Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting October 17th 2019 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery

114 Pine Street Wardell 2477

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Discussion: September 2019

General Discussion

Editorial Team:
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Helen Clewett
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Michelle Hartwell

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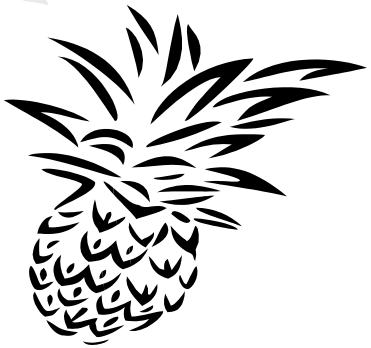


Meeting 15th August 2019

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 15 members present were welcomed.
One apology was received.

General Business

Ross rang the donger-less bell and welcomed all 14 participants (after removing the blu-tack from the bells dongers). He reported that there had been no adverse comments this month only support about our decision to not allow plants under formula in our competitions.

There was general discussion about Ross and Chris Larson's articles in the August Newsletter regards the handling of Vrieseas, Neoregelias and Tillandsias on the TV program Better Homes and Gardens. The members of the Study Group were dismayed by what Graham Ross was recommending on the popular gardening program and supported what Ross and Chris had written.

Show, Tell and Ask!

Drew brought in his *Billbergia nutans* (mini) which should be tagged *Billbergia nutans* (mini) SEL 84-538. John suggested/queried could *Billbergia nutans* have been crossed with some other plant in the wild to produce the mini version.

John brought in a plant from his collection called *Vriesea* 'Lucky Len' (unreg.) a cultivar of *Vriesea* 'Patrice'. After some discussion it was agreed that John's plant was *Vriesea* 'Patrice'. For many years now this or these plants have been causing some naming issues, it's a shame some hybridizers don't register their creations prior to release as it would certainly save these naming issues. There are various plants getting around as *Vr*. 'Lucky Len' x 'Patrice', *Vr*. 'Patrice cv. Lucky Len', *Vr*. 'Patrice' and also as *Vr*. 'Lucky Len'. John's plant doesn't have the pinkish blush in its foliage consistent to *Vr*. 'Lucky Len' which is *Vr*. 'Pahoa Beauty' x *hieroglyphica. Vriesea* 'Patrice' is a hybrid between *Vr. fosteriana* and *Vr*. *hieroglyphica* which has darker glyph cross banding and no pink flush to the foliage more consistent to John's plant which is why we feel it is *Vr*. 'Patrice'.

Next, John showed the Group how he had mounted a *Tillandsia bulbosa* onto a block of wood so that it wouldn't blow over in a strong wind. He also showed *Tillandsia seleriana* which he had mounted onto wire shaped like a Flamingo. John explained that he twisted two wires together (one silver and one pink coloured), using his lathe. Gary suggested that those who don't have a lathe could twist the wires together using a battery variable speed drill.

Ross suggested that when gluing plants to timber mounts, sprinkle the wet glue with sawdust off the mount being drilled or if mounting on cork use the cork dust to disguise the glue.

John showed us a pup from *Pitcairnia* 'Rhubarb', and said that he finds they can be difficult to get started and finds them best started as a small clump and grown wet as they do need a lot of water.

Ross questioned Drew's plant from last month *Neoregelia* 'Lines and Stripes'. Drew explained that he bought it from a Gold Coast breeder, Tyson Ives, who we believe has not registered the plant.

Michelle brought in her *Neoregelia* 'Cheeky Pink' which had two large pups, and asked Ross if he could show her how to remove them successfully. The leaves were removed from the base of the plant, starting with the lowest leaves and working their way up the plant to get to the base of the pups. Ross then showed that the pups can be removed quite easily by cutting them alongside the mother with a saw or by pushing your secateurs in and cutting off the pup. It was also suggested that the pups could be removed by cutting them off alongside the mother using a sharp kitchen knife. If using a saw the pup can be removed by holding the pup and sawing it off close to the mother. As the mother plant is still quite healthy Michelle was advised to feed the plant as she could expect another round of pups.

