

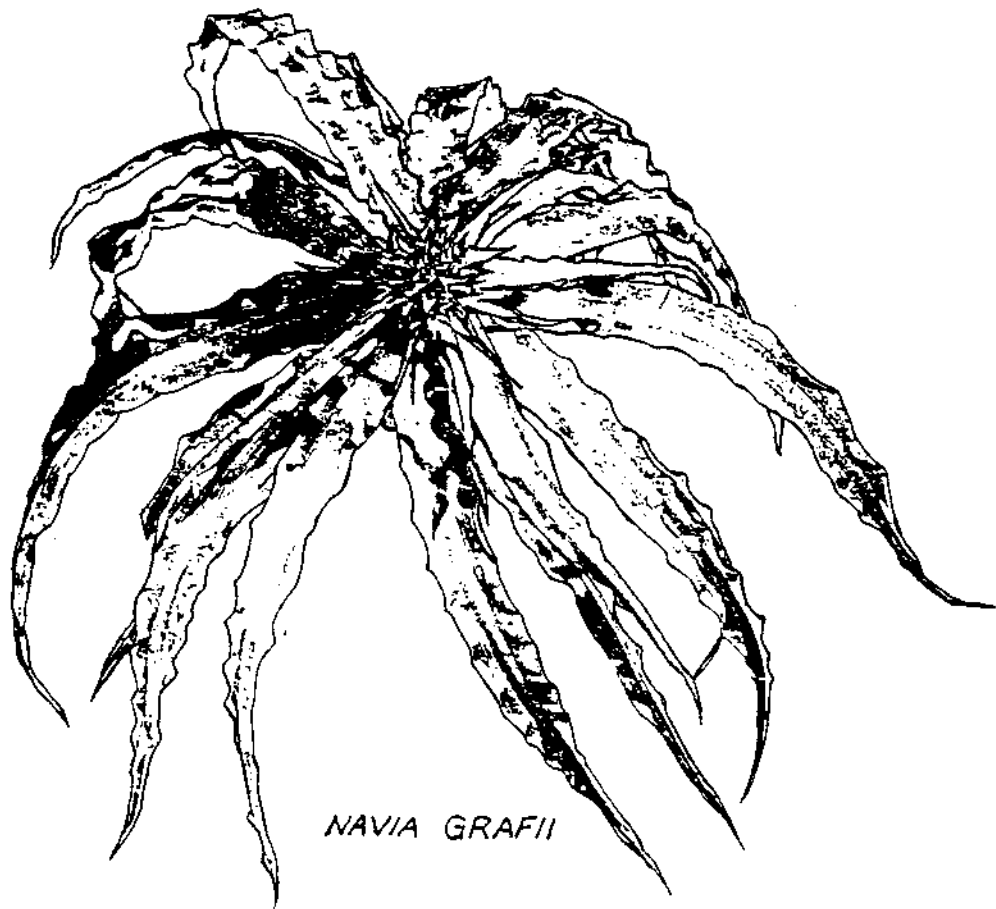
# BROMELIACEAE

BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
OF QUEENSLAND

Postal Address : P.O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley, Q.4006.

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*NAVIA GRAFII*

## *The Bromelaid Society of Queensland*

*General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December, at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, commencing at 7.30 p.m.*

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 565,  
Fortitude Valley,  
Australia, Q. 4006.

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**Patron :** Mr. H. Caulfield

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Messrs. D. Hobbs, M. O'Dea, D. Upton, L. Trevor, L. Butt.

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### PROGRAMME

MAY,	17TH:	General Meeting Guest Speaker	- Mr. Jeff Hodges : Organic Growing
		Golden Oldies Plant Commentary	- Hechtias / Dyckias - Greg Stewart
JUNE,	8TH:	Combined Show	- Set-up from 12.00 noon at Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium
JUNE,	9TH:	Combined Show	- Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium
JUNE,	10TH:	Combined Show	- Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium
JUNE,	21ST:	General Meeting Speaker	- Mr. Len Butt : Billbergias (Talk & Slides)
		Golden Oldies Plant Commentary	- Billbergias - Paul Clarke
AUGUST,	5TH:	R.N.A. Show	- Set-up backdrop and accessories
AUGUST,	8TH:	R.N.A. Show	- Set-up display (bring plants from 4.00 p.m. on)
AUGUST,	9TH TO		
AUGUST,	18TH:	R.N.A. Show	- Steward display

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THE GROWING OF BROMELIADS

As a society we tend to grow most of our bromeliads in pots in some kind of shed or bushhouse, the mix usually open to allow good drainage. This of course helps to transport the specimens to shows either for display purposes or to enter same in competition for judging. Very pleasing indeed are the many shows I have attended.

