

## BOOK REVIEW: NIDULARIUM—BROMELIADS OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST

The book's primary author is Elton Leme, with several other authors contributing towards certain specialist chapters in it. The book was published by GMT Editores Ltda in 2000.

This book is the third volume of the "Projeto *Nidularium*". The first volume was *Canistrum—Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest*, which was published in 1997, while the second, published in 1998, was *Canistropsis—Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest*. Collectively, these books constitute a major taxonomic revision of the genus *Nidularium* and related genera/species.

The book has 264 pages and over 200 colour photographs. Detailed botanical descriptions (including a botanical key), as well as commentary on their distribution and habitat, are presented for 27 *Nidularium* species from the "blue complex" (species in this group have corollas in varying shades of blue), 7 species from the "red complex", and 11 species from the "white complex".

A photograph of a flowering plant is provided for each species and, in many cases, a habitat photograph as well. This book contains the first published botanical description for quite a few species.

Many of the species described in the book are very attractive, from a horticultural perspective. Some of them are rarely seen in Australia. They include: *atalaiaense*, *rosulatum*, *fradense*, *amorimii*, and *altimontanum*.

Chapters then follow on doubtful and excluded (from the genus *Nidularium*) taxa, hummingbird pollination of *Nidularium* and related genera, the use of molecular data to better define taxonomic relationships in the bromeliad family and, pollen fertility in the *Nidularioid* complex.

There are also chapters on additions to the genus *Canistrum* (three new species are described), *Wittrockia*-two species, and *Neoregelia*- one species. Several topics of taxonomic interest, a comprehensive list of references, and an index, conclude the book.

While some readers may find parts of the book "heavy going", it is worth persevering, as you gain an insight into the issues associated with botanically-classifying bromeliads.

However, the book is well worth reading just for the descriptions, and photographs, of the bromeliads covered in it.

**Year of Review: 2004**