

B R O M L I N K



FEBRUARY/MARCH 1994

THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PATRONESS

Olwen Ferris

PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	72 0993
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Olwen Ferris	77 1904
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Besgrove	(07)800 5431
SECRETARY	Diana Hughes	
TREASURER	Jum Daniels	77 1469
EDITOR	Wendy Besgrove	
HOST & HOSTESS	Audrey & Mac McAlister	
PLANT SUB-COMMITTEE	Olwen Ferris, Bev Collins Graham Besgrove, Nev Ryan John Catlan, Genny Vauhkonen Rolly & Doug Reilly	
PLANT SALES	Doug & Rolly Reilly	
GOODS SALES	Peter Ludowici	
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RAFFLES SUPERVISOR	Roy Wenzel & Clarrie Morrow	
LIFE MEMBERS	Olwen Ferris Rolly & Evelyn Reilly	
HONORARY MEMBERS	Jum Daniels Roy Wenzel	

MEETING DATES AND VENUE

Our meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Elanora on the second Saturday of each month starting at 1.30 pm.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the contributor's own and are not necessarily those of the Committee or the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH	12	Cent Auction and Len Butt
APRIL	9	Regular Meeting
MAY	12	Regular Meeting

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for putting up with me while I chaired the meeting. It's scary being up in front of everyone, especially when you can talk to one person OK but a group - that's a different story.

We had a good role up of regular members and two visitors. The visitors joined and became members that same day. They met us at the Albert Aussie Day and said they would come along to a meeting. Welcome to both of you - Anita Wille and Inga vom Bruch.

Rolly gave a very informative talk on raising tillandsia seeds. Rolly's capable assistant, Genny, was also giving vital information. Thank you both. Rolly's notes are printed in this magazine.

Nev had the chore of giving the plant commentary. Some little bird advised me he was looking furiously in Rauh's book for information on catopsis. It was Nev's first commentary at one of our meetings but not necessarily his last.

Genny was in her element advising the meeting that there were some hard-to-find tillandsias for sale. They weren't on the table for much longer with most finding new homes.

Also at the meeting we raised the issue of the Committee. This committee comprises:

President; Immediate Past President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary; and up to eight Society members.

People were asked to volunteer as members and the composition for the committee is as follows:

President:	Mary Nicholson
Immediate Past President:	Olwen Ferris
Vice President:	Graham Besgrove
Treasurer:	Jum Daniels
Secretary:	Diana Hughes
Eight Society Members:	Peter Ludowici, Wendy Besgrove Nev Ryan, John Catlan Rolly Reilly, Doug Reilly Mac McAlister, Audrey McAlister.

The entire meeting went well.

WANTED URGENTLY

Could you please get pen to paper and write us a story, long or short on how you began collecting bromeliads, or your first attempt to grow bromeliads, or even the way you grow your favourite bromeliads.

There are many members who have a long distance to come to meetings so this is one way you can participate. This is your Newsletter. Let's try to make it better.

Could you please either give your articles to Mary or send them to Wendy at the following address:



The Editor
Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society
c/- 19 Ellington Street
BROWNS PLAINS Q 4118

NOMENCLATURE CHANGES

The following is reprinted from *The Journal of The Bromeliad Society*, Volume 44, Number 1, January-February 1994, for the information of all members.

Michael A. Spencer and Lyman B. Smith published "A Revision of the Genus *Deuterocohnia* Mez" in *BRADEA* 6(16):141-146; 27 November 1992. The abstract follows:

"A review of 13 species in two closely allied genera of Bromeliaceae, *Ambromeitiella* Mez and *Deuterocohnia* Mez, reveals a lack of sufficiently distinct characters to warrant their separate generic ranks. *Ambromeitiella* is therefore reduced to synonymy under *Deuterocohnia* which has priority, and new combinations for its 4 species are made. The generic description of *Deuterocohnia* is emended and a key to the genus is provided."