John Crawford advised that the base of the pup, and where the pup was cut from the mum should be coated in cinnamon before proceeding any further. Ross then advised the Group that before doing anything else they must write a name tag for the plant to avoid misnaming the plant at a later date.

After lunch Ross gave Part 2 of an illustrated talk of his visit to Mexico. (p.10)

Vale: Herb Plever

Recently we heard that Herb was recovering from pneumonia. Regrettably he passed away on Sept 9, 2019. He published the New York Bromeliad Society Newsletter called 'Bromeliana' for over 50 years. He was made an Honorary Trustee of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) in 2006.

Herb wrote many articles over the years, some being of his success's at growing Bromeliads in his apartment in New York. He wrote of filling his bath tub with water and adding liquid fertilizer then soaking his Tillandsias in it.

Herb was an accomplished grower and author, one we learnt a lot from.
Thank you Herb, may you rest in peace

Herb Plever
Editor of Bromeliana, Newsletter of the NY Bromeliad Society speaks with Opinion8ed (Dec. 2010)

Most everyone has some kind of hobby(ies) that interests them and brings them pleasure in their spare time between work and time with family and friends. Few get so interested in a particular hobby however, that they become a world renowned expert. But Herbert Plever is not your ordinary fellow with an ordinary hobby. Now a retired attorney, he has cultivated rare and exotic Bromeliads from his urban apartment in New York for more than 50 years. He is the editor of Bromeliana, the official publication of the New York Bromeliad Society and he has been invited all over the world to talk about his collection.

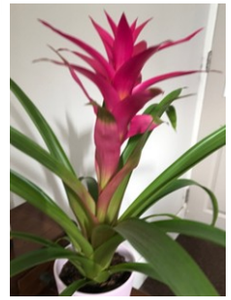
So just what is a Bromeliad, anyway? Bromeliads are a family of tropical flowering plants that have over 3000 individual and unique species. Some of the more common varieties resemble the spiny leaves of a pineapple while other types are wispy and fragile looking things that attach themselves to the bark of trees and don't require any soil at all.

Outside of tropical rain forests these plants were rare and hard to find when Mr. Plever first began to get interested but nowadays they are quite common – popular enough that you are likely to find some of the more common varieties at your local Home Depot or supermarket. As it turns out some varieties are relatively hardy – strong enough to survive the less than ideal conditions and treatment doled out by yours truly. In fact, the very definition of a hardy plant is one that can survive in my house.

The apartment that Mr. Plever and his wife Sylvia share in Rochdale Village, Jamaica, N.Y. is hardly the place you'd think to find a veritable jungle of tropical plants. But grow lights, humidifiers, weekly soakings in the bath tub and considerable time patchkehing (sp?) have yielded transformative results. Literally hundreds of Bromeliads in a five room apartment is truly a sight to see.

Opinion8ed was fortunate to get a few minutes of Mr. Plever's time for an interview to talk about his unique hobby, as in between growing Bromeliads he and his wife are constantly on the go attending their weekly folk dance and Scottish dance groups (yup, experts in that too, giving demonstrations several times a year at various festivals), Thai Chi classes, theater, films, and opera. You can learn more about these interesting plants on the NY Bomeliad Society web site or by downloading some issues of their newsletter that Mr. Plever artfully edits and publishes (see below for links) or have a closer look at some of his specimen's in the Opinion8ed Photo Journal (Bromeliad Photo Journal).

Bromeliads in the United Kingdom by Drew Maywald 2019



Before I left to visit my son in the UK for 5 weeks, Ross asked if I would write an article for the FNCBSG newsletter about Bromeliads in the UK. Well this it!

We spent most of our time around the Manchester area as we were staying with my son who lives in a town north of Manchester, but our travels took us to the Cotswolds, Cambridge, Sheffield, central Wales, Lincolnshire, Lancaster, and Yorkshire. Everywhere we went in the UK I diligently looked for Bromeliads

During the week we would go to other areas of the UK that we hadn't previously visited. On one of these excursions we stayed in Llandudno on the Welsh north coast. The bed and breakfast we stayed in at Llandudno had a Guzmania right on a table in the front entrance. The owner called it a bromaid.

