



BROMELETTER

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editor@bromeliad.org.au
and all other correspondence to:
The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.
PO Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.

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COMMITTEE

President	Ian Hook	(president@bromeliad.org.au)	0408 202 269
Vice President(1)	Kerry McNicol	(membsec@bromeliad.org.au)	0439 998 049
Vice President (2)	Larissa Victoria		0403 253 572
Secretary	Amal Eid		amalianne@yahoo.com.au
Treasurer	Maureen Johns		0414 338 982
Assistant Treasurer	Pat Sharpley		0439 672 826
	Larissa Victoria		0403 253 572
Editor	Sari Kilpinen—Hughes		0424 272 467
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Photo Front Cover

Grand Champion
Duterocohnia
'Chlorantha'

& 1st in Class 16
Terrestrial Bromeliad

Elizabeth Mudriczke

From the Editor,

It's been a busy few months with two meetings, our Spring Show and second judging school.

We had a successful show and were fortunate the rain held off despite the persistent rains during the previous weeks. As always Saturday was the busy day



with collectors and brom enthusiasts lining up early for that special brom purchase.

Elizabeth Mudriczke must have been working hard as she has taken out the Grand Champion two shows in a row as well as having many beautiful broms for sale.

Congratulations Elizabeth, well done!

In this issue we get to know a bit more about Narelle Aizlewood, our judging school instructor, and husband Greg. We are very appreciative of Narelle and Greg's commitment to us down in Sydney for the 3 years it will take to train our new judges.

As we are now nearing the end of the year, a reminder to all members that subscriptions are due on **1 January 2023**. Kerry McNicol, our membership secretary, will be taking payments and forms at the next two meetings. Please ensure you fill out your **current** contact details on the form. Your membership form includes a consent section (required by law) for us to use your name in any society advertising - eg 'Bill Smith's beautifully grown Billbergia'. Social media is now the most effective way of advertising and reaching a wider audience and Sari has been working consistently on our Facebook page to increase our exposure for both shows and sales at meetings. All this helps to promote our society.

Happy readingLarissa

Things are slowly getting back to normal so
we can now bring food to share
so please bring a plate of delights
 and if you can't bring food
 make a gold coin contribution

and bringing your own mug for coffee or tea
 is the better option.

Life Members:

Allan Beard
Carolyn Bunnell
Terence Davis
Ron Farrugia
Ian Hook
Graham McFarlane
Kerry McNicol
Bill Morris
David Scott



THAT LITTLE BLACK PLANT

The theme of our September meeting was 'black bromeliads'. Kerry McNicol presented a very interesting and informative talk, followed by exchange of ideas on the growing conditions, variety and types of 'black broms'. Many samples were brought in by members to give us all an understanding of the variety in form and number.

To understand why plants leaves come in different colours, let's look at the pigments found in plant cells.

Chlorophyll

Chlorophyll comes in two basic forms, which possibly causes the variation in greens in plants.

- **Chlorophyll a** is the more abundant form. It has a pigment colour designated 'blue-green'.
- **Chlorophyll b** has a pigment colour designated 'yellow-green'.

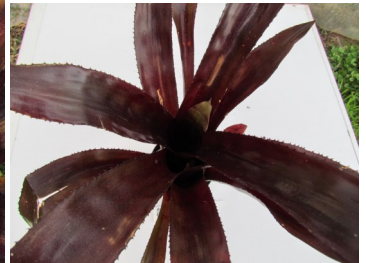
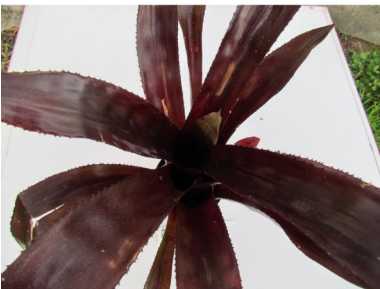


Anthocyanin

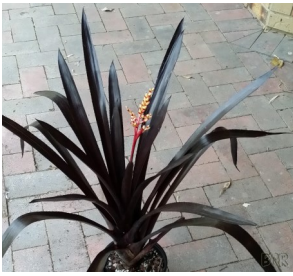
These are red, blue or violet pigments, which when dissolved in the vacuoles of some plant cells are responsible for the colour of petals, leaves, fruits, etc.

