dig in the potting mix or intentionally, it doesn't matter. The end result is the same – without name tags, many immature bromeliads look the same. You may have some success identifying these plants when they bloom, but chances are you will end up with a number of bromeliads that will forever more remain nameless. A little research on the eastern gray squirrel also suggests that these creatures are omnivorous, meaning that they are indiscriminate in their selection of foods. This helps explain why they often devour Tillandsias and small Neos. I've found this to be especially true for bromeliads placed in trees. Curiously enough, it seems that bromeliads grown from seed on tree branches are ignored while those manually attached are quickly targeted. Squirrels in our area also damage bromeliads in their search for water, particularly in the dry Springtime. Shredded leaves in the center cups of plants are a sure indication of this.

Raccoons also can be the source of damage in bromeliad collections where I live. The curious habit of washing their little hands before eating, leaves mud and other debris

in the centers of some larger Neos. More serious though is the fact that raccoons, also omnivorous, will devour the blooming centers of Neoregelias and tear other bromeliads apart in their search for lizards and frogs hiding in the leaf axils. And, as if that is not bad enough, they will turn potted plants over or push them aside in their search for food. Generally raccoons are nocturnal, so you may not realize that they are in your neighborhood until you see the evidence the following morning.

Armadillos are strange, clumsy little animals that seem oblivious of their surroundings as they root around for the worms and insects that make up their diet. Although you may see them during the daytime, armadillos are most active at night and, like raccoons often leave behind a trail of upended potted plants as they hunt for their dinner. Their eyesight is not the best and they frequently run into pails, knock over garden tools left outside and even bump into the sides of houses as they wander from one yard to the next.

How can you best control these generally harmless, but sometimes destructive pests? I've found that my squirrel problems can be minimized by keeping a dish of water outside so that in our very dry Springtimes, there's less of a desire to tear into my bromeliads while searching for water. This water is a potential attraction for mosquitoes and our cat seems to find the water especially delicious after squirrels have been drinking from it, so changing the water and making sure that the dish is kept full has become a daily chore to tend to.

Raccoons are not so easily controlled and once they've found that a free meal can be had, they will return again and again...and in greater numbers. Word quickly spreads among the varmint community! Your first step should be to make sure that there are few attractions in your yard for these creatures. Avoid leaving pet foods outside and never leave garbage uncovered. Raccoons view both of these practices as "buffet lines" and will take full advantage of such easy meals. I've had considerable success in trapping these bandits and relocating them many miles away. My fear of course is that I have a counterpart, many miles away performing the same transportation service, but I'm reasonably certain that I've not had any return. To date, my tally is 49 raccoons relocated and my plants look much better as a result.

Figure 2. "It wasn't me! I didn't do it!"

Armadillos visit yards in my area in their never-ending search for grubs and worms. Remove the food source and armadillos will not stay around for long. Sounds simple enough, but in practice it's quite difficult to control the worm and insect population without resorting to multiple and potentially harmful pesticides and insecticides. It's probably better to just tolerate their infrequent visits and grin and bear it when they bump into things in the middle of the night.

Guzmania monostachia

Harry E. Luther

Guzmania monostachia is a widespread, often weedy species native from Florida to Central America, Peru and Brazil. In Ecuador it is unusual for a low elevation taxon for being found both on the Pacific and Amazon sides of the Andes. The pictured plant, flowered at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens some years ago was collected by this author near Tena, Ecuador.

Please see full size image on the front cover of this issue.

Figure 1. *Guzmania monostachia.*

BSI JUDGES SCHOOL I AT THE 2012 WORLD CONFERENCE

School I for World Conference Judges School series will be held on Tuesday, September 25,in Orlando, Florida. There are six schools in the series and are held at each conference. The last series finished in New Orleans, therefore it starts over with School I in Orlando.

If anyone is interested in attending, they should contact Betty Ann Prevatt, Judges Certification Committee Chairman, before September 1st.

Contact below:

Email: bprevattpcc@aol.com
Telephone: 239-334-0242
Address: 2902 Second Street, Fort Myers, Florida 33916, USA.

The school is all day and the cost is $25.00.

Aechmea gigantea

Harry E. Luther

Aechmea gigantea is rather common in American horticulture although frequently unidentified or misidentified. The species is known from a few collections from northern Venezuela. The cultivated plants may have come from C. Pittendrigh via M. B. Foster in the 1940s. The plant is tall and slender (not especially gigantic) and easy to grow but blooms are few and far between. They are of no great beauty.

Figure 1. *Aechmea gigantea*. Photo by Dr. P. Nelson of a plant flowered at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Revision of the Lithophytic *Vriesea* Species from Minas Gerais (and vicinities), Brazil - Part V: Two tubolaciniate stigma-type new species

Elton M. C. Leme[1]
Illustrations by the author

In the study sequence of the lithophytic *Vriesea* of Minas Gerais State, here encompassing the neighboring State of Bahia, two new species closely related to *Vriesea* section *Xiphion*, typical of vertical rock walls, and belonging to group of plants possessing tubolaciniate stigma type, are described and illustrated.

Vriesea rosulatula Leme, sp. nov. **Type**: Brazil, Minas Gerais, Jacinto, Medeiros, ca. 800 m elev., 15 Jan. 2012, *R. Vasconcelos & J. G. Santos s.n.*, cult. *E. Leme 8621* (Holotype: RB; Isotype: HB).

A Vriesea amadoi Leme, *affinis, foliis plus numerosis, laminis foliorum angustioribus, dense albozonato-lepidotis, inflorescentia pauciflora, floribus longioribus laxe dispositis, petalis longioribus, stigmatis laminis crenulato-papillosis differt.*