As I am in several plant societies, I travel around from place to place and am always curious to know how the rest of the plant growers view genera other than those they give the most favoured treatment. Their treatment and growing habits may seem to the dedicated bromeliad grower quite strange or out of the ordinary.

On a recent visit to the Bundaberg area I was introduced to perhaps the best laid out bromeliad garden I have ever seen and, strange to say, the placement of the plants without burn from the sun or destruction from insect pests was quite remarkable. The plants ranged over all genera. Outside in the open, *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium* and *Vriesea*, all growing well together; at times of the day I suspect getting full sun. The only shade to plants came from the house or shadows from trees. From memory I think the built up beds were made up of waste from the sugar mills, though this may not be so. The condition of these plants was up to show condition, or very little below that standard. I do not know if this grower has a very special site, good luck, or has got extra special skills.

The point about this article is that quite a number of people in the area have seen this garden, and it now has inspired them to efforts of starting outside gardens featuring bromeliads. I wish them success and perhaps quite a few more growers in say the Brisbane area might try this experiment and be encouraged to gardening along these lines to promote such displays.

In my efforts so far, none but the hardiest varieties have survived under my conditions of sun, wind, salt and rain. This is of course in outside gardening.

Why not try your luck. You could be surprised with the results.

Des Anderson.

NAVIA

NAVIA was discovered in 1820 by the German botanist, Karl von Martius, and named by Martius and Schultes in 1830 to honour Bernard S. von Nau, a student of natural history and physics.

The Navia falls into the sub-family PITCAIRNIOIDEAE. Schultes called it the "quaintest and most singular of the Bromel genera". Navia is indigenous to the area known as the Guyana Highlands, centred in Venezuela, but extending into Surinam, Columbia and northern Brazil. This area has often been called the "Lost World" and "The Land That Time Forgot", and as it is largely unexplored, who can say how many marvellous plants and animals are waiting to be discovered. This territory has been described as 'a bewildering and tantalising maze of isolated sandstone mountains of grotesque shapes arising out of impenetrable jungles and sandy savanas'.

Karl von Martius, who dared to make his way through the forests of Amazonian Colombia, brought back 2 species. Seventy four (74) species have now been gathered and described. Many of these are only of botanic interest, but some are very beautiful and worthy of a place in collections.

Navias are either terrestrial (growing on the ground) or saxicolous (growing on rocks). They seem to cover all growing conditions. Some grow in the cool moist areas along the banks of streams, or bathing in the misty spray of waterfalls. Some grow in the open scrub savanas, while others prefer clinging to cliffs and rock crevices where it may be moist or dry. Mostly they are stemless plants, often forming large colonies, and vary in size forming rosettes of several inches to several feet in diameter. The flowers may be sessile (attached directly by the base) not stalked. Flower rests directly on the stem, deep in the rosette, stalked, or in a series of small clusters spaced along the stem. Like all the Bromeliad family, it displays great versatility. This trait leads one to believe that some Navias would grow quite well in cultivation.

This was proved by Josef Bogner who several years ago, collected *Navia splendens* and *N. anida*, and brought them to the Botanic Garden in Munich, Germany, where, after a time for acclimatisation, became established, received the same care as was given to the other Bromeliads, grew without difficulty, and in due course bloomed and set seed.

They are a most interesting group of plants about which very little is known, and because of the inaccessibility to all but the most zealous of plant explorers, as far as can be determined, none have been offered in the trade.

The two Navias described in Victoria Padilla's book "Bromeliads" are *N. fontoides* (L.B. Smith 1955) the 'fountain navia' which has orange or scarlet centred rosette, and long thin gracefully arching leaves, and *N. nubicola* (L.B. Smith 1957) which has a medium-sized symmetrical rosette, with long narrow pointed leaves that are reddish at the base. Petals are white. It is found in moist soil or on rocks in forests in Venezuela at elevations up to 5100 feet.