A combination of chlorophyll and anthocyanins and a 'layering' of leaf colour can be seen when a plant matures. As it does so, the chlorophyll present diminishes and other pigments begin to take over. As chlorophyll diminishes in the centre of the plant, the neoregelia then floods the centre with other pigments to give the colours.

Aechmea 'Mirlo'
Ae. victoriana v. *discolor* x *Ae. orlandiana*



Aechmea 'Black Satin'



Aechmea 'Tornado'



Blood Water

If you tip the water from the 'well' of some neoregelias you will sometimes find it tinged with red. Bromeliads contain B-carotene, and when you heat anything that contains B-carotene for a few minutes in acidic water, the B-carotene becomes soluble. Bromeliads acidify the water in their cups down to pH5.5 which may cause the red colouration of the water by dissolved B-carotene.

Neo. 'Pitch Black'
Unknown Parentage - Grace Goode



Neo. 'Wurthmann's Midnight'
Unknown parentage



Neo. 'Tar Baby'



Neoregelia 'Black Diamond'
soon to be registered
M&M Broms



Billbergia 'Darth Vader'



Neoregelia 'De Leon's Best'

Below: *Neo.* 'Little Black'



Aechmea 'Pica' (Ac. *Victoriana discolor* x *recurvata*)

Plant of the Month Competition September

Open Judge's Choice

1st	<i>Till. geminiflora</i> (photo no 1)	Harold Kuan
2nd	<i>Neo. Domino</i>	Kerry McNicol
3rd	<i>Vr. Joe Rigby</i> (photo no 3)	Harold Kuan

Member's Choice

1st	<i>Neo. Domino</i>	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Neo. Maribel</i>	Helga Nitschke
3rd	<i>Till. geminiflora</i> (photo no 1)	Harold Kuan



1



3



Our resident photographer, Terry, was away at the September meeting, thank you to Sari who photographed the entries.

Novice Judge's Choice

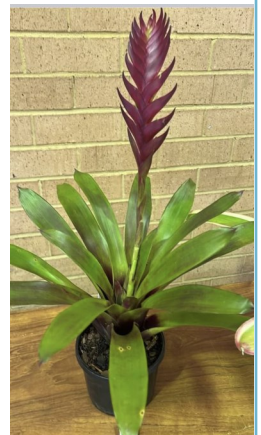
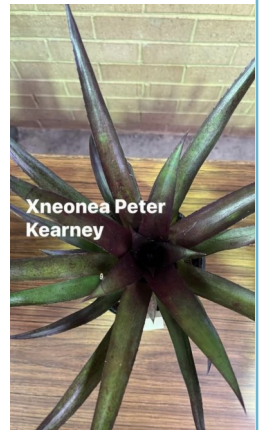
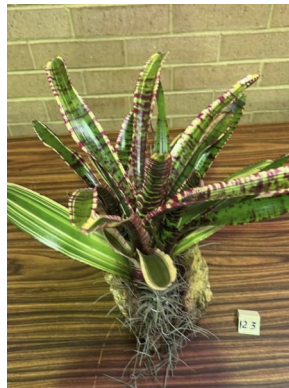
1st	<i>Neo.</i> 'Voodoo Doll'	Nina Woodcock
2nd	<i>Vr. lubbersii</i>	Ian Hook
3rd	<i>Aechmea nudicaulis v. aequalis</i>	Ian Hook

Novice Member's Choice

=1st	<i>Neo.</i> 'Voodoo Doll'	Nina Woodcock
=1st	<i>Vr. lubbersii</i>	Ian Hook
2nd	<i>xNeomea</i> 'Peter Kearney'	Ian Hook
3rd	<i>Neo.</i> 'Red Africa'	Nina Woodcock

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

1st	Happy Mid Autumn Festival (photo no 2)	Janet Kuan
2nd	Min (photo no 4)	Nina Woodcock