During our stay we visited more than 12 garden centres and found only one that had more than a couple of Guzmanias available for sale. The Barton Grange garden centre north of Preston had a good number of Tillandsias available for sale with several display stands, like the photo. These are all sold as indoor plants as they would not survive the harsh winters of the north of England. The label on each Tillandsia said "Love Tillys air plants, Easy Care they grow on Air", and the name of the plant was either the species or common name like "Juncea", not *Tillandsia juncea.* Tillandsias - £22.99, which is around $45.

Many of the garden centres in the UK are very large, and Barton Grange includes two restaurants, a coffee shop and a large children's play area. It is a destination in its own right. One other garden centre did have several Guzmanias for sale which were labelled as Bromias.

The only other place that we saw Bromeliads on our trip was in the Winter Gardens in Sheffield where there are a number of garden beds under the glass roof, planted with Guzmanias, Aechmeas and other tropical plants.

Even though I wasn't expecting to see lots of Bromeliads in the UK, I thought I might see more than the very limited range that I did. I am sure that had we visited places like Kew Gardens we would have seen more Bromeliads, but we didn't get that far South.

Aechmea seideliana

by Derek Butcher July 2019

In the 1980's I received a plant under this name from Marj McNamara and when it flowered I dissected it to try to link to the protologue. The only difference was blue petals instead of white. I saw no reason to change the name even though there were name problems with plants coming out of Seidel nurseries. In this case we do not know the source of Marj's plant in Brazil. Was it a seed pod?

This year Vic Przetocki in WA flowered his *Aechmea seideliana* and queried why it had blue petals instead of white. Because we look at cultivars somewhat differently these days it has been decided that it is better to give this plant the cultivar name **'Seidel Blue'** so its story can be told. Not only does it refer to the colours of the petals but a mistake in identity.

If we read ***Aechmea* 'Aussie Ruby'** by Derek Butcher in Bromeletter 33(4):13. 1995 we will see we had two problems which we tried to solve by using a cultivar name and a species name of *Ae. seideliana.* In hindsight it was a wrong decision because we knew nothing about the origins of the species plant or where it had been found in the wild.

To save you checking this reference, details in part follow:
***Aechmea* 'Aussie Ruby'** by Derek Butcher in Bromeletter 33(4):13. 1995

Aechmea warasii
p.69 Blooming Bromeliads

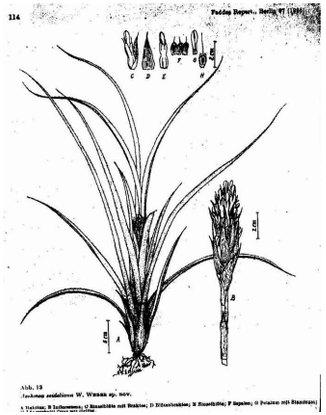
Now to the second part which also revolves around Ruby Ryde. Those of you who have Baensch's book 'Blooming Bromeliads' would have immediately noticed the mistake on page 69 where an alleged *Aechmea seideliana* is pictured. Those who read 'Bromeletter' will know that the 'true' plant is in Australia, albeit with bluish red petals compared to white in the original description. The illustrated plant is a vigorous form of *Ae. warasii*. Oh, by the way, I sent Baench copies of Weber's original description, original drawing and a coloured photo of OUR plant just for their information. It would appear that some do not read 'Bromeletter'!

Vic's *Aechmea seideliana* now ***Aechmea* 'Seidel Blue'**

Back to Ruby who had a plant also raised from seed allegedly from Seidel which was more robust than the *Aechmea seideliana* and had a large inflorescence. This plant raised the temperature in Adelaide with yours truly saying it was a hybrid and Len Colgan maintaining it was a species. Eventually Len could stand it no longer and six months ago sent pieces to Elton Leme in Brazil. Both of us were on edge until a letter arrived just before I started dissecting the aforementioned *Wittrockia,* which is another reason why it is in this article! Elton had never seen such a plant and could only assume it was a hybrid. However, seed raising from this plant has produced fairly consistent progeny. In the meantime, I believe it should be given a cultivar name because it is distinct, it is an attractive plant, and what better name than *Aechmea* 'Ruby' (now called 'Aussie Ruby' because there is already a 'Ruby' in existence in the USA). This will identify the plant and also indicate its source for future reference.