Plant rupicolous, flowering 43-47 cm tall, propagating by axillary shoots. ***Leaves*** 26 to 28 in number, densely rosulate, subcoriaceous, forming a funnelform rosette; ***sheaths*** elliptic, 4.5-5 x 3.5 cm, dark colored, densely brown lepidote and bearing white trichomes arranged in transversal cross-bands mainly abaxially; ***blades*** suboblong to sublinear, acuminate-caudate, suberect to strongly recurved toward the apex, canaliculate, 5-8 x 2-2.3 cm, greenish to dark purplish-wine, densely lepidote, bearing white trichomes irregularly arranged in crossbands on both sides, margins inconspicuously truncate, ca. 0.5 mm thick. ***Peduncle*** erect to suberect, ca. 25 cm long, 2.5-3 mm in diameter, dark purplish-wine, glabrous; ***peduncle bracts*** erect, ovate, the basal ones acuminate-caudate, the upper ones obtuse and apiculate, dark purplish-wine, densely white lepidote with trichomes arranged in crossbands (basal ones) to glabrous (upper ones), shorter than the internodes. ***Inflorescence*** simple, suberect, 10-15 cm long, distichously 8 to 10-flowered, rachis 1.5-2.5 mm in diameter, flexuous to geniculate, dark purplish-wine, glabrous; ***floral bracts*** broadly ovate, obtuse-emarginate, 8-12 x 7-8 mm, glabrous, smooth or nearly so at the anthesis, ecarinate, slightly convex, thin in texture toward the apex and margins, dark castaneous-wine, truncate at the base, equaling 1/5 of sepals length, secund with the flowers. ***Flowers*** ca. 37 mm long with petals extended, anthesis nocturnal, slightly scented, laxly arranged and secundly erect at the anthesis, pedicels ca. 5 mm long, ca. 6 mm in diameter at the apex, ca. 3 mm in diameter at the base, green to castaneous-wine; ***sepals*** oblong-elliptic, rounded, 16-17 x 9 mm, greenish-castaneous with wine margins, glabrous, lustrous, convex, ecarinate, coriaceous at the base and thin in texture toward the apex and margins; ***petals*** spatulate, apex obtuse-emarginate, 32-33 x 14-15 mm, pale yellowish-white, spreading at the anthesis and forming a campanulate corolla ca. 25 mm in diameter, bearing at the base 2 lanceolate, slenderly acuminate, ca. 7 x 2 mm appendages adnate to the petals for ca. 4 mm; ***stamens*** 2 disposed at each

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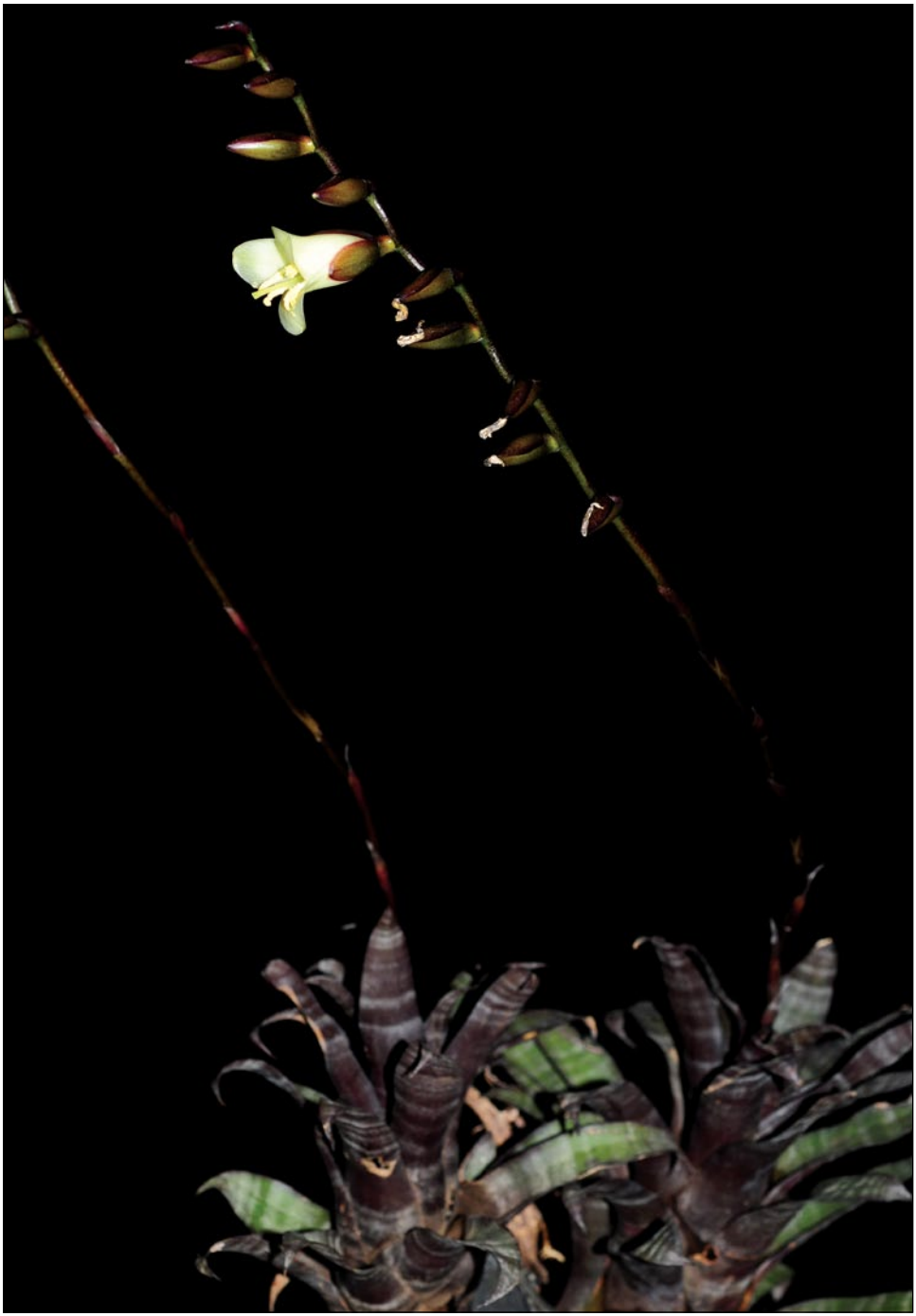

Figure 1: Habit of *Vriesea rosulatula* (photo E. Leme)

Figure 2: Side view of the flower of *Vriesea rosulatula* (photo E. Leme)

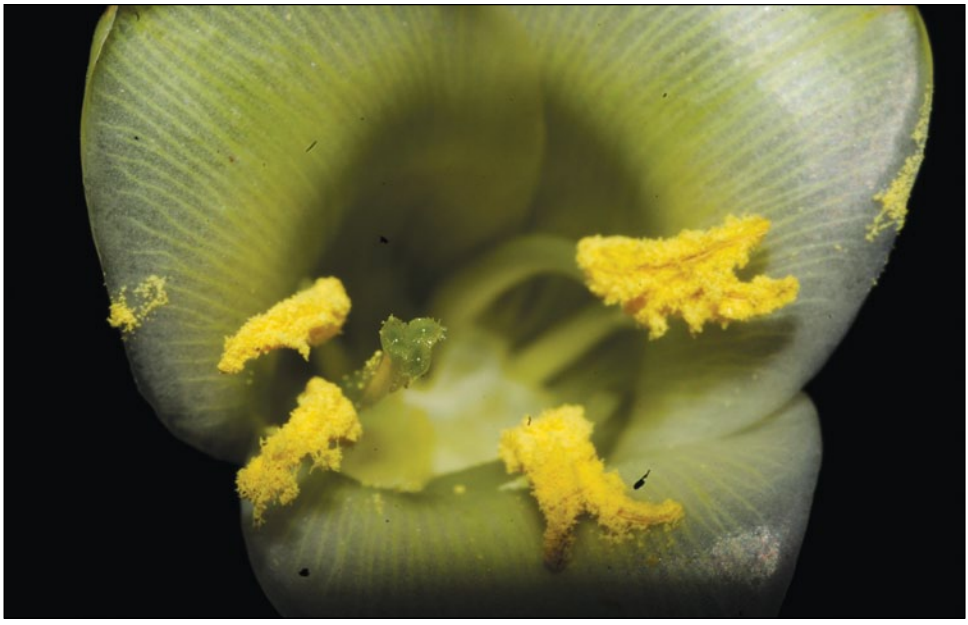

Figure 3: Front view close up of the corolla of *Vriesea rosulatula*, highlighting its tubolaciniate stigma type (photo E. Leme)