SPRING SHOW



Class 1 - Aechmea - 2nd place
Aechmea nudicaulis 'Rubra' - P. La



Class 2 Billbergia Specimen
1st place - *Billbergia* 'Grand Finale' - N. Woodcock



Class 2 Billbergia Specimen
3rd place - P. La
Billbergia 'Hallelujah x Golden Joy'



Class 2 Billbergia Specimen
- 2nd place - *Billbergia* 'Bubblez' - P. La



Class 3 Billbergia Colony
Billbergia 'Dangerous Dan'
1st place - K. McNicol



Class 3 Billbergia Colony
Billbergia 'Grand Finale'
3rd place - K McNicol



Class 3 Billbergia Colony
Billbergia 'Domingos Martins'
2nd place - P. La



Class 5 Neoregelia Species
Neoregelia wilsoniana
1st place - K. McNicol

SPRING SHOW



Class 6 Miniature Neoregelia
Neoregelia 'Palmares' 1st place
- P. La

Class 6 Miniature Neoregelia
Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger'
2nd place - P. La

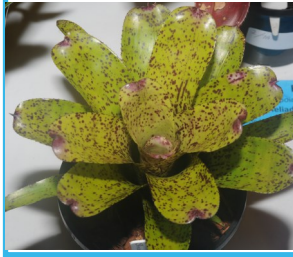


Class 6 Miniature Neoregelia
Neoregelia 'Harpo' 3rd place -
P. La



Class 7 Neoregelia Hybrid
Neoregelia 'Small Fry'
1st place - K. McNicol

Class 7 Neoregelia Hybrid
Neoregelia 'Shamrock'
2nd place - A. Ernst



Class 7 Neoregelia Hybrid
-*Neoregelia* 'Heat Wave'
3rd place - P. La



Class 8 Nidularium Canistropsis
Nidularium 'Ruby Lee'
1st place -- I. Hook

Class 9
Tillandsia Specimen -
Tillandsia 'Eric The
Red'
1st place - C. Bunnell



Class 9 Tillandsia Specimen
Tillandsia 'Purple Gem'
2nd place - N. Woodcock

Class 9 Tillandsia Specimen

Tillandsia 'Patterson'

3rd place - H. Nitschke



Reserve Champion



Class 10 Tillandsia Colony

Tillandsia 'Hydes Silver'

Reserve Champion & 1st place

- H. Kuan

Class 10 Tillandsia Colony

Tillandsia ortgiesiana

2nd place - H. Kuan



Class 11 Vriesea

Vriesea 'Pinkert'

1st place - K. McNicol



Class 10 Tillandsia Colony

Tillandsia 'Eric The Red'

3rd place - C. Bunnell



Class 11 Vriesea

Vriesea 'Black Hawaiian'

2nd place - H. Nitschke

- No photo available -



Class 12 Foliage Variegated

Neoregelia 'Heat Wave'

2nd place - H. Nitschke



Class 12 Foliage Variegated

Neoregelia 'Purple Star'

1st place - A. Eid

Class 12 Foliage Variegated

Neoregelia 'Pimiento'

3rd place - H. Nitschke

Species Award & Class 13 Other Genera
***Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'**
1st Place in Class 13 - K McNicol



Class 13 Other Genera - 2nd place
***Canistrum* 'Canvey Royale'**
K. McNicol



Class 14 Intergeneric
***xVrieslandia* 'Joe Rigby'**
1st place - A. Ernst



Class 14 Intergeneric
***xNiduregelia* 'Ruby Ryde'**
2nd place - H. Nitschke

Class 14 Intergeneric
***Neomea* 'Shooting Star' - 3rd place - K. McNicol**



Class 16 Terrestrial Bromeliad
Dyckia delicata
2nd place - H. Kuan



Class 15 Mounted Bromeliad
***Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'**
1st place - E. Mudriczke

SPRING SHOW



Class 16 Terrestrial Bromeliad
Dyckia 'Treesaregreen'
3rd place - H. Kuan



Class 17 Artistic Arrangement
'Sticky Plants'
1st place - N. Woodcock

Class 17 Artistic
'Springtime Bloom'
2nd place - J. Kuan



Novice Champion



Novice Champion & Class 18 Novice
Neoregelia 'Royale'
1st place - N. Woodcock



Class 18 Novice
Neoregelia 'Lorena Lector'
2nd place - N. Woodcock



Class 18 Novice
Neoregelia 'Dunmore Ruby'
3rd place - N. Woodcock

OUR SHOW WINNERS

We had many great entries this Spring show and lots of variety. Terry's competition instructions have paid off with contestants preparing their plant well, and so the winners are.