Aechmea 'Aussie Ruby'

I am enclosing a line drawing of *Aechmea seideliana* which seems related to *Aechmea pimenti-velosoi* to remind you of the plant that should have been in Baensch's book. It will also give you an idea of the form of *Aechmea* 'Ruby' which is a large form.



The leaves are longer and wider. The inflorescence is 10cm long and 5cm diameter compared to 6cm and 2cm. It is 60 flowered compared to up to 20. The ovary and base of the sepal yellow compared to whitish pink. The top portion of the sepal still carmine red and petals bluish red.

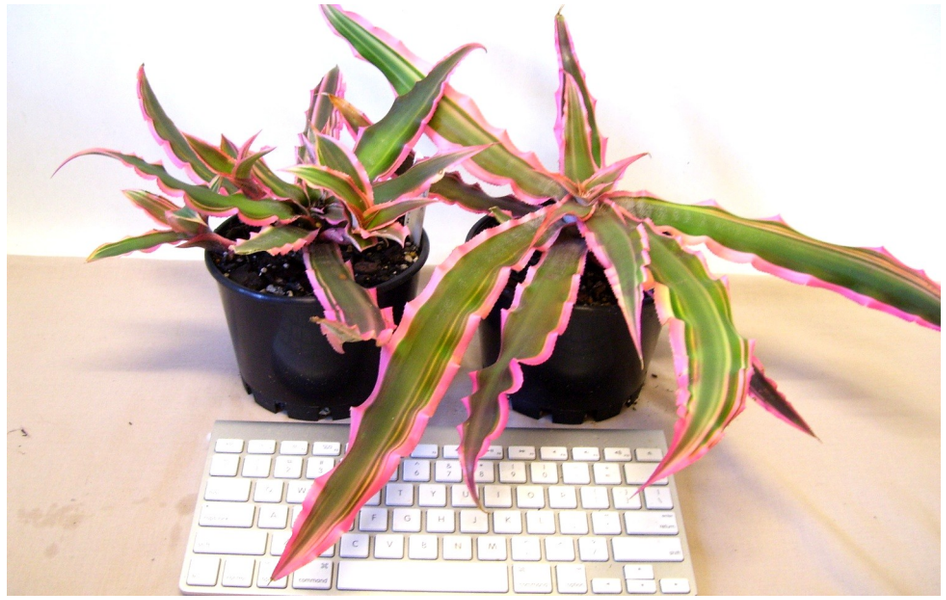
There are similar plants being grown in Australia where one main difference is that *Ae*. 'Seidel Blue' has reddish ovaries and *Ae*. 'Aussie Ruby' has yellowish ovaries. Plants are in cultivation that are in between which suggests they are in a grex and it's up to you to see where you think they may fit.

Neoregelia 'Ray's Black Knight' unreg.
= 1st Open Jennifer Laurie

Neoregelia 'Touch the Heart'
= 1st Open Keryn Simpson

Billbergia 'Kolan Neon Lights'
1st Novice and Judges Choice
Michelle Hartwell

Tillandsia rodrigueziana
1st Tillandsioideae
John Crawford



1st Decorative 'IT Department' Drew Maywald

Neoregelia 'Ice White River' showing how light can change a plant's appearance
one grown by Coral McAteer the other grown by Dave Boudier

Tillandsia sprengeliana
by Steve Davidson

Tillandsia streptophylla
by Gary McAteer

Tillandsia 'Purple Gem'
by Keryn Simpson

Photos by: Ross Little

Mexico Tillandsia Sweep - part 2

Part 1 in FNCBSG Newsletter Dec. 2018 took us through the cloud forests and more of Oaxaca state. Part 2 takes us across the border into Chiapas state where we saw more Tillandsia, Aechmea, Billbergia, Bromelia, Catopsis, Hectia, Pitcairnia, Racinaea and Werauhia.