Figure 4: Side view close up of the corolla of *Vriesea rosulatula*, highlighting the tubolaciniate stigma blade ornamentation (photo E. Leme)

Figure 5: Population of *Vriesea rosulatula* in its habitat (photo A. Ilha)

Figure 6: The general landscape of inselberg formation in the region where *Vriesea rosulatula* was found for the first time (photo A. Ilha)

side of the corolla and 2 disposed at the base of the corolla at the anthesis, shorter than the petals; ***filaments*** not dilated, ca. 1 mm in diameter, subterete; ***anthers*** ca. 7 mm long, dorsifixed near the base, base and apex obtuse, slightly recurved; ***stigma*** tubolaciniate, inconspicuously crenulate-papilose, green; ***ovules*** caudate. ***Capsules*** unknown.

Vriesea rosulatula is closely related to *V. amadoi*, differing by the more numerous leaves per rosette (26 to 28 vs. 12 to 15 in number), narrower leaf blades (2-2.3 cm vs. 3.5-4.5 cm wide), which are densely lepidote with trichomes arranged in crossbands (vs. glabrous to subdensely and inconspicuously lepidote), inflorescence with few flowers (8- to 10-flowered vs. 18- to 25-flowered), which are longer (ca. 37 mm vs. 25-30 mm long) and laxly arranged (vs. densely arranged), besides longer petals (32-33 mm vs. 21-24 mm long), and the stigma with crenulate-papillose blades (vs. long laciniate and not papillose).

The general appearance of V. *rosulatula* also reminds a member of *V. limae* complex of species, which is composed by *V. limae* L.B. Sm. itself, and by *V. freicanecana* J.A. Siqueira & Leme, *V. lancifolia* (Baker) L.B. Sm., *V. oligantha* (Baker) Mez, *V. vellozicola* Leme & J.A. Siqueira, and *V. zonata* Leme & J.A. Siqueira (Leme & Siqueira Filho, 2006) . However, all those species have typical convolute-blade stigma type, not tubolaciniate as in *V. rosulatula*, and usually lives on flat to slightly inclined rock outcrops, except for *V. zonata*

Figure 7: Habit of *Vriesea andaraiensis* (photo E. Leme)

Figure 8: Side View of the inflorescence of *Vriesea andaraiensis* (photo E. Leme)

(on inselberg vertical rock walls), *V. oligantha* (sometimes epiphytic on *Vellozia* spp.) and *V. vellozicola* (exclusively epiphytic on *Vellozia* spp.). On the contrary, all species with tubolaciniate stigma type lives exclusively on vertical or nearly so rock walls.

The first specimens of *V. rosulatula* were collected by the conservationist and alpinist André Ilha in 2009, who found it near the top of the rock "O Gordo", in Córrego do Ouro, county of Guaratinga, Bahia, near the border with Minas Gerais. The specimens introduced in cultivation never flowered. Only recently, flowering specimens were found, this time in the not distant county of Jacinto, Minas Gerais. As in the previous collection, *V. rosulatula* was observed growing exclusively on unaccessible nearly vertical rock wall in the north region of Minas Gerais state, close to the border with the state of Bahia, where breath-taking inselberg formation prevails in the scenery, in domain of the Atlantic Forest biome, although most of the primitive forest of the region has been devastated in the past decades, with only few small forest fragments left. This new species lives under full sun-exposed sites or sometimes in more or less shaded watersheds. Despite *V. rosulatula* is not truly caulescent, it presents a somewhat elongated stem due to continuous vegetative propagation in those shaded places.

The epithet of *V. rosulatula* calls attention to its delicate and densely rosulate leaf arrangement not observed in any closer relatives.

Vriesea andaraiensis Leme sp. nov. **Type**: Bahia, Chapada Diamantina, Andaraí, Canyon

Figure 9: Front view close up of the corolla of *Vriesea andaraiensis* (photo E. Leme)

Figure 10: Close up highlighting the tubolaciniate-convolute blade intermediate status of the stigma of *Vriesea andaraiensis* (photo E. Leme)

of Paraguaçu river, near the dam, *R. Oliveira s. n.*, fl. cult. Nov. 2010, *E. Leme 8459* (Holotype: RB).

A *Vriesea goniorachis* (Baker) Mez, cui proxima, foliis paucis, externis arcuatis vel reflexis, laminis foliorum sublinearibus latioribusque, floribus longioribus, leviter odoratis, petalis majoribus, stigmatis laminis leviter convolutis, papillosis et purpurescentibus differt.

Plant lacking rhizomes, flowering ca. 85 cm tall with the inflorescence extended; ***Leaves*** 10 to 15 in number, rosulate, subcoriaceous, forming a narrow crateriform rosette; ***sheaths*** broadly elliptic, erect, ca. 11 x 11 cm, dark brown mainly abaxially and toward the base, densely whitish lepidote; ***blades*** sublinear, 20-28 x 5 cm, apex recurved, acuminate and bearing a long and narrow apiculus, the inner ones suberect, the outer ones arcuate to reflexed, purplish to purplish-green with exception of the dark purple margins, densely white lepidote. ***Peduncle*** suberect near the base and then decurved, ca. 40 cm long, 0.6-0.8 cm in diameter, greenish, glabrous; ***peduncle bracts*** erect, broadly ovate to suborbicular, shorter than the internodes, greenish near the base and blackish-purple toward the apex, fleshy, minutely white lepidote toward the apex, the basal subfoliaceous and with a shortly acuminate and recurved apex, the upper ones acute and shortly apiculate, slightly inflated and gibbous. ***Inflorescence*** simple, decurved except for the ascending apex, 38 x 3.2-3.6 cm, distichously ca. 24-flowered, rachis 5-8 mm in diameter, stout, geniculate, slightly angled, dark purplish-green, glabrous, internodes 10-17 mm long; ***floral bracts*** suborbicular, obtuse-emarginate, ca. 25 x 25 mm, inconspicuously and