*N. splendens* is also a native to Venezuela and Guyana, where it grows at 3000 feet on vertical cliffs. It has also been found at the foot of Angel Falls. A lovely species, it consists of a rosette of 20-30 leaves, about 14 inches long, appearing at the end of an 8" stem that is covered with the remains of old leaves. The dark green, slightly fleshy foliage, makes a fine foil for the colourful inflorescence with its orange-red flowers. This species does not like to have water kept in its centre cup, as in its natural habitat - steep cliffs - the water drains immediately.

Information compiled by Patricia O'Dea

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visitors welcome

MINI SHOW APRIL, 1990 - RESULTS

## CLASS 1: AECHMEA

- 1.
2. Phyllis & Don Hobbs *Aechmea weilbachii* var. *leodiensis*
- 3.

## CLASS 2: BILLBERGIA

No Entries

## CLASS 3: NEOREGELIA

- 1.
2. Nev Ryan *Neoregelia dendula* var. *brevifolia*
- 3.

## CLASS 4: TILLANDSIA

- 1.
2. Yvonne Boorman *Tillandsia lindenii*
- 3.

## CLASS 5: VRIESEA

No Entries

## CLASS 6: ANY OTHER GENERA

1. Phyllis & Don Hobbs *Guzmania rubra lutea*
- 2.
- 3.

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As I am sure you will have noticed, this a much expanded and varied issue of Bromeliaceae, and for this I give my sincere thanks to all those members who have supplied copy.

If all members did this, we would have a magazine of great interest to all, and it would make the job of Editor that much easier.

Ed.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND - 1990 COMBINED SHOW - COMPETITION SCHEDULECONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

1. Plants must be correctly labelled, free of disease, established in the pot or on the mounting, and in show bench condition.
2. All water must be emptied from the plants and the pots dried off before placing on the show bench.
3. Plants must be the property of the Exhibitor and have been in his/her custody for the previous three months.
4. A limit of three (3) plants per class per financial member of the B.S.Q. or Q.S.S. will apply.
5. The eligibility of plants in the various classes will be determined by the Chief Bromeliad Competition Steward whose decision is final.
6. The Judging Panel's decision as to the quality of the plants is final.
7. If the plant quality does not meet the Judging Panel's standard, first, second or third prize will not necessarily be awarded.
8. Specimen plants (Class 16) must be connected by an intact rhizome.
9. Entries will be received up to 7.30 pm on the Friday evening, when judging shall commence.

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NOTES:

1. Classes 1 to 15 inclusive may consist of multiple plants in one container or on one mounting, but should be connected by an intact rhizome.
2. Class 18 - theme may be display or educational. Other plants, natural or artificial adjuncts are allowed, but judging will be on the basis of plant quality and effective presentation of bromeliads.
3. Classes 4 and 12 - must have flowers (i.e. petals) or unopened buds evident. Plants in other classes may show bud, bract or berry, or capsule.
4. The Nez Misso Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the best Tillandsioideae on the competition table.
5. The Hudson Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the best Bromelioideae on the competition table.
6. The Grace Goode Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the best Cryptanthus on the competition table.
7. The Tom Scholfield Memorial Award will be made at the discretion of the Chairman of the Combined Show Committee.
8. Special Awards are made at the Judges discretion.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND - 1990

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANTS ENTERED</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	
1 TILLANDSIA	(a) _____	8 NEOREGELIA	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____
2 VRIESEA	(a) _____	9 NIDULARIUM	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____
3 OTHER TILLANDSIOIDEAE	(a) _____	10 INTERGENERIC	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____
4 TILLANDSIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	(a) _____	11 OTHER BROMELIOIDEAE	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____
5 CRYPTANTHUS	(a) _____	12 BROMELIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____
6 BILLBERGIA	(a) _____	13 HECTIA/DYCKIA	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____
7 AECHMEA	(a) _____	14 PITCAIRNIA	(a) _____
	(b) _____		(b) _____
	(c) _____		(c) _____