Mr Spencer and Dr Smith published "*Racinaea*, A New Genus of Bromeliaceae (Tillandsioideae)" in *PHYTOLOGIA* (February 1993) 74(2):151-160. The abstract follows:

A re-evaluation of *Tillandsia* subgenus *Pseudo-catopsis* [sic] (André) Baker revealed sufficiently distinct characters to warrant the establishment of a new genus, *Racinaea*. Named in honour of Racine Foster, *Racinaea* is described and discussed, and new combinations are provided for 46 species and varieties.

HELP?

If you have a plant that you are not happy with the way it is growing, bring it in and our panel will help with ideas on what you can do different.

FIELD DAY AT NEV'S PLACE

Graham Besgrove

When Nev first told me that he was having a field day, my jaw hit the floor and I said, "You're having a what??" Anyway, what took place over the next couple of weeks was amazing.

Nev could not believe it himself when he sat down the day before it was to go ahead and said the plants have never looked better for him.

So, on 21 November 1993, about 30 people arrived from as far as Mullumbimby to Caboolture. Our Society was well represented for the amount of people who attended. There was a large display area of Neoregelias, hanging pots of Tillandsias as well as Aechmeas. Numerous questions were being asked by people and many plants were being purchased. I think Don and Phyllis did a great job of handling the sales table.

Mrs. Ryan put on an excellent afternoon tea for everyone which it was thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and Nev has a lot of plants and knowledge that he is willing to pass on to people. Thank you Nev for inviting us along to see your wonderful collection. I don't think anyone went away unhappy.

Rolly made a comment which I think should be quoted and it went like this: "Quite a few years ago when there was a field day at my place, Len Butt said that after seeing my collection, I (Rolly) was King of the Tillandsias. But now after seeing Nev's collection I will gladly pass on my Crown to him. I think you are now the King of Tillandsias, Nev." Everyone agreed with applause.

1993 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Audrey McAlister

On 11 December 1993 our final meeting of the year took the form of a pre-Christmas get-together and BYO lunch at the home of our member, Monica Bailey on Nerang-Canungra Road, Glagiraba.

The pleasant, leisurely drive to Monica's set the pace for an enjoyable day and although the weather was a little inclement, it was kind to us for most of the time that we were there and we were able to wander at will and view the shadehouses and the many plants growing in the large area of land. The view from the long house verandah across the Coomera River to the mountain was quite spectacular and we visitors took advantage of Monica's hospitality and thank her for allowing us the use of her property.

Gifts and plants for the raffle were taken by all attending and nobody returned to their home without a gift and at least one plant whilst some were a little luckier and won a few extra plants to add to their collection. Roy was his usual cheery self and managed to sell a large number of raffle tickets with the resultant sales money adding to our Society's bank balance.

Our knowledgeable Immediate Past President Olwen, celebrated her birthday on that day and was the recipient of good wishes from all.

Thanks to our busy President, Mary, and all others who helped in organising the day and although many members were unable to attend, those of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed the relaxing time and chatted with our Society friends.

BUY AND SELL

If any members have plants they are looking for or plants to sell, tell us. We will put it in the newsletter for you. This is your newsletter, make it work for you.

OLOF OLE BROMELL, WHOSE NAME BECAME BROMELIAD

Jason R. Grant

In order to understand better and appreciate the plants one grows or studies, it is often useful to determine where their names came from and what they mean. The name "bromeliad" can be traced directly to a Swede who likely never saw a living plant of the family that bears his name.

In 1703, Charles Plumier (1646-1704), French missionary, botanist, and renowned explorer of the West Indies, proposed the name *Bromelia* in his *NOVA PLANTARUM AMERICANARUM GENERA* in honour of his contemporary, the prominent Swedish medical doctor and botanist, Olof Ole Bromell. The names that Plumier published, including *Bromelia*, became invalid when the International Botanical Congress fixed 1753, the publication date of Linnaeus's *SPECIES PLANTARUM*, as the starting point of binomial nomenclature. The result was that Linnaeus is credited with the naming of *Bromelia* instead of Plumier.

Bromell was born in Örebro, Sweden, on the 24th of May 1639. He died in Göteborg on the 5th of February 1705. He studied theology and medicine at the University of Uppsala in 1657, was appointed a medical practitioner in Stockholm in 1667, received his medical degree in Leiden in 1673, and became the chief medical officer in the district of Göteborg in 1691. His son, Magnus von Bromell (1679-1731) was also a famous medical doctor, but he is known primarily for his papers on the classification of minerals and descriptions of Swedish plant and animal fossils.