sparsely white lepidote, ecarinate, thickly coriaceous toward the base, dark purplish-green, gibbous, without decurrent auricles at the base, about equaling the middle of the sepals and not completely enfolding them, strongly secund with the flowers. ***Flowers*** 53-54 mm long (with extended petals), anthesis nocturnal, slightly scented, subdensely arranged and distinctly secund at the anthesis, pedicel stout, ca. 9 mm long; ***sepals*** ovate-elliptic, obtuse-emarginate, ca. 27 x 15 mm, green with exception of the dark purplish apical margins, inconspicuously white lepidote, ecarinate, coriaceous at the base; ***petals*** obovate-spatulate, apex narrowly emarginate, subspreading-recurved at the anthesis, ca. 45 x 25 mm, pale greenish, bearing at the base 2 spatulate, slenderly caudate to bidentate, ca. 15 x 5 mm appendages adnate to the petals for ca. 8 mm; ***filaments*** free, slightly complanate; ***anthers*** ca. 10 mm long, dorsifixed near the base, base and apex obtuse, three of them disposed on each lateral side of the corolla at the anthesis; ***stigma*** tubolaciniate with some convolute-blade characters, ca. 2 mm in diameter, purplish, lobes obovate, truncate, apical margins strongly undulate, slightly recurved and papilose at the apex; ***ovules*** caudate. ***Fruits*** unknown.

Vriesea andaraiensis is morphologically related to *Vriesea goniorachis*, but can be distinguished by its reduced number of leaves (10 to 15 vs. ca. 30 in number), the outer ones arcuate to reflexed (vs. the outer ones suberect arcuate), with sublinear blades (vs. narrowly triangular), which are broader (ca. 5 cm vs. 3-4 cm wide), longer flowers (53-54 mm vs. ca. 45 mm) slightly scented (vs. distinctly garlic scented), larger petals (ca. 45 x 25 mm vs. 40 x 21 mm), and mainly by the stigma blades slightly convolute (vs. typically tubolaciniate and not convolute), bearing papillae (vs. not papillose, densely laciniate) and purplish colored (vs. green).

This new species was found growing as rupicolous on vertical rock walls in canyons of Paraguaçu river, near the dam which provides water supply to the city of Andaraí, Bahia. A population of few scattered specimens was observed, most of them in unaccessible sites. The name of *V. andaraiensis* is an explicit reference to the county of Andaraí, where it was found.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank André Ilha and Rafael de Oliveira, from Rio de Janeiro, and Reginaldo Vasconcelos and José Gonçalves Santos, from Minas Gerais, who kindly provided the living specimens, some images and field information presented in this study.

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BSNZ 2012 Fiesta Show Results

Dave Anderson
photos by Andrew Devonshire

The show entries were generally of a high standard and most exhibitors can be commended for their attention to presentation. It is to be noted that there has been a significant drop off in the number of entries into the cryptanthus and guzmania classes over the years. I can appreciate why members are not growing cryptanthus as they are difficult to keep in good condition in our temperate climate. I suppose guzmanias have just lost their appeal to members, which is somewhat mystifying. Of particular note was the very high quality of the numerous New Zealand hybrids exhibited. We do know that some of the vrieseas made here have been sought after internationally. It was very pleasing to see the improvement in the neoregelias, dyckias and bigeneric hybrids. This showcases the expertise of our hybridists.

There were some outstanding plants displayed on the trophy table and the beautiful *Billbergia vittata* 'Domingos Martins', with two flower spikes, entered by Judy Graham, was our deserving Grand Champion.

Figure 1. Attractive planting in the general display

Figure 2. Best *Neoregelia*: Peter Waters - *Neoregelia* 'Greenball'

Figure 3. Novice: Tony Mooney - *Neoregelia* ('Rosea Striata' x *concentrica*) x 'Aussie Dream' (Unregistered)

Figure 4. Best *Guzmania*: Poppy Fuller - *Guzmania wittmackii*

Figure 5. Best *Billbergia* and Champion of the Show: Judy Graham - *Billbergia vittata* 'Domingos Martins'

Figure 6. Best *Aechmea*: Peter Coyle - *Aechmea orlandiana*

Figure 7. Best Artistic Arrangement: Poppy Fuller

Figure 8. Best *Tillandsia*: Lynette Nash - *Tillandsia tectorum*

Figure 9. Best *Vriesea*: Rhonda Maloy - *Vriesea* 'Summer Fever' (Unregistered)

Vriesea 'Highway Beauty' and *Vriesea* 'RoRo'

Derek Butcher

Figure 1: *Vriesea* 'Shiraz. Photo by D. Butcher

The only way to answer this problem was to try to find someone in the USA who was still growing plants called *V. bituminosa* x *saundersii* (variegated) and this was Michael Kiehl of Michael's Bromeliads in Florida. Michael promised to send me a photo of the plant in flower and did so in March this year.

We now have photos of all plants involved in this saga. They have a red floral bract, yellowish sepals and light green petals. All have discolor leaves.

The problem seems to be on what was considered to be *V. bituminosa* when the hybrid was done many years ago. If we look at Flora Neotropica by Smith & Downs 1977 we will see that even the botanists had problems with identity involving *V. platynema*

This problem has been bugging me since 2001 when Peter Huddy thought he had solved the problem of two variegated vrieseas that had been imported to Australia under parentage formula from the USA. We know that parentage formulae are often reversed and that forms of variegation do vary. In 2011 *Vriesea* 'Shiraz' was registered

Vriesea 'Shiraz'

Hybridist unknown, named by Peter Huddy, SA, Australia. Named in 1995

(*platynema* x *saundersii*) Plant 60cm diam, flowering to 90cm high. Has never shown signs of variegation in 20 years cultivation in SA. Although this has the reverse parentage to that reported for the variegated 'RoRo' there appears to be great similarity and thus similar origins.

Reg Doc by M. Butcher 11/2011

Figure 2: *Vr. bituminosa* x *saundersii* variegated. Photo by M.Kiehl

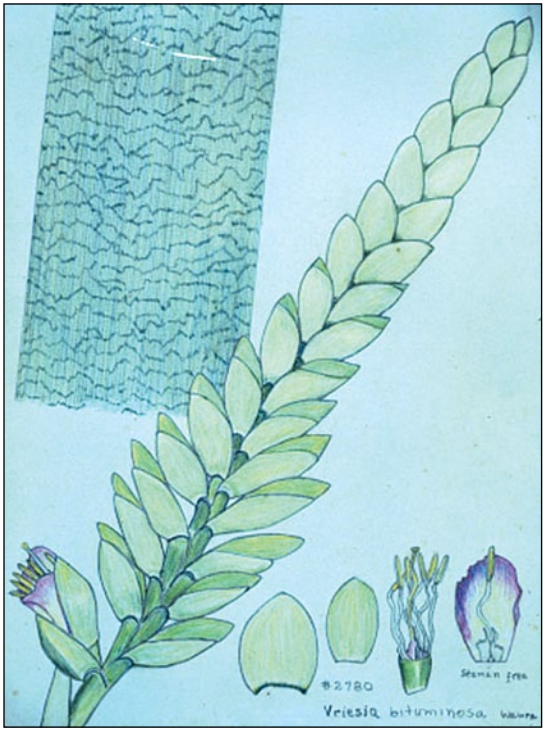

Figure 3: Drawing by Mulford Foster of *Vriesea bituminosa*

whereas, these days, most of us know how to identify *V. bituminosa* with its brownish petals (see Foster's painting of his *V. bituminosa* for another problem regarding colour).