COMBINED SHOW - COMPETITION SCHEDULE

<u>PLANTS ENTERED</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANTS ENTERED</u>
_____	15 OTHER	(a) _____
_____	PITCAIRNIOIDEAE	(b) _____
_____		(c) _____
_____	16 SPECIMEN	(a) _____
_____	ANY GENUS, 3 OR	(b) _____
_____	MORE CONNECTED	(c) _____
_____	MATURE PLANTS	
_____	17 NOVICE	(a) _____
_____	ANY GENERA	(b) _____
_____	MARY GRASELI	(c) _____
_____	AWARD	
_____	Entrant never	(a) _____
_____	won a First Prize)	(b) _____
_____	18 MINATURE DISPLAY	(c) _____
_____	(NOT TO EXCEED	(a) _____
_____	1 METRE IN ANY	(b) _____
_____	DIMENSION - Inc.	(c) _____
_____	Terrariums)	
_____	19 NOVELTY DISPLAY	(a) _____
_____	(NOT TO EXCEED	(b) _____
_____	1 METRE IN ANY	(c) _____
_____	DIMENSION)	
_____	20 FLORAL DISPLAY	(a) _____
_____	(CUT BROMELIAD	(b) _____
_____	FLOWERS AND/OR	(c) _____
_____	BERRIES AND	
_____	BRACTS -	
_____	Accessories	
_____	Permitted)	

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
21	BEST TILLANDSIOIDEAE	Mez Misso Memorial Trophy
22	BEST BROMELIOIDEAE	Hudson Perpetual Trophy
23	BEST CRYPTANTHUS	Grace Goode Perpetual Trophy
24	BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE	
25	RESERVE CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW	
26	CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW	
	TOM SCHOLFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD - CHAIRMAN'S AWARD (Awarded at the discretion of the Chairman of the Combined Show Committee)	

ENTRANTS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LETTER & REPLY : OLWEN FERRIS / LYMAN B. SMITH

Bromeliad Display Garden,  
149 Oxley Dr.,  
PARADISE POINT. 4216

Dear Greg,

B.S. of Aust Inc., in their last 'Bromeletter' have something by Derek Butcher asking about the plant called *Aechmea* 'Tessie'. & in answering this, I thought you might like to know about the letter I got from Lyman B. Smith when I sent him the dried specimen of this plant, that is also called *Ae. phanerophlebia* by some.

In April 1963, I visited the late Wal Charlie about a week before the first General Meeting of B.S. of Aust. I bought a seedling from a batch labelled *Ae. tessmannii* (there were about 12 seedlings left & I guess in time these were sold). I have seen plants similar here in Qld, but called *Ae. phanerophlebia*.

When my plant flowered I pressed the inflorescence & two leaves, and when dry placed them in a cardboard file folder and posted the dried specimen to Dr. Smith. Enclosed with this is a copy of Dr. Smith's letter. The original is being sent to Derek Butcher.

Good editing from Olwen Ferris.

-----  
Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D.C. 20560 U.S.A.

August 23rd, 1968

Dear Mrs. Ferris,

I have compared the specimen that you sent me recently with *Aechmea phanerophlebia* and admit there is a close resemblance. However, the floral bracts are much too ample for that species, and I strongly suspect that it is a hybrid of *Aechmea distichantha* with some species that has flowers in more than 2 ranks.

Sincerely Yours,

Lyman B. Smith,  
Senior Botanist,  
Dept. of Botany

(Letters reproduced courtesy of Olwen Ferris)

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#### LESSER KNOWN SPECIES

Wittrockia belong to the sub-family Bromelioideae and were named after Veit Bracher Wittrock, a Swedish botanist (1839-1914).

They are described by Werner Rauh as "stemless rosette plants with lineal, bare, spine-margined leaves having a compound inflorescence, (composed of secondary branches) glomerate headed, (dense or compact clusters) and nestling in the rosette". Rauh also comments that "these plants are similar to Nidulariums, but in Wittrockia the coloured 'heart leaves' are absent".

This species comes from the southern coastal mountains of Brazil. As far as can be ascertained there are six species. They are both epiphytic and terrestrial plants, growing on rocks or on the ground, often in full sun, or midway up trees where there is medium intensity light and humidity (Victoria Padilla).

"The flowers vary in colour from blue (*Wittrockia azurea*) and yellow (*W. compos-portoi*) to white and green (*W. smithii*). In *W. minuta* and *W. compos-portoi*, the inflorescence is raised above the leaf sheaths, in the others it is deep in the rosette" (Victoria Padilla).