Top: **Grand Champion** - Elizabeth Mudriczke

Right: **Species Award** - Kerry McNicol

Below right: **Novice**

Champion - Nina Woodcock



We would like to welcome our recent bromeliad enthusiasts some of whom joined up at the spring show.

Warwick Varley

Glenda Snow and her daughter Claudia

Sue Bell

Paul Jelleyman

Phil Ross

We encourage all members to post on our Facebook page, to help new members and inform visitors of our monthly meetings and how they can join.

TRADING ACCOUNT REPORTS

for August and September 2022—Maureen Johns

Opening Balance 01/08/2022	\$ 14,237.57	Opening Balance 01/09/2022	\$12,185.01
Add Income	\$872.71	Add Income	\$ 8,124.17
Less Expenses	\$ 2,925.27	Less Expenses	\$ 2,247.68
Closing Balance 31/08/2022	\$12,185.01	Closing Balance 30/09/2022	\$ 18,061.50



Greg and Narelle sitting in front of Greg's stand of tillandsias at our October meeting.

MEMBER PROFILE

L.Victoria

Narelle and Greg have generously made the trip from QLD twice this year, so Narelle could run our judging school. I took the opportunity to chat to her at the October meeting so we can know our new members a bit better.

Narelle's love of bromeliads started in the late 80s when she and her best friend

and work colleague decided to go to a bromeliad meeting in Brisbane. Up till then Narelle had not been a gardening enthusiast and had no family members who inspired her to garden, yet from that meeting her love and passion of bromeliads grew and seems to have infected Greg along the way. Her favourites are the soft leaf vrieseas, while Greg first were bilbergias and more recently tillandsias. We were fortunate to see/ buy some of Greg's beauties at our October meeting, well displayed on his handmade stand. You may notice Greg is a frequent donator to our seed bank, so a good person to chat to if you're starting out collecting seed or propagating.

Narelle and Greg have been mainstay members of the BQS (Brisbane) and the Gold Coast Society from the early days (1989 - early 1990's). Narelle has held many positions in the Gold Coast Society, starting as the secretary, while Greg started as the treasurer and librarian. They have worn many hats over that time. Currently they are members of both QLD societies, but Narelle is focused more on judging and Greg is involved in the BSI (International society).

As there were no BSI schools in Australia, Narelle undertook her BSI judging course in San Diego, USA which required travelling there every two years. The course took 10 years to complete, and she and Greg combined this with attending BSI

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland and the Gold Coast Society both use the BSI points scoring system, which in Narelle's opinion rewards growers for their efforts. Our trainee judges are also learning this system.

conferences and giving Greg time to attend to his role as a BSI board member. Not being competitive by nature, entering bromeliad show competitions was the first area of competitiveness that Narelle has engaged in, and one she really enjoyed. Of recent times Narelle put most of her energy into judging and running judging schools rather than entering competitions.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT NARELLE

Apart from her interest in bromeliads Narelle and Greg love fishing and crabbing and next May have a trip planned to Borroloola, to fish for saltwater barramundi. With their 'tinnie' they'll go fishing in the sea and estuaries. Narelle is also a keen baker but finds this is not always a good pursuit for the waistline. However, she now has a baking buddy in her 12-year-old grand-daughter.

Both Greg and Narelle retired around 50, at which time they combined their separate homes and bought a house which they see is their 'forever home'. They travel a lot, enjoy bromeliads and fishing and love their lifestyle.