The most likely scenario is that first we had *platynema* x *saundersii* (now called 'Shiraz') which sported variegation but some had different variegation and some bright individual felt one had 'bituminosa' in it not 'platynema' - and even reversed the parentage.

We should continue to use the names 'Shiraz', 'Highway Beauty', 'Highway' (non-variegated 'Highway Beauty') and 'RoRo' because so many are growing plants under these names (as well as *saundersii* x *platynema* AND *platynema* x *saundersii* plus or minus the notation 'variegated AND *bituminosa*!), but remember we are dealing in all probability with the same hybrid. In our experience the plant in Adelaide called 'RoRo' has a more stable variegation pattern but then this could be different in a different climate. All have the *V. saundersii* spotting of the leaves at some time in various intensities in their life to flowering.

'Highway Beauty' was named from a plant in Adelaide, South Australia because it had so-called 'bituminosa' in its parentage. This particular clone is still here but I would doubt that an offset actually escaped from here. The only logical solution is that growers in Australia and/or the USA were growing variegated plants with 'bituminosa' somewhere in the formula on the label and automatically assumed it must be 'Highway Beauty' . We know this happened in New Zealand where Peter Waters maintains their 'Highway Beauty' does not link to *V. bituminosa*.

This is yet another example of non-action by the hybridist and while we now have a tenuous solution it is a muddled one.

Previous writings on the subject follow:

***Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty'** (*bituminosa x saundersii*) and ***Vriesea* 'RoRo'** (*saundersii x platynema*) by Butcher 10/2009.

Remember that since 2005 there is only one name for a variegated Bromeliad

Figure 4: *Vriesea* 'Shiraz, close up of inflorescence. Photo by D. Butcher

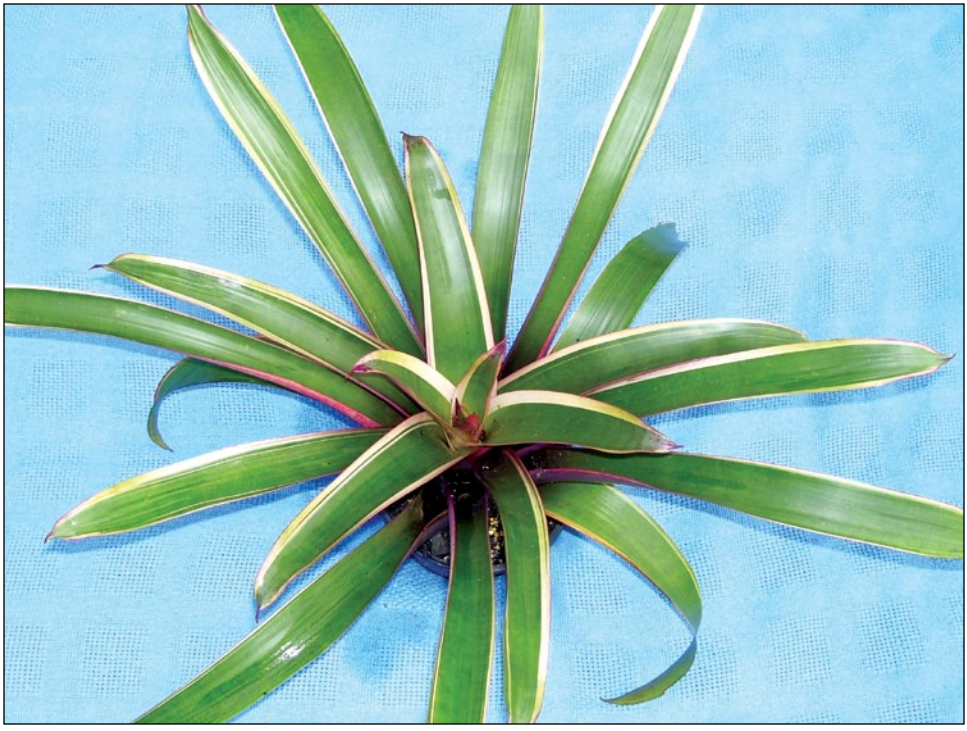

Figure 5: *Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty'. Photo by Ross Little

Figure 6: *Vriesea* 'RoRo' albomarginated. Photo by Ross Little

irrespective of the form of variegation it has. These forms can be added as adjectives if felt necessary.

Towards the end of 1990s Peter Huddy of Adelaide acquired these variegated plants from Queensland under the formula as quoted and wondered why they had not been given names and registered. Despite searches he was unable to trace a source but it seemed to be in Florida. In 2001 he decided to grandfather them into the system. The *bituminosa* reference took Peter to bitumen and thus 'Highway' and the other he used the nickname of his daughter.

Strictly speaking only the plants named by Peter should have these names but what do you do with plants around the world with this quoted parentage. Formulas are so misleading. It is a pity these plants were not given names by the hybridist concerned or even by the person when the first variegation appeared. If anyone has information in this regard please contact the writer.

How accurate is this formula? Could the formula have been 'corrected' after the first release? Could the label have been carelessly written? We know that in the 1980's little care was taken that the seed parent comes first.

In my search for references to these parentages I tried all avenues. There is no reference in the Journal of the Brom. Soc. There is reference to a (*bituminosa* x *saundersii*) and reverse in Brian Smith's 1984 Manuscript. This, no doubt, came from Hill's 1984 catalogue which has reference to Bert Foster. One can only assume this was not variegated because this form always attracts a higher price. It would also seem to be the plant that got to Australia in July 1986 and recorded in the ledger of PineGrove Nursery, NSW, under #2952.

What is recorded for variegated plants? In 1993 we see in the catalogue for The Olive Branch, Qld reference to *saundersii* hybrid variegata and a *saundersii* hybrid *albomarginata*. Is there a tenuous link here?

Vriesea (*bituminosa* x *saundersii*) References found
1997 Pineapple Place, Florida, (*saundersii* x *bituminosa*) variegata - note reverse parentage
2004 Michael's Bromeliads, Florida, (bituminosa x *saundersii*) variegated

Vriesea (*saundersii* x *platynema*) References found
1986 Pine Grove Nursery #2941 (*platynema* x *saundersii*) variegated (from USA)
2004 Michael's Bromeliads (*saundersii* x *platynema*) albomarginate

See Bromeliad (NZ) 42(9): 2002
From the Registrar by Gerry Stansfield

This month we have two very interesting vrieseas that have been around.