Olof Ole Bromell. An updated, India ink drawing (94 x 98 mm) by an unknown hand.

Olof Bromell is known for two botanical works. In 1687, he published the first edition of LUPOLOGIA, a short gardening manual for the countryman. It was revised in 1740. He is best known, however, for his CHLORIS GOTHICA (1694), the first published local flora of Göteborg.

There are five different spellings or combinations of Bromell's name. During his time, since Latin continued to serve as the international language of scholars, intellectuals, the clergy, and royalty, it was common practice for authors to Latinize their names and that's what he did also. While Carl von Linné is known only as Carolus Linnaeus, there are four forms of Olof Ole Bromell to be found in the literature. For example, Th. O.B.N. Krok in his SWEDISH BOTANICAL LITERATURE cites him as Olaus Olai Bromelius and adds in a footnote another spelling used at the University of Uppsala: Olavus Olavi Bromelius. His medical certificate says Olaum Bromelium. A fourth spelling is shown in the accompanying portrait: Olaus Bromel.

We don't know who first coined the word "Bromeliad", but as L.B. Smith has noted, "it was probably some fairly recent botanist or horticulturist who was tired of having to use the phrase "species of Bromeliaceae ...". Whatever the case, we can thank Olaus Bromel for the use of his name.

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ALPHA-AECHMEAS

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

G	O	L	C	A	U		A	T	A	D	C	O
L	A	G	A	M	O		E	P	A	L	A	R
E	G	L	A	E	B		R	T	A	R	B	E
G	F	I	M	U	L		O	R	D	I	I	S
F	X	Y	G	O	M		R	L	O	W	E	E
S	T	R	I	T	I		I	N	A	K	E	N
D	B	U	L	L	A		U	I	L	E	G	A
R	J	A	C	K	S		N	D	B	I	N	A
P	O	R	C	A	Z		E	C	G	O	L	D
D	O	M	A	G	I		A	L	I	R	F	E
S	U	N	S	M	E		I	C	A	N	A	H
I	N	E	F	R	A		A	H	T	I	M	E
S	G	M	A	R	Y		R	E	T	T	O	O
D	T	I	M	R	A		E	T	E	E	S	A
N	D	F	M	S	E		E	B	R	I	N	A
S	E	S	C	A	R		E	T	G	E	M	A
S	U	M	A	R	Y		Y	D	E	N	S	H
I	R	E	C	U	R		A	T	A	A	S	T
S	U	C	C	F	I		E	B	A	L	L	U
L	E	N	T	A	N	A	E	C	H	M	E	A
B	R	O	B	U	R		U	N	D	Y	M	E
L	I	L	E	N	B		T	T	A	D	S	O
C	I	E	T	Y	O		E	T	E	O	R	F
T	H	E	G	P	O		C	O	R	N	O	D
C	O	A	S	R	O		A	L	W	I	N	E
T	A	N	R	E	D		I	N	G	S	O	C

LIBRARY BOOKS

Library books are available on loan for one (1) month only. Please return them so someone else can take the book out.

The list of some of the books available for loan are as follows:

BROMELIADS:

- Journal of BSI 1981 - 1993
- Bromeliads - The BSI
- Bromeliads - Werner Rauh (2 copies)
- Bromeliads - Walter Richter
- Bromeliads for Modern Living
- Bromeliads for Everyone - Bea Hanson
- The Colourful Bromeliads - Victoria Padilla
- Tillandsias - Paul Isley
- The Bromeliad Lexicon - Werner Rauh
- Bromeliaceae of Venezuela
- Bromeliads - Victoria Padilla
- In Search of Flowers of the Amazon Forest - Margaret Mee
- Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors - BSI, 1982



CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS

- Cactus and Succulents - Sunset
- Succulents and Cactus - Sunset
- Cacti and other Succulents Vol 1-6 - Edgar Lamb (2 copies Vol 5)
- Cacti for the Amateur - Abbey Garden Press
- The Book of Cacti and other Succulents - Claude Chidamian
- Cacti and Succulents - E.E. Kemp
- Cacti and Succulents for Modern Living
- Cacti - Sir Oliver Leese
- The Stapelieae, Vols 1, 2 and 3

Photo Album of members' donations.