Photos and text by Ross Little

Tillandsia concolor

Bromelia karatas

Hectia glomerata

Tillandsia standleyi

Tillandsia flavobracteata

Tillandsia beutelspacheri

Tillandsia seleriana

Tillandsia carlsoniae

Tillandsia eizii
Lesley Baylis and Pamela Koide Hyatt

Pitcairnia recurvata

Tillandsia ponderosa

Tillandsia ionantha
var. vanhyningii

Hectia sp. ??
and
Pitcairnia chiapensis

These were just some of the delights seen on this leg of our journey thanks to Jeff Chemnick of Mexico Nature Tours.
jeffchemnick@cox.net

The New Genus: *Karawata*

compiled by Drew Maywald

Karawata is a new genus to the Bromeliaceae family, sub family Bromelioideae. It consists of seven species that were all members of the *Aechmea* sub genus *Chevaliera*. This new genus was created by J. Marciel et al., in Systematic Botany 44(3): 519–535. 2019, in September 2019. This genus is endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. Phylogenetics (the study of the evolutionary history of plants), work revealed that *Aechmea* subgenera *Chevaliera* is not a mono-phyletic group (a group of organisms that are classified in the same taxon and share a most common recent ancestor).

Seven species previously assigned to the subgenus form a clade (a taxonomic group of organisms classified together on the basis of corresponding features traced to a common ancestor), with strong statistical support and in sister position to morphologically distinct members of other genera. Morphological and phylogenetic evidence segregates the following seven species to a new genus named *Karawata*, which requires the following new combinations:
Karawata depressa, Karawata gustavoi, Karawata hostilis, *Karawata multiflora, Karawata nigribracteata, Karawata prasinata* and *Karawata saxicola.*

Derek Butcher says:
“These days the trend seems to be to create new genera rather than trying to solve the problem at sub-genus level. This in turn creates problems with naming of man-made hybrids. In this case a quick check of the Bromeliad Cultivar Register has revealed that none of the seven taxa have been reported. All named have impressive inflorescences but are large plants and take many years to flower which may be the cause of the reluctance to hybridise”.

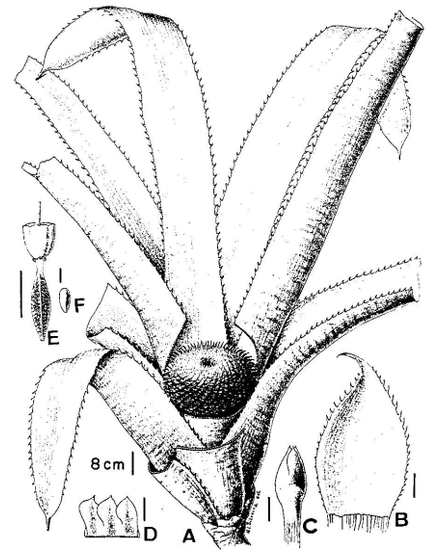


Fig. 667. A-F, *Aechmea depressa* (Foster 71): A, habitat; B, floral bract; C, ovary and calyx; D, sepals; E, ovary section; F, seed.

References:

J. Marciel et al.

“A new genus of Bromeliaceae endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.” Systematic Botany 44(3): pp 519 – 535, 2019.

Derek Butcher,
“Karawata” an unpublished paper, September 2019.