The second vriesea has been around for some time and unnamed is a cross between *V. saundersii* and *V. bituminosa*. I can remember seeing this plant in Harry Martin's collection back in the late 1960's and these came from the very famous Muriel Waterman's collection, who was a hybridiser and seed grower, and remember that both *bituminosa* and *saundersii* are very old and early vrieseas, and it is possible that this lovely cross originates there.

Anyway, this plant has been called 'Highway' and the connection is bituminosa sounds like bitumen for sealing our highways. *Vriesea* 'Highway' sported a variegated plant, and it is this we will show as *Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty'. It is truly a lovely variegated plant and makes a fine specimen as we saw last month at our Auckland meeting with Marie Hesley's plant from Hamilton. To add more confusion, there is another form and that is albomarginated. All these plants have multi bract spikes which they have taken from *V. saundersii* as *V. bituminosa* has a ladder type spike.

Not to be confused with *Vriesea* 'RoRo', which is *V. saundersii x V. platynema* and can be variegated or albo-marginated

From Bromeliad (NZ) 48(11): 2008
Vriesea 'Highway Beauty' a bit of a mystery- Article and photo by Peter Waters

For many years we have been growing a very attractive variegated vriesea as 'Highway Beauty' but formerly under the formula *bituminosa x saundersii*. The name 'Highway Beauty' was registered in 2002 by Peter Huddy of Adelaide. Since then 'Highway' has been applied to the non-variegated version. In 2001 Peter Huddy registered a very similar plant as *Vriesea* 'RoRo' (*saundersii X platynema*).

Figure 7: *Vriesea* 'RoRo' variegated. Photo by Ross Little

In New Zealand the plant first surfaced as *Vriesea bituminosa x saundersii* and eventually adopted the name 'Highway Beauty'. For some time I have felt that there is something amiss here. *Vriesea bituminosa* is a very large wide-leafed bromeliad with a large dark patch on the leaf tips, and our 'Highway Beauty' seemed to resemble *platynema* more than *bituminosa*. However I didn't really worry too much until I had a *Vriesea platynema* var *platynema* flower. It had come from Elton Leme in Brazil and the floral bracts were a bright pinkish. red, totally unlike *Vriesea platynema* var. *variegata*, a night-flowering plant, which has rather colourless flowers. Incidentally, EIton says that they are not the same species and he will at some time alter the name of *platynema variegata* back to its original name *Vriesea gamba* (Currently hiding under *V. jonghei*! - Butcher). At this stage I began to wonder why the flower on our 'Highway Beauty' was bright pinkish-red. *Vriesea saundersii* has yellow floral bracts and petals and *bituminosa* has green or pale yellowish flowers like most night-flowering vriesea. At this time I am still trying to find a 'Highway Beauty' with a flower that is not red, and until I do, I am thinking that all our *Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty' should be named *Vriesea* 'RoRo'. I remain to be convinced that 'Highway Beauty' actually exists, at least in New Zealand.

Portrait of the Artist: Urszula Dudek

Alan Herndon

Figure 1: "*Cryptanthus*", acrylic

Those of us residing in southern Florida have the great privilege of living in a bromeliad-rich landscape. This, however, was not always the case. There were always the native species (mostly *Tillandsia*, and frequently abundant) in cypress swamps, tropical hardwood hammocks, and in trees along the coast, but the nonnative species grown for ornamental purposes were almost unknown as late as the 1960's. Their popularity grew slowly, but steadily over the years, and since the middle of the 1990's they have become quite common in the landscape.

Not surprisingly, several contemporary local artists have taken notice of the bromeliads now seen in lawns throughout the city and surrounding areas. A few of these artists have found the bromeliads of sufficient interest to feature in their work on a regular basis. I

Figure 2: "Bromeliad In Bloom", acrylic

would like to introduce these artists to the wider bromeliad community over the coming months. The first is a relative newcomer to the field, but she has the great advantage of being a member of the local BSI affiliate (thus being easily accessible) and having already received wide notice through the Cryptanthus Society Journal (Vol. 26, No. 2. Apr-Jun 2011).

Urszula Dudek was born and raised in Poland. She came to the United States in 1994, living for 9 years in Chicago , then moving to Florida. In Poland, she was trained as an Artist at the School of Fine Arts in Jaroslaw. At school she worked in a myriad of artistic forms from sculpture to graphic art After moving to Chicago, she found a way to make a living for herself in art. To do so, she worked in many different forms: painting, graphic art, stage design.

In Miami, she has concentrated on painting and drawing, although she still retains a strong interest in, and still works in, graphic art. Her paintings and drawings are completely different in spirit and style, but here we concentrate on her paintings because she has chosen to feature objects from the rich natural world we enjoy in southern Florida. Initially, she concentrated on subjects other than bromeliads, including sea shells and orchids. Still, these paintings feature the exacting photorealistic style that characterizes her more recent work. Since becoming interested in bromeliads a few

Figure 3: "Bromeliad Hybrid", acrylic

years ago, however, she has concentrated on our favorite plants. With bromeliads, she has produced extremely detailed close-ups that bring out the interesting patterns and subtle colors that can be found in many species and hybrids

Urszula's special talent with bromeliads first came to our attention rather forcefully in

Figure 4: "*Cryptanthus* In Pink", acrylic

April 2011 when she entered a spectacular painting of *Cryptanthus* 'Very Cold Tooth' in the Art Show run in conjunction with the annual Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show. Several of the BSI judges at the show remarked on the lifelike quality of her painting. Even though this Art Show was judged by a panel of local artists who would not necessarily have a bias in favor of realism, Urszula's painting won the top award at the show.

In September 2011, Urszula entered 4 paintings in the Art of Bromeliads show held in conjunction with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Extravaganza.. This time she won two top awards at the show.

The *Cryptanthus* painting has a special draw for bromeliad lovers because a majority of the entire plant is included in the painting. Bromeliad growers acquainted with the genus easily recognize the similarity with plants they have seen or grown, although it takes a *Cryptanthus* expert (such as Larry Giroux) to identify the exact hybrid depicted. One of the most striking examples of her attention to detail in this painting is the small area of green at the base of several inner leaves on her plant. This trace of green coloration is typical when a plant is growing quickly, and it changes from day to day. Similar attention to detail is apparent in the varying sizes and shapes, as well as colors, of the marginal leaf spines

Her painting of a *Neoregelia* inflorescence, titled "Bromeliad in Bloom" (her earliest bromeliad painting, by the way), is likewise immediately recognizable by anyone familiar

Figure 5: "*Tillandsia dyeriana*", acrylic

with the genus, and the markings on the leaves suggest a hybrid of *Neoregelia marmorata*. Only a brave and very knowledgeable soul would offer a more precise identification.

Urszula favors acrylic as the medium for her paintings. She prefers the quicker drying times (compared to oils) that allow her to work on paintings more rapidly and the ability to apply very thin layers on top of one another to achieve the perfect tone.