GLORY IN THE MIDDLE OF MAY

Racine Foster

A casual stroll to the shade house, one day in May, became a visit of much botanical excitement. A blob of color at the apex of a plain, green, tubular plant was like a sudden shout that stops one cold. The color acted as a spotlight on the once quiescent, sleeping giant, *Billbergia magnifica*, which was now producing its flower display. What a sight!

My attention was rivetted there as the colorful patch was pushed up and out of the tubular plant. This mass of color, botanically known as scape bracts, serves as an umbrella over the emerging flower stalk, which at first is not seen. One must stand at attention and patiently wait for the action to happen. Then, while one stands transfixed, it seems that a little, hidden motor at the bottom of the flower stalk starts the action of pushing the bracts up to allow the flower stalk to swing downward, elongating visibly while you watch. It seems to be in a hurry. One must inspect it every few minutes to see the rapid production of this huge, pendent inflorescence drooping down two or three feet, huge in comparison to other billbergias. The spectacle is highlighted by luscious, watermelon pink bracts now open to their full seven- or eight-inch length.

The three-inch long, blue petals, while momentarily shielding the stamens are poised for the sudden watch spring action, which happens in a blink of the eye. Truly, a visual delight to see this phenomenon occur. You must look fast, like a hummingbird. And, come to think of it, maybe nature rolls these petals back quickly for the fast-moving hummingbirds who zip in and out for nectar before other creatures sense that it is available. It seems those petals can't recoil fast enough to expose the extraordinarily long, three-inch stamens. Swinging in the breeze, they give a lacy effect to the inflorescence.

The watch spring agility is the outstanding and unique characteristic of this group of billbergias described botanically as subgenus *Helicoidea*.

This billbergia might well have been name gigantea, so large are the leaves and so long is the inflorescence. The plant of *Billbergia magnifica* stands to three feet. The elephantine, shiny green leaves are three to four inches

wide; they are edged with sturdy, conspicuous spines and have the crushed or indented effect midway up the leaf, like *Aechmea nudicaulis*.

Mulford and I collected this billbergia in Brazil in 1939 in the Santa Teresa area of Espírito Santo. We stopped short as we came upon a spectacular cluster of a huge plant. We stood in awe and almost reverence. The spent inflorescences and the cluster of old caudal stumps (the base of each former plant), which looked like hand carved door knobs, told us this was a billbergia.

These knobs are a curious characteristic occurring in *Billbergia proteana*, *meyeri*, *alfonsi-joannis*, *rosea*, and *zebrina*. They remind one of the pseudobulb of the orchid *Phaius tandervilliae* and seemingly serve the same purpose - an energy reserve source for the new offshoot.

It was not in bloom at the time of collection, so we could not make a specimen, but we took a few small plants and waited a few years for them to bloom. In 1952, Dr Smith informed us that the plant we had found was *Billbergia magnifica*, named by Mez in 1901.

In spite of all the praise and enthusiasm, there is a flaw in this magnificent billbergia. It must be the slowest growing billbergia on record! Whereas the bloom is in swift motion, the plant is in slow motion and wants to reproduce at its own slow, frustrating pace. After forty years I have only three mature plants and two small offsets.

Billbergia rosea or *B. braziliensis* are often thought to be the reigning monarchs of the billbergias, but they take second place once you have seen *B. magnifica* in all its regal glory.

Reprinted from the *Journal of The Bromeliad Society*
May-June 1989, Volume 39, Number 3

NOTES FROM ROLLY'S TALK ON SEED RAISING

Being able to recognise a seed capsule is very important. There are some stages it goes through before it is ready to harvest. If you can't observe your developing seeds on a daily basis, as the time comes close to when you think they may be ready, it is a good idea to place a stocking over the flower head so that it will capture the seeds if the capsule bursts.

