ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED

NEWSLINK

January 2021

Portea alatisepala **(Purple Foliage)**
Photo from <bromeliadparadise.com>

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MEETINGS - The Society meets at 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of each month (except January and December) in the Laurel Room* at the Ribbonwood Centre, DAPTO. *Scribbly Gum room for November meetings only.
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - Due 30th June each year: $15 single/$25 family.
NEWSLINK ISSUED QUARTERLY - January, April, July, and October and at http://www.bromeliad.org.au

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

With still the uncertainty regarding COVID-19 and our usual meeting venue at Ribbonwood, we might have to play things a bit by ear until matters have worked themselves out more.

However, as you know from the recent email from Anne, we will be holding a meeting next Saturday, February 6, 2021—details below:

Where:	Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre, Winnima Way, Berkeley
Time:	12 noon – 4.00 PM
Directions:	Heading south turn left from the M1 onto Northcliffe Drive/from the south turn onto Northcliffe Drive from the Princes Highway. Continue on Northcliffe Drive for 1.8 km until you begin to see Lake Illawarra and on the left the Sports and Social Club. Take Gallop Street to Winnima Way.
Parking:	There is some parking available for unloading, etc. at the front and back of the building. More parking on the street.
Extras:	Bring your own cup (tea, coffee and milk will be supplied) Bring your afternoon tea (not for sharing) Bring mask.

Topic: **BROMELIADS OR MINERALS** A presentation by Noel Kennon

Our President, Barbara, plans to check out the venue more closely on Wednesday but at the time of this *Newslink* going to print, this Berkeley address will probably be our venue for our March meeting also, as Ribbonwood is unable to supply us with a room for that date. Updated information will be sent by email.

MARCH 13-14, 2021 SALES DAY: We have every hope that this will go ahead and a tentative booking has been made for the Warilla venue. However, more news on this at our February meeting and also you will be contacted by email to give you an update.

MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE ROSTER:

February	-	Noel Kennon, Graham Bevan, Jim Clague, John Toolan
March	-	Monica De Clouett, Anne-Marie Brun, Edwina Wain, Pam Townsend
April	-	Bob Stephens, Michael Drury, Freda Kennedy, Anne Mobbs

JANUARY NEWLINK: While searching for inspiration for this issue of *Newslink* I thought that I might be able to write something about the "January Bloomers" for as I walked around my garden it seemed that, perhaps in spite of me, there were some beautiful plants putting on quite a show. There were the nidulariums, of course, which come into bloom around Christmas time, some striking vrieseas, including *V. elata* and *V*. 'Black Hawaiian', a few lovely aechmeas, and my *Alcantarea heloisea*, And then four lovely *Portea petropolitana* var. *extensa*'s shot up their lovely spikes and so I thought why not put in an article about porteas, which I don't think I've done before.

To find some information about the various species I turned to an old favourite reference of mine—Victoria Padilla's book, *Bromeliads*—which has helped me through many an issue over the years. As Miss Padilla's book has been so instrumental in helping me with my knowledge of bromeliads when there was so little else around—no Google back then, or none that I could access easily—and so when I saw the article on her which appeared in the January 2021 issue of the Far North Coast Study Group's newsletter I decided to reprint it here. In these days of easy access to thousands of beautiful bromeliad species and hybrids, I feel that it is important that we remember those 'pioneers' who helped make it this way for us.

PORTEA (Named to honour Dr. Marius Porte of Paris, the plant collector who first introduced this genus into cultivation in 1885.) (I have extracted a lot of the following information from Victoria Padilla's book, *Bromeliads*, pp. 60-61, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York with updates from various sources.)

The genus *Portea* consists of only eight species and two varieties, but what it lacks in numbers it makes up for in the beauty of several of its members. Its geographical range is small, too, being confined to the coastal region in Brazil from Rio de Janeiro to Bahia.

Porteas are terrestrials and grow, for the most part, on the littoral [growing on or near a shore, especially of the sea], often on rocks and sand in full sun. They are robust plants with prominently spined green leaves, 2 to 3 feet long; when in bloom they may attain a height of over 4 feet. Their erect inflorescences are among the most decorative in the bromeliad family, generally combining delicate lavender and pink tints to make a highly colourful display.