As much as Urszula's realistic treatment can be appreciated by bromeliad growers, it is not so clear that people having less acquaintance with bromeliads will have the same experience. To someone who has never seen a cross-barred *Cryptanthus* or a blooming *Neoregelia* up close, her paintings must look like the product of a fantastic imagining of some alien landscape or life form. Even bromeliad growers may not immediately recognize the subjects in her paintings of *Tillandsia dyeriana* or *Aechmea bracteata* (a painting originally titled "Neoregelia Carcharodon Giant" due to an unfortunately placed identification tag). By focusing on portions of the subjects, and showing them from less conventional viewpoints, these paintings become more studies in color and pattern rather than representations of easily recognizable objects. Her close-up painting of *Aechmea bracteata* is done in the same uncompromisingly realistic style as the *Cryptanthus* and *Neoregelia* paintings, but concentrates on a small portion of the plant, the center of the leaf rosette about half way between the plant base and the tips of the leaves _ a portion that is usually not studied, or even given a second glance, by most growers. In other words, without a descriptive title, the subject of the painting may not be immediately recognizable, even to someone who grows the plant. As bromeliad lovers, this gives us another reason to appreciate her paintings. They can focus our attention on details that we otherwise overlook. They may even spur us to study our own plants in more detail.

Although Urszula has only recently begun to concentrate on bromeliads, we can expect a steady stream of new paintings from her in the coming years. She has become an active member of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida and is tending to an expanding collection of bromeliads. Several *Cryptanthus* were added to that collection at the 2011 Extravaganza of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. She also seems to favor other terrestrial species at this time (for instance, *Dyckia*), no doubt finding the symmetry of the plants and the variations in patterns of the marginal leaf spines worthy of study. You may see more of her paintings and follow her artistic activities at www.urszuladudekart.mosaicglobe.com.

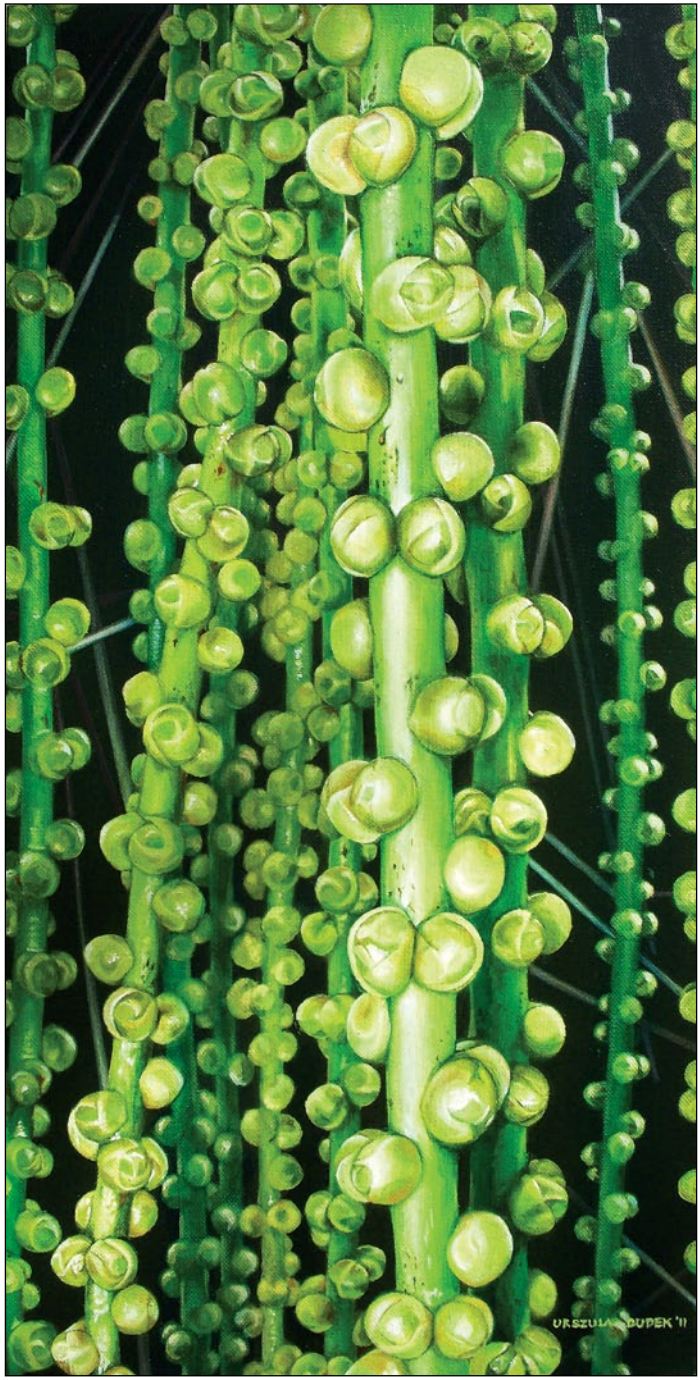

Figure 6: "Palm Berries", acrylic

Call For Nominations For The Wally Berg Award Of Excellence

Theresa M. Bert

Introduction

The Wally Berg Award of Excellence was initiated in 1999 to honor the late Wally Berg (1927-2000) of Sarasota, Florida. Wally and his wife Dorothy were extraordinary bromeliad growers. Their private collection was one of the most diversified and unique in the world. The garden-and-waterfall setting of their bromeliad gardens was magnificent and immaculate. Wally was an enthusiastic supporter of the BSI. He donated many rare plants for sales and auctions that benefited the BSI, the Bromeliad Research Center at Selby Botanical Gardens, research on the "Evil Weevil", and other worthy causes. He volunteered many hours of service at Selby Gardens. He had a broad knowledge of bromeliad horticulture and science and frequently spoke to bromeliad societies on a variety of topics, especially about his adventures exploring and collecting bromeliads in Central and South America. Wally also served the Sarasota Bromeliad Society by holding many offices and donating plants for the society's activities and sales. He introduced several Aechmea taxa into culture and created several hybrids. He frequently won top awards at World Bromeliad Conferences and at Florida local and regional bromeliad shows. For his contributions to the "bromeliad world," a number of bromeliad species were named for him.

For more information about the BSI Wally Berg Award of Excellence, see http://www.bsi.org under Judging and Awards. Some of Wally and Dorothy Berg's achievements and adventures are featured on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website: http://fcbs.org under Photo Index--Programs--see "Berg Cage" and "Bromeliads in Habitat."

Following are the award criteria and procedures for nomination. Individuals, couples, or members deceased within the past two years, are eligible. Nominees must be past or present members of the BSI and nominators must be present BSI members in good standing. Past recipients of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence have been Dorothy Berg (on Wally's behalf), Dennis Cathcart, John Anderson (posthumously), Harry Luther, Grace Goode, and Elton Leme.