Keeping the capsules clean from disease is done by removing the dried bracts from around the seed pod. Doing this will ensure the best chance possible to have seed that is able to be sown and free from fungus and disease.

Knowing when to take the capsule off and put the seeds down is all part of having a good germination rate. When the capsule has a dried appearance to it and split open, it is ready to harvest. Do not keep seed for a long time as this may reduce the possibility of germination. Remember to put it down as soon as possible. There are several mediums which can be used for the seeds. Some of these are coir on styrene, melaluca twigs, natural cork, shade cloth, and trees in the garden. Spread the seed as evenly as possible over the medium and water them thoroughly so that they adhere to the medium and don't get blown away or drop off.

Frequently spray with water but allow the seeds to dry between waterings for the first week until you can see a leaf burst. Then resume normal watering and use a weak folia fertilising - Phostrogen preferred.

It is important to keep adequate records about the seeds you have put down. Put the name of the seeds, date they are sown and an identifying number on the hanger. Also keep a written record of all the seeds you have.

Research the available literature for the expected plant growth from seed to maturity. Unfortunately, there is not much information in books. For example, *Tillandsia stricta* takes 3 to 3½ years from seed to flower. Some others take many years - *Tillandsia lorentziana* (white flower) takes 14 years.

Why grow from seed? The benefits are many. There is a certain amount of satisfaction when you see your plants grow from seed to maturity. But probably one of the most important reasons, and one we're all conscious of, is the devastation of many of the plants habitats. There are plants that we see at our monthly meetings that no longer can be found in nature, so this gives more purpose to our efforts at propogating the seeds of all plants. We will never know what the future holds for the areas still unaffected by the destruction caused by deforestation but we can safeguard against total extinction of all plants by nuturing them from seed to maturity.

PLANT ROSTER

We are now operating a roster to share the responsibility of bringing in plants for the Lucky Door Prize and the Special Raffle. If anyone other than the people rostered for that month would like to donate a plant, please feel free to do so. The plants do not have to be succulents or bromeliads. The Lucky Door Prize is drawn first and has the pick from the table followed by the Special Raffle with a choice of the plants available.

MARCH

Narelle Rowe, Nev Ryan, Trish Van Pelt, Jim Kerr

APRIL

Jum Daniels, Audrey McAlister, Doug Reilly, Irene Small

If you are unable to attend the meeting, either get the plant to someone to take it in for you or swap with someone else.

WHO AM I?

Don't forget, anyone who has a mature plant or one in flower but doesn't know it's name, our experts are here to help identify it for you.

EUPHORBIAS

There are about 800 species of Euphorbia, widely distributed throughout the world, but occurring chiefly in subtropical climates. Several hundred of them are succulent and these are found mainly in S & E Africa and Madagascar. Euphorbias always have a milky sap, though this is also found in many of the Stapeliads, and even in some mammillarias, and thus this is not the best way to identify the genus. The flowers have a definite pattern, and produce a three celled seed case, though a few exceptions do occur. The pods open with a decided "pop", and spread seed far and wide.

The leaves of the succulent species are often much reduced or absent, and the green stems function in place of them in the assimilation of carbon. The spines are produced in two ways. Those that occur in twos on the tubercles, known as spine plates, which are found on the ridges of the stems, are modified stipules. Others are developed from flower stalks which become woody after the flowers are shed, but in some cases the flowers abort to form spines.

The cultivation of Euphorbias is somewhat easier than that of cactus, because they will stand overwatering better although it affects their health. They are durable and nearly pest-free, red spider and perhaps nematode are the most likely offenders. The soil mix should be porous and quick draining, they like good rich compost in the mixture also. In our climate they need water, once a week in summer, for that is their growing period. As our winters are dry and often fairly warm during the day, they need water once a fortnight. Some of the young plants in small pots may need more water in summer. Good light is needed, though if in pots, not our mid-day sun.

They can be readily propagated by cuttings which exude latex for some time after being cut off the parent plant. Various methods are recommended for sealing the severed latex vessels and preventing exudation, such as immersing the cut ends in water or dipping them in powdered charcoal, which, it is claimed, will coagulate the liquid. Let the cut section dry of a week or so, and plant in a sandy compost mix to root.