FOR YOUR diary - 2022

NB 3rd Saturday 19th November meeting

- A short talk by **Joy Clark** on **Mini Broms, followed by a general discussion on minis, so bring in some of your minis for us to appreciate or identify**

and

Tony Matson from Cut Above Tools will give us his

Pruning Tool Tips

10th December meeting - Xmas Lunch

(Please advise us /write your name on the list if you are attending. Please do this in November)

In 2023 we are back on the 14th January in the Federation Pavilion

5th February - 3rd Judging School

11th February - Normal member meeting

OCTOBER MEETING - ALLAN BEARD

L.Victoria—text and photos

Despite some family opposition to being a farmer Allan has always been happy working on the land. His father, himself a farmer, had battled with being totally dependent on rainfall for his crops and didn't wish that hardship on his son, while Allan's wife often said he needed to 'get a real job'. In time, Allan and his wife settled on acreage at Glenorie where he grew stone-fruit.



One day his wife bought home a

bromeliad she had purchased from Dural and when Allan asked "why did you buy that?" she answered "because it looked nice". With time the unusual plant grew on

Allan, he came to appreciate its uniqueness and began searching for broms whenever he was out.



Some of the calendars Allan has created of his broms and garden over the years

The next few years were taken up by what Allan calls a 'nursery crawl' visiting numerous nurseries along the east coast of NSW always looking for bromeliads. In time, he came upon the BSA show in Burwood, but didn't get the information to where the normal meetings were held. When he finally came across that information the demands of growing peaches

often stopped him from attending the Saturday meetings. At shows he learned not to deliberate too long over purchases, as broms disappeared quickly, but to buy any beauties immediately. During this time he expanded his collection from a Central Coast brom nursery run by Marg McNamara. She was a good source of information and new bromeliads. One day when he was visiting Marg he saw brom growing in a crack in the cement. On finding out this was a Neo Stout Fellow he immediately bought it and had it to show us at our meeting. Marg also introduced Allan to seed propagation. At first, his pot just looked like a layer of moss, but later small plantlets appeared, ultimately producing approximately 50 plants.

SOME OF ALLANS TIPS AND TRICKS

- Allan showed several examples of the same bromeliad growing in either the sun or shade and the difference that it makes to the structure and colour. Allan has the advantage of lots of space, so he has plenty of options to whether broms are positioned in shade or in sun. He advises when you buy a bromeliad you should know where in your environment you will be placing it and if you're not sure whether it is a sun or a shade variety to talk to the grower. Often he finds people complain that a certain brom they have isn't doing well, but they haven't researched it's sun requirements and simply have it in the wrong spot.



Nidularium innocent—middle photo side by side, one grown in shade and one in sun

- Allan showed a Billbergia that he cut back severely in an attempt to force it to make a new pup. A brave move that worked!
- This summer he plans to experiment growing deep coloured broms in more sun. But warns care needs to be taken that these broms are not subjected to rapid temp changes eg going from 20's to 30's in a few days.
- Allan commented that Ruby Lee is hard to grow, it's growth is slow and it tends to mark despite taking care where it is kept.
- Allan buys Bunnings Orchid Mix, but currently is not happy with it, as it breaks down quickly making a yearly change of potting medium necessary. Adding Perlite helps keep the medium loose (aerated) , but Allan still has problems with some of his plants. He prefers a mix with more bark.

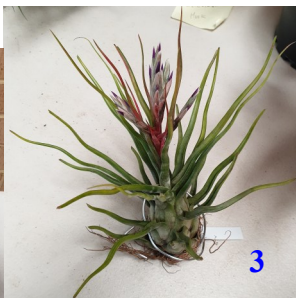
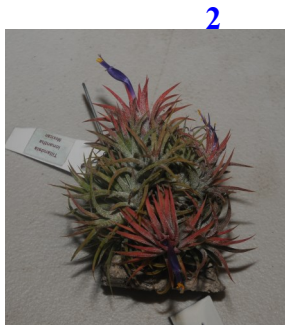
Plant of the Month Competition October

Open Judge's Choice

1st	<i>Tillandsia recurvifolia</i> var. <i>subsecundifolia</i> photo no 1)	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i> Mexican variety (photo no 2)	Elizabeth Mudriczki
3rd	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Showtime' (photo no 3)	Nina Woodcock