***Portea alatisepala*.** In an article which appeared in the *Journal of The Bromeliad Society,* Volume 50(5) in 2000 Harry Luther tells us that "*Portea alatisepala is a relative newcomer, just described scientifically by David Philcox at the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew in 1992. By the mid-1990s a number of American collectors had secured living examples of this attractive and variable taxon and queries began to be received at the BIC* [Bromeliad Identification Center] *as to their identity.*

Portea alatisepala somewhat resembles the commonly cultivated P. petropolitana but generally is smaller, with broader, softer, often somewhat undulate leaves. Leaf color varies from green to red and the redder clones resemble P. kermesina. The inflorescence is usually shorter than P. petropolitana; the sepals are shorter, the petals longer. For growers with restricted space, P. alatisepala is probably a better choice than P. petropolitana and its varieties.

Portea alatisepala has been found in a number of locations in coastal Bahia, Brazil. I have seen it in deep shade in a flooded forest; Wally Berg and John Anderson collected it in a bright and open restinga forest. It is probably somewhat tender to freezing."

The branches of the inflorescence are somewhat lengthy (averaging 60-75 cm tall and 60-75 cm wide) making the bloom of purple flowers followed by dark purple berries, even more stunning.

Portea filifera L. B. Smith, 1941 (Having threads)
Native to Bahia, Brazil where it grows on the ground and in the trees at an altitude of 720 feet.

This large plant is the least colourful member of the genus. From a rosette composed of stiff, dark green leaves, reaching 3 feet in height, arises a cylindrical, sub-dense inflorescence that contains many small flowers.

Portea kermesina Koch, 1856 (Crimson, referring to the colour of the bracts.) Grows as a terrestrial on the margins of rivers in coastal forests near sea level in Bahia, Brazil. .

A dozen broad leaves, 30 inches long and 2 inches wide and moderately firm in texture, form a utricular rosette from which the erect, mauve red flower spike emerges. The inflorescence is a dense, oblong panicle, 6 to 8 inches in length, with large, rose bracts and blue-petaled flowers. The attractive green foliage is sometimes spotted with brownish purple on the upper sides and purplish on the undersides and is edged with small, brown spines. Foliage often turns completely red.

[From Andrew Steens' book, ***Bromeliads the connoisseur's guide***, p. 258, first published by Random House, New Zealand 2007): *Once known as Aechmea colombiana this lovely tropical bromeliad … has been reclassified as Portea kermesina. It is not often seen outside the tropics, unless housed in a greenhouse, as it is quite cold-sensitive and needs dappled light. Its main attraction is the shocking pink club-like flower spike, out of which light blue flowers appear.*

Portea petropolitana Mez, 1892 (Named for the town of Petrópolis in Brazil)
Two varieties of this species are commonly found in cultivation.

- **Var. *extensa*** is found in swamps growing attached to mangrove roots close to the high-tide mark in Espirito Santo. Probably the most graceful and delicate of the genus, this portea has light yellow-green leaves that are not as firm as those of the other species. The marginal spines are large and jet black but are not stiff. The inflorescence, on a coral-red stalk, rises well above the loose upright rosette. It is a charming, delicate, open spray of attractive flowers with lavender petals and apple-green ovaries. The spray lasts long in color. The berries turn dark purple.

- **Var. *noettigii*** – formerly listed as *Aechmea noettigii*.

- **Var. *petropolitana*** is found in Espirito Santo growing both in the interior and in the littoral in sand just a few hundred feet from the ocean. This hardy plant may reach a height of 3 to 4 feet when it is in flower. Heavily spined, dark green leaves form a stiff rosette. The inflorescence is a rather compact, much-branched, cylindrical panicle, about 12 to 18 inches long, bearing delicately coloured flowers with white lavender petals, pink orange sepals and ovaries, and lavender pistils.

Portea fosteriana is endemic to the Atlantic Forest biome (*Mata Atlantica Brasileira*) and to Espirito Santo, in south-eastern Brazil.

Portea grandiflora – also from Bahia. Brazil – differs from *P. kermesina* in that the inflorescence is smaller and somewhat more lax and the floral bracts are thread-like and much shorter, almost equalling the pedicel. Pedicel (Latin *pediculus*, meaning "little foot") is the structure connecting a single flower to its inflorescence.