Seed raising with Euphorbias is not too difficult, providing the seed is viable. Most seed takes from one to three weeks to germinate, however, seed must be fresh, and as its viability is short, in many cases this is the cause of failure. A well drained seed raising mix should be used and the seed pressed gently into the soil, though not covered, some fine gravel sprinkled on top will give small seeds some support.

E. bupleurifolia - A fascinating plant which develops a thick caudex-like stem, globular as a young plant becoming cylindrical later, covered in persistent leaf bases, so that the caudex looks like a greenish-brown upended pine cone.

E. caput-medusae - Serpentinelike branches, about 2 feet long, grow out or partially buried, globose clump. Cuttings can be rooted easily but may fail to produce symmetrically branched plants.

E. obesa - A solitary growing specimen, the body is banded grey-green with low broad ribs, edged with small blunt teeth. As its name suggests, it is rather like a golf ball in shape as a young plant, becoming oval to columnar with age. Plants are either male or female.

E. melogormis - Deeply ribbed, with a deep green plant body, often patterned with more or less horizontal reddish stripes or bands. The plants are normally as broad as they are tall, even in age, and clump readily.

E. suzannae - It is basically globular, green and without markings, but with distinct ribs formed into tubercles, giving this species a very distinctive appearance. It soon produces offsets forming a dense clump.

E. horrida - Ferociously armed with thorns, this species resembles a barrel cactus with thick stems and deeply ribbed, dark green. It can grow to 1 metre, branching from the base.

E. pugniformis - The 2-3 inch thick, green stem of this plant is an extension of the fleshy rootstock. It is a few inches high, spineless, and bears 2-3 rows of branches around the depressed apex of the stem, which at this point is densely tuberculate. The cylindrical branches are also covered with tubercles, and spread outwards and upwards with a slight

bow-shaped curve, each tubercle being furnished with a persistent leaf base.

E. grandicornis - This is a very thorny species, with upright three-angled stems, constricted between growth periods, the main parts flared or wing-like. Individual ribs have wavelike spination.

E. lactea - Candelabra-shaped growth has dark green stems that are edged in white. Pairs of dark brown spines appear on the ridges. *E. l. "Cristata"* has crested, distorted branches.

E. trigona - A fast-growing species which has dark green stems with contrasting wavy white bands down the sides.

E. caerulescens - Has attractive bluish-green stems forming spreading branches to 1.5 metres. The shoots are jointed, four- to six-ridged, with deep furrows between the ridges. The crests of the ridges are irregularly waved and provided with continuous bands of brown horny tissue; the pairs of spines are widely spread, dark brown at first, later becoming grey.

The juice of a small succulent *Aeonium lindleyi*, applied immediately, can counteract the sap of euphorbias; tear a leaf of the aeonium lengthwise, and it will form a kind of "eye-dropper" which will emit a few drops of soothing liquid when squeezed.

Reprinted from the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society
Journal, February 1982

!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

A special Happy 80th Birthday to Cath.



Also Happy Birthday to Noelene McLauchlan, Genny Vauhkonen, Phyllis Hobbs, Diana Hughes, Phyllis King, Terry Vogt.

If you would like to have a birthday or any other message put in the Newsletter, please just let us know. You don't have to tell us the year. This is your newsletter, make use of it.

ORDINARY RAFFLE

This is one way of making money for the Society. It is up to all of us to help by bringing in some plant/s when we have extra ones. It doesn't have to be a bromeliad, just something you would like to win yourself. Let us see if we can make this one good continuous raffle.

WORD PUZZLE

The solution to December's puzzle is:

1M	2T	3R	4L
5I	6N	7A	8Q
9P	10E	11O	12S
13F	14B	15H	16D
17J	18C	19K	20G

BROMELIAD CULTURE, NO. 2: *Acanthostachys*

Carol M. Johnson

The genus *Acanthostachys* (a-cantho-steak-is, meaning thorny spike) was described by Klotzsch in 1840 and emended by W. Rauh and W. Barthlott (1982). There are two species only: *strobilacea* (conelike fruit) and *pitcairnioides* (resembling pitcairnia).