Member's Choice

1st	<i>Tillandsia geminiflora</i> (photo no 4)	Greg Aizlewood
2nd	<i>Tillandsia recurvifolia</i> var. <i>subsecundifolia</i> photo no 1)	Kerry McNicol
= 3rd	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Showtime' (photo no 3)	Nina Woodcock
	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Turmoil' (photo no 5)	Kerry McNicol
	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Starburst' (photo no 6)	Narelle Aizlewood



Novice Judge's Choice

1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Orange Glow' (photo no 7)	Andrew Miller
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Jemmie Joy' (photo no 8)	Andrew Miller
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Chiquita Linda' (photo no 9)	Anna Ernst

Novice Member's Choice

1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Orange Glow' (photo no 7)	Andrew Miller
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Jemmie Joy' (photo no 8)	Andrew Miller
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Chiquita Linda' (photo no 9)	Anna Ernst

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

1st	'Tillandsia Balance' (see page 21)	Anna Ernst
2nd	'Spring Has Sprung' (photo no 11)	Lyn Ivanov
3rd	'Mothers Day' (photo no 12)	Lyn Ivanov



11

9

7

12

8

ARTISTIC CATEGORY - Margaret Draddy Artistic Category

L.Victoria

Have you wondered why our artistic category (MDAC) is named after Margaret Draddy? Who was she? How did this category eventuate?

Unfortunately, many of the newer society members, like myself, haven't had the privilege of knowing some of the amazing founding bromeliad enthusiasts and Margaret Draddy was one such person. She joined the BSA in 1981-2, attended every international bromeliad



conference, bar one, and was one of an intrepid group of Australian bromeliad enthusiasts which included Ruby Ryde, Marge MacNamara and Ellen Sloss, who travelled to South America several times to collect plants and seed, scrabbling up and down gullies and mountains to do so.

It was after attending one of the world bromeliad conferences (BSI) that Margaret decided that we too should have an artistic category and was instrumental in setting this up and therefore sponsored the Margaret Draddy Perpetual Trophy.

Margaret was a bromeliad and plant enthusiast, always loved attending meetings and to her delight was made a BSA life member. She passed away at the age of 92, just before our Bromsmatta conference in 2015.

As some members have asked what is allowed in this category, here are the guidelines. Our BSA competition rules state:

Artistic Arrangement - predominantly bromeliad material. Maybe multiple plants or parts of. Embellishments allowed.

Our guidelines follow the principles set by the BSI and are more fully explained in their BSI Standard Bromeliad Show Requirements.

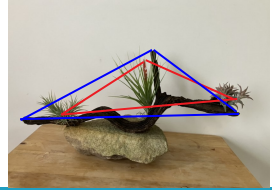
ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS – includes all floral designs of bromeliads and/or bromeliad foliage, inflorescences, roots, and stolens, used singly or in combination with other plant material, and/or man-made materials, viewed as an artistic entity, organized according to the principles of design to express beauty. While other plant materials may be used, either fresh and/or dried, Bromeliads must be emphasized.

In essence, when you look at an artistic entry the bromeliads must be the overwhelming plant material. So let your imagination run wild.

Anna's winning artistic entry (October meeting) demonstrates several principles of good design. 1. **the principle of three** - the human eye finds odd number of objects more aesthetically pleasing than even numbers. 2. **placement of main elements** on a scalene triangle (uneven sided triangle). 3. use of **different**

textures. 4. elements need to **complement** not compete.

Clean, unobstructed designs are always more difficult to achieve, as every element must be placed in just the right manner to achieve a visually pleasing display.



Ways Bromeliads Reproduce

Source: www.gardeningknowhow

Photo: FNCBSG - April 2021, R. Little

Plants can reproduce in two ways: sexually or asexually. **Asexual reproduction** is when plants are reproduced by offshoots, division or cuttings.

SEXUAL REPRODUCTION

Hermaphroditic Plants - Hermaphroditic plants have male and female reproductive organs within the **same** flower. Flowers on hermaphroditic plants can pollinate themselves.