Award Criteria

1. The individuals must be past or present members of the BSI.
2. The individuals should be bromeliad growers who are nationally or internationally recognized for diversity of species cultivated and excellence of cultivation.
3. The individuals should actively pursue one of the following activities:
    a. collecting and identifying bromeliads in natural environments, including collecting new species/varieties/cultivars; the members of the various bromeliad societies and organizations, including the BSI and the BIC, should benefit from this activity;
    b. promoting the appreciation and cultivation of bromeliads at the international level, including such activities as organizing and participating in collecting trips with international representation, giving presentations and seminars to national and international audiences, and writing manuscripts for publication in national or international books, journals, or other media (e.g., Internet, CD ROMS).

4. The individuals should actively support efforts to further the scientific, taxonomic, or cultural understanding of bromeliads through donation of time, effort, or money to recognized organizations, institutions, or groups of individuals (e.g., the BSI, BIC, Selby Botanical Gardens, bromeliad clubs or councils).
5. The individuals should be active in a local, regional, or national bromeliad society and be recognized by other members of that society for their contributions to the functioning of that society and its activities.
6. If the individuals are bromeliad hybridizers, they should be internationally recognized for excellence in one or more of the following categories:
    a. innovation in creating bromeliad hybrids,
    b. success in cultivation of bromeliad hybrids,
    c. promotion and distribution of bromeliad hybrids.
7. The individuals should be generally recognized as experts in one or more of the following aspects of bromeliads:
    a. ecology, evolution, or taxonomy,
    b. cultivation or hybridization,
    c. display or exhibition.
8. The individuals should be generally recognized for their generous nature in sharing knowledge of bromeliads and for personal giving for the benefit of other people interested in bromeliads and for bromeliad organizations at all levels.

Procedures for Nomination

1. Nominators must be present members of the BSI.
2. The nominator should submit the nomination in writing, preferably by electronic mail. The nominator should provide a brief resume of the accomplishments of the nominee(s) in bromeliad-related activities (e.g., service, offices held, major awards won) and a letter describing the way in which the nominee(s) meets at least four of Criteria 2-8 listed above.
3. Past nominees may be re-nominated if they meet the current award criteria. Previous award winners are ineligible for re-nomination.
4. Please send nominations to Theresa Bert, 9251 13th Ave. Cir. NW, Bradenton, FL 34209-8305. E-mail: theresa.bert@myfwc.com or (because some messages are inadvertently blocked) webmaster@bsi.org. Thank you.
5. ****Nominations must be received by *June 1, 2012*.**

The winner's name will be published in the BSI Journal and posted on the BSI website. The winner or his/her representative will receive the award at the 2012 BSI World Conference in Orlando, Florida, USA. One award is made every two years, at each BSI World Conference.

Contact Theresa M. Bert:
E-mail: theresa.bert@myfwc.com or webmaster@bsi.org

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x Quesmea 'Jigsaw Puzzle'

Geoff Lawn, BSI Cultivar Registrar

Figure 1. *x Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle'. Photo by Kerry Booth Tate

Recently Brisbane, Australia grower Rick Cairns posted online a mystery bromeliad photo on Global Bromeliad Forum (http://www.bromeliadforum.za.net). This cultivar was not new in Australia, having circulated for maybe a decade and initially was thought to be an unidentified Aechmea hybrid from an unknown breeder and untraceable source. In the intervening years this unregistered cultivar acquired several alias names-- *Quesnelia edmundoi* "Black", *Aechmea* "Peachy Keen" and *Aechmea* "Black Olive" at show sales, through Aussie eBay and other outlets.

A consensus among several leading Aussie breeders and/or growers was that the hybrid was more likely a bigeneric, specifically x *Quesmea*. An identification breakthrough came with the discovery of a parentage label of *Quesnelia edmundoi* var. *rubrobracteata* x *Aechmea chantinii* "Peachy Keen" in the Gold Coast, Queensland collection of John Catlan & Genny Vauhkonen. They had acquired one plant locally and another identical clone specimen reputedly from Thailand. However, my enquiries with several Thai breeders and growers drew a blank as

Figure 2. *x Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle'. Photo by Matthew O'Brien

the photos submitted were unknown to them. Similarly, the name of "Peachy Keen" as a cultivar of *Ae. chantinii* was not recognized by several U.S. growers and their contacts I consulted.

Northern New South Wales grower Kerry Tate has followed this case for several years, piecing together what little information has been known and for that reason wanted to name and register this cross as x *Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle', also to hopefully sort out the confusion and settle on one legitimate cultivar name, both locally and abroad.

The mature open, funnel-form rosette averages 40 cms. diameter and 50 cms. tall in spike. The dark, frosted, rigid leaves, heavily black-spined and with muted silvery crossbands, together with orange-red primary scape bracts, suggest a dark form of *Ae. chantinii* was the pollen parent used (assuming the correct procedure was followed by tag-writing the seed parent first). However, the emerging inflorescence of clean yellow petals, yellow sepals and yellow floral bracts indicate *Quesnelia edmundoi* var. *edmundoi* is more likely the seed parent---not *Q. edmundoi* var. *rubrobracteata* which has red scape bracts, red floral bracts, blue petals and reddish foliage. During the blooming process in mid/late Spring, x *Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle' extends its inflorescence branches even further, ageing to a burnished gold for several months. Pups are formed on 10 cms. long woody stolons.

Figure 3. x *Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle'. Photo by Rosie Proctor-Kelly

Figure 4. x *Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle'. Photo by Rick Cairns

So we don't have yet a complete background story of this attractive bigeneric but its photos featured here and in the BSI's online Bromeliad Cultivar Register (http:registry.bsi.org/) assures its place in recorded history and as a handy, permanent reference which can be updated later if necessary.

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Events Calendar

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND:

MARCH 15-18, 2013. Cool Broms Conference, Auckland, NZ. Info by emailing coolbroms@bsnz.org or check out www.bsnz.org for conference news.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1, 2012. 20th World Bromeliad Conference, Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Contact bbout@aol.com

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Membership Secretary Position

The BSI is looking for a volunteer to serve as Membership Secretary. Qualifications for this position include - should be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly...no wait, that's something else. The Membership Secretary works closely with the President and other BSI officers and promotes membership in the society in accordance with policies established by the Board. The Membership Secretary maintains membership records, issues renewal notices and receives membership applications and renewals; computes and announces annually the number of directors allocated to each Region based on membership per Region and maintains a current directory of BSI membership; performs other related duties as they apply to the BSI. Interested parties should contact the BSI president at president@bsi.org

The BSI Seed Fund has found a new chairman! Many thanks to Bryan Windham of Kenner, Louisiana for taking on this responsibility.

More information to follow soon!

The Bromeliad Society International

The purpose of this nonprofit corporation is to promote and maintain public and scientific interest in the research, development, preservation, and distribution of bromeliads, both natural and hybrid, throughout the world. You are invited to join.

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