With the impressive-sounding name *Acanthostachys strobilacea*, this plant should be an outstanding beauty in form and size. It is none of these. The long, often to three-foot long leaves can be made to turn rosy red in full sun but with ordinary culture they remain a dull gray-green. The blooms appear in the leaf axils. They are approximately the size and shape of a small pine cone and have orange bracts and small yellow blooms. This plant is nearly always self-fertile and the relatively large seed germinates readily. It is best grown in a hanging basket and allowed to clump, which it does freely. Careful! The leaves are well armed and the long, thin leaves tend to tangle.

The plant is native to eastern Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina and has been in cultivation since before 1850. It withstands extremely rigorous conditions including drought, cold, low light, and full sun. It is also inexpensive. It does not sound like a winner, but it maintains a steady popularity with collectors and exhibitors. I recall several bromeliad shows where it has appeared on the head table.

I use a sandy, fairly heavy potting mix including pebbles or turkey grit, keep the plant underpotted and grow it in full sun for best color. It grows with little or no water. Fertilizer would make the leaves greener and longer so I don't apply any.

Acanthostachys pitcairnioides was first described by Mez and in 1982 W. Rauh and W. Barthlott emended the description of the genus and the two species. This newer species is being seen more often in collections and in shows. It was pictured on the back cover of the *Journal* (1989), but the picture does not do the plant justice. In our Florida full sun, the leaves turn dark red with a lacquered shine. The prominent black teeth and small, brilliant blue flowers at the base of the leaves make a striking and beautiful

contrast. This species forms clumps very easily, it is about 15 inches tall, and is a desirable addition to any bromeliad collection. Culture is the same as for *A. strobilacea*. It is a shame they could not have simplified the names of both members of the genus, although they are descriptive.

Longwood, Florida

Reprinted from *The Bromeliad Society Journal*,
January-February 1991

ALBERT AUSSIE DAY

Olwen Ferris

We put our Aussie Day Display at Carrara in early Saturday morning and Graham worked around a walk-in area that proved very successful as people saw the sales plants on their way out.

John and Genny's *Aechmea blanchettianna* gave a focal point to the area as plants cascaded down to a massed foreground. Mary's *Pitcairnia diversifolious* gave a softer touch as it cascaded over one side, while vriesea fans helped set off the foreground.

Many thanks to the people who brought plants for sale as they helped both our funds and those of the Sports Day Committee.

CENT AUCTION

It was wonderful how much fun can be had by our Cent Auction every March, June and September. If members keep bringing in several plants each to be placed in groups the responsibility will be less of just the same few. The building up of our Library is the aim of the Cent Auction. Please remember to retain No. 1 ticket for the draw.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due in October of each year. If you require postage of your newsletters, please forward 11 (eleven) current-price stamps.

Family - \$6.00

Single - \$4.00



PLANT SALES

You can bring in your excess plants for sale at our meetings. They must be healthy plants and be named, if possible. They can be any kind of plant, not just succulents and bromeliads. There is a 10% commission to the Society on all sales.

Please see that you have a tag with your name and the price of the plant attached to each pot. The tags are available through the Society now. Make use of them and make Doug's work easier for him.

ITEMS FOR SALE

POTS	105 mm squat pot	20c
	125 mm	25c
	140 mm	30c
	165 mm	45c
	200 mm	65c
OSMOCOTE	500g	\$2.50 (9 month)
LABELS	10 for	50c
PENCILS		\$2.50 each
SALES STICKERS		5¢ each or 10 for 50¢
SOCIETY BADGES		\$3.00 each Available from the Treasurer, Jum Daniels
BOOK	"Bromeliads for Everyone" by Bea Hanson -	\$3.50
	"Growing Bromeliads" -	\$11.50

PLANTS FOR SALE

Our Bromeliad plant family has expanded to such extent that we are running out of room to place our new plants.

We would like to sell some of our surplus collection and if you are interested please ring our home on (075) 72 3590 - Audrey McAlister.

A donation from the sales will go to our Society.