These plants are very seldom seen, so it was a pleasure to be able recently to view a few of the varieties in the collection of Mr. & Mrs. J. Buchanan, Pinegrove Nursery, Wardell, N.S.W., and to be able to purchase a plant, viz. *W. King Crab*. On viewing the mature specimen of this bromeliad, the colour and shape of the inflorescence and surrounding leaves, it was not hard to understand why it was so named.

R.J. Paulsen

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ADVENTURING WITH BROMELIADS (CONTINUED)

Even on the more temperate upper Magdalena, Andre found the elevation still too low for optimum conditions for bromeliads. At Honda, he changed from the boat to a mule train which was to be his chief conveyance henceforth, and started eastward up the Cordillera Oriental toward Bogota.

Andre was quickly adjusted to this new mode of travel and even the toboggan tactics of the mules on wet clay slopes soon failed to distract his attention from the spectacle about him. The trail rose, the temperature dropped, and soon Spanish Moss, *Tillandsia usneoides*, and stunted vegetation marked the beginning of the 'tierra fria' or cool upland where gaudy Ericaceae predominate.

At Facatativa he reached the rim of the ancient lake-bed in which Bogota lies. There he found his first truly Andean species of bromeliad *Tillandsia incarnata*, which covers the ground with a gray carpet flecked with the bright red bracts.

After a short stop in Bogota where he made some very helpful acquaintances, he continued across the remainder of the Andean chain to Villavicencio on the western edge of the great Panos or Prairie country of the Orinoco Basin. Crossing the Andes he began to pick up new bromeliads in earnest. *Tillandsia berterandra* (now *Vriesea berterandra*), *Pitcairnia guaritermae*, and *P. brachysperma*, and *Aechmea servitensis*, as well as a number of older species. However, in the bromeliad-poor llanos, Andre found only *Aechmea anquistiholia*, a characteristic species of the Amazon Basin.

From Villavicencio, Andre retraced his steps to Bogota, then swung off his old course toward a more southerly junction with the Rio Magdalena. At first he followed along the lazy curves of the Rio Funza where he found two more new *Tillandsias*, then where the Funza suddenly drops off nearly five hundred feet in the great Tequendama Falls, he encountered his *Tillandsia tequendamae* (now *Vriesea tequendamae*) with its own cascade of bright red bracts in a pendant inflorescence.

to be continued

(from notes of Lyman B. Smith, edited by L.P. Butt)

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DEUTEROCOHNIA

Perhaps one of the most unique plants among bromeliads is *Deuterocohnia meiziana*.

Belonging to a small genus of the sub family Pitcairnioideae, it is one of a half dozen or so known species. This drought resistant genus is found growing under extremely adverse conditions on the dry, rocky slopes of the Andes in Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile, and also in the basin of the Rio Paraguay in Brazil and Paraguay.

A most primitive genera closely allied to *Puya*, of which two of its species, *D. haumanii* and *D. longipetala* can be seen covering the mountains on either side of the main highway in the Province of Salta in north western Argentina. In fact these plants constitute almost the entire vegetation of this area. When seen without its inflorescence, members of this genus could easily be mistaken for *Puya* because of its rosette of stiff, heavily spined leaves. When in flower however, the distinction is immediately obvious. Whereas the spike of the *Puya* consists of a dense head of flowers, the inflorescence of the genus *Deuterocohnia* is loosely branched and is lateral; that is it comes from the side, not the centre of the rosette. The flowers are small, usually yellow, and inconspicuous.

*D. meiziana* is unique among bromeliads in that the six foot inflorescence continues to bloom from the same scape for six to eight years, and also in the fact that this stalk develops a cambium layer, a character of dicotyledons rather than of the monocotyledons to which this genus belongs. A native to the Matto Grosso of Brazil, it has a very strongly developed root system, and xerophytic rosette with densely set, sharply recurved and tapering, flexible leaves, light waxy green with brown marginal spines growing in two directions, with the reverse of leaf covered with whitish scale.

*D. schreiteri*; *D. strobolifera*, *D. chrysantha* & *D. haumanii* with yellow petals; *D. longipetala* with yellow petals spotted green on tips; and *D. meiziana* with red orange petals.

Michael O'Dea

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