The result being seeds that produce replicas of the parent.

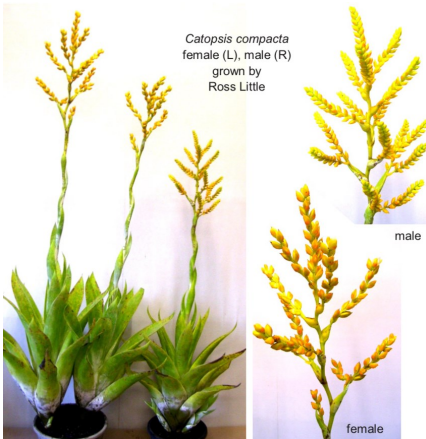


Photo: male and female *Catopsis compacta*.

	MALE PARTS OF FLOWER	FEMALE PARTS OF FLOWER
Produce	pollen	seed
Flower parts	stamens and anthers	pistil - has three parts –the stigma, style, and ovary.

Dioecious plants house their male and female flowers on **separate** plants. This is most common among gymnosperms— non-flowering seed plants, and less common with flowering plants (5-6% or approximately 15,000 species).

Dioecy comes from the Greek: meaning 'two households'

SEED BANK

If you have seed to donate please contact Terry .

Below is the list of seeds in our Seed Bank.

<i>Al. imperialis rubra</i>	4.10.21	Beverley Irvine
<i>Tillandsia juncea</i>	1.2.22	Werner Raff
<i>Tillandsia leiboldiana</i> (purple bracts)	4.4.22	Kerry McNicol
<i>Catopsis floribunda</i>	2.6.22	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Vriesea</i> 'Nova Pink'	late June 2022	Amanda Barbe
<i>Till. capillaris</i> was <i>var incana</i>	6.6.22	Kerry McNicol
<i>Till. fasciculata</i> 'Jim Hyde'	late June 2022	Amanda Barbe
<i>Till. Utriculate</i>	late June 2022	Amanda Barbe
<i>Till. fasciculata var densispica</i>	late June 2022	Amanda Barbe
<i>Till. x floridiana</i>	late June 2022	Amanda Barbe
<i>Till. fasciculata var fasciculata</i>	late June 2022	Amanda Barbe
<i>Tillandsia gardneri</i>	30.8.2022	Terry Davis
<i>Vriesea platynema variegartum</i>	10.8.2022	Ian Hook
<i>Catopsis nutans</i>	9.10.022	Greg Aizlewood

Very limited supply of all seeds below

<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i>	1.10.2022	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia sucrei</i>	15.7.2022	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia sprengeliana</i>	28.6.2022	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia geminiflora</i>	10.7.2022	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia andreana x funkiana</i> F2	5.10.2022	Greg Aizlewood

50¢ per packet (plus postage) Members or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other Contact ***Terry Davis (02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809***

LITERATURE for Sale

<http://www.bromeliad.org.au/Contacts/BSALibrarian.htm>

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden	Andrew Steens	\$20.00
Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007)	BSI	\$ 6.00
Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias	Margaret Paterson	\$25.00
Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree	John Catlan	\$10.00
Bromeliad Cultivation Notes	Lyn Hudson	\$10.00
Growing Bromeliads – 3rd Ed. by BSA IS BACK!		\$20.00 (member price)

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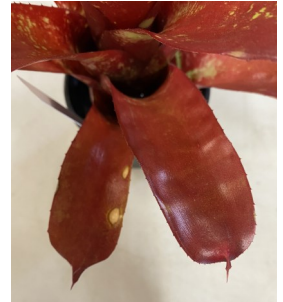
Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc.

Books available on-line at

www.bromeliad-hybrids.com

Nina Woodcock received praise from Terry when she followed his previous instructions (see Issue 7:2021) on how to trim leaves using a template based on other leaves. In this way you replicate the leaf margin. It was indeed difficult to find her trimmed leaf, as we all found out.

Terry's Tip - Cut dead leaf tips only when necessary, and as close to the competition time as possible then seal the cut with lip balm to stop discolouration of the cut.



***If undelivered, return to:
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