Bromeliaceae – A Layman's Guide - Part 1

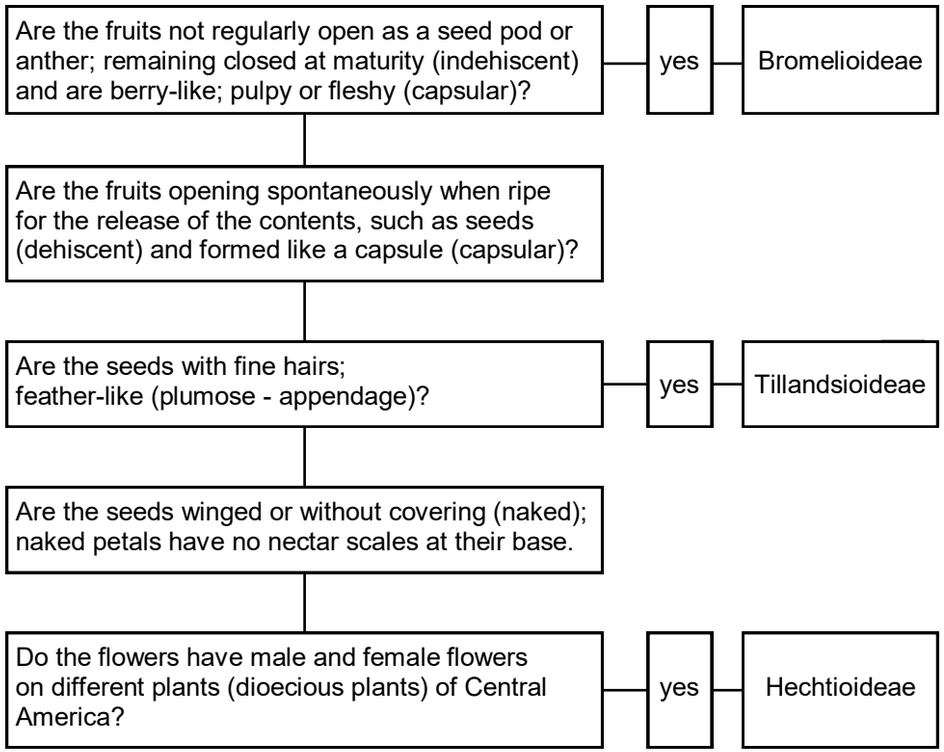
compiled by Drew Maywald 2019

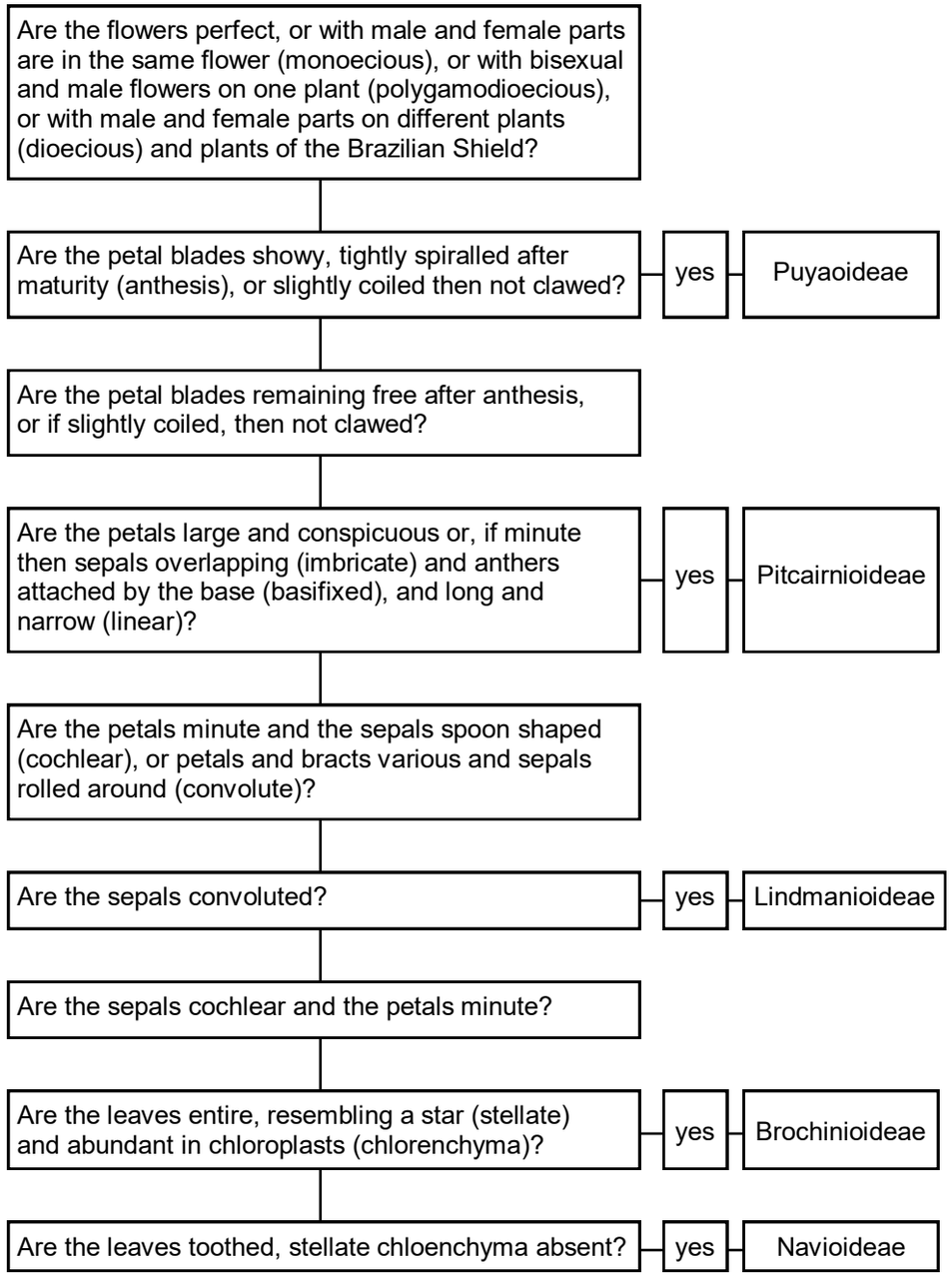
The Eight Subfamilies

The **Bromeliaceae** (the bromeliads) are a family of monocot (contain only one embryonic leaf) flowering plants of 51 genera and around 3475 known species, native mainly to South America. The Bromeliaceae group of plants is made of eight subfamilies. (Reference 1)
These eight subfamilies are:

1 - **Bromelioideae**
2 - **Tillandsioideae**
3 - **Hectioideae**
4 - **Puyoideae**
5 - **Pitcairnioideae**
6 - **Lindmanioideae**
7 - **Brochinioideae**
8 - **Navioideae**

Key to the Bromeliaceae Sub Families





1: Butcher, Derek, "Bromeliaceae and its eight sub families" Link: (reference 1)
2: Butcher, Derek, "Glossary A to Z" Link: Glossary
3: Wikipedia. Link: Bromeliaceae

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Michelle Hartwell	*Billbergia* 'Kolan Neon Lights'
2nd	Drew Maywald	*Aechmea* 'Red Ribbon'
3rd	- - - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - - -

Open Popular Vote

1st	Jennifer Laurie	*Neoregelia* 'Ray's Black Knight' unreg.
1st	Keryn Simpson	*Neoregelia* 'Touch the Heart'
2nd	Coral McAteer	*Neoregelia* 'Ice White River'
3rd	John Crawford	*Pitcairnia* 'Rhubarb'

Tillandsioideae

1st	John Crawford	*Tillandsia rodriguueziana*
2nd	Gary McAteer	*Tillandsia seleriana*
3rd	Sue Mackay-Davidson	*Tillandsia* 'Houston'
3rd	Steve Davidson	*Tillandsia sprengeliana*
3rd	Keryn Simpson	*Tillandsia* 'Purple Gem'

Decorative

1st	Drew Maywald	'IT Department'

Judges Choice

1st	Michelle Hartwell	Billbergia 'Kolan Neon Lights'

Web Links for Checking Correct Identification and Spelling ?

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): http://registry.bsi.org/
Refer to this site for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

New Bromeliad Taxon List : http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php
Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

Bromeliads in Australia (BinA) http://bromeliad.org.au/
Refer to this site for its Photo Index, Club Newsletters, Detective Derek Articles.

Keep these web sites set as desktop icons for quick reference access.

Where do I Find the Dates ?

www.bromeliad.org.au then click "Diary".
Check this site for regular updates of times, dates and addresses of meetings and shows in your area and around the country.