Portea nana – The existence of *Portea nana*, the smallest known *Portea* was first reported by Leme in 1997. Since then Leme and Luther have had the opportunity to observe several specimens blooming in cultivation which maintained the general characteristics which make this bromeliad very distinct from all previously classified species of *Portea*.


Portea nana
photo in J Brom Soc 53(3): 118. 2003

Portea nana comes from a mountainous region in the Atlantic forest in Bahia, Brazil, which is subject to dense fog, at an altitudinal range of 500-600 m. This area is rich in bromeliads, both epiphytic and terrestrial. *Portea nana* grows on the higher branches of the tallest trees of the forest, some to 30 m tall. With a long stoloniferous habit and a compact leaf rosette, *P. nana* forms dense clumps which appear very similar, from a distance, to those of some neoregelia species. *Portea nana* is closely related to *P. kermesina*, from which it differs in its long stoloniferous habit and its distinctly smaller size.

Portea silveirae Mez, 1901 (Named after its discoverer, A.A. de Silveira) usually grows as a terrestrial in the coastal and inland forests of Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo from sea level to an altitude of 2,000 feet. A husky plant similar to *P. petropolitana* var. *petropolitana*, it is highly decorative. The dense spike of flowers has reddish-lavender petals. It is not often seen in cultivation.

Padilla's book included ***Portea leptantha*** which has since been moved to the genus *Aechmea*. Also, *Portea petropolitana* var. *noettigii*, once included in the genus *Aechmea*, has more recently been transferred to the genus *Portea*.

In the December 2015 and January 2016 issues of the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletters, Mike Wisnev, President of the SFVBS, has written comprehensive articles on "*Distinguishing Aechmea and Portea, Part 1: Artificial Keys* and in *Part 2* discusses *Gravisia and the Portea-Gravisia complex*". He goes on to say: "*As in the case in so many cases, not all the studies agree. For example, one recent 2015 study found that Portea itself might need to be broken up*."

PORTEA ALATISEPALA VERSUS *AECHMEA RUBROLILACINA*

Extracted from an article by Derek Butcher, published in the March-April 2002 edition of the Bromeliad Society of Australia's *Bromeletter*, Vol. 40(2).

Everyone knows that I always question what is on the label, especially if the plant is supposed to be a species. … Changing the name on a label is not to be taken lightly, which brings me to the point in question.

Peter Kearney was a discerning collector of bromeliads, but regrettably kept few records and we do not know where he obtained many of his plants. His plants moved down to the Illawarra area when Bob Gray (Bob was one of the Illawarra's inaugural members and held the position of treasurer for quite a few years) acquired his collection a few years ago.

One plant was called *Aechmea rubrolilacina* which I was shown at the Illawarra Conference ([in 2001]. The name did not register but the flowers had pedicels which suggested the genus *Portea.* On my return to Adelaide I contacted Harry Luther and now have the original description. It shows that Elton Leme named this plant in 1993 as an *Aechmea* purely because he does not like *Portea* considering that there is no real botanical distinction between it and *Aechmea.* I maintain that if there is an accepted genus then it should be used. If not, then a thesis should be written detailing the disagreement and transferring all the other species into the new arrangement.

In my Key to the *Bromeliaceae* on the Website http://fcbs.org I have covered this particular problem by citing *Aechmea rubrolilacina* as an exception outside *Portea*.

There is a similar plant growing in Queensland as *Portea alatisepala*. Again, I do not know how it got into this country. As Harry Luther pointed out, there are similarities between *Portea alatisepala* and *Aechmea rubrolilacina* and he even threw in the name *Aechmea macrochlamys* as another to be wary of! By the way, *Portea alatisepala* was named and described by Philcox in 1991 where the plant had been collected some 14 years earlier, in 1977!

So I have both original descriptions although few bromeliad growers in Australia would have seen them. It does appear we have similar-looking plants, one called *Portea alatisepala* in Brisbane and the other called *Aechmea rubrolilacina* in Sydney.

I would warn against changing labels yet, until the matter has been investigated properly.

A TIP EXTRACTED FROM: MY ADAPTABLE, BUT CROOKED BROMELIADS

By Steven Wagner, (Printed in the September 2005 issue of the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Vol. 31[9])

Threatened by a frost this past winter, I began the all-day project of moving the large collection of potted plants growing in my yard to my screened porch. The porch's metal roof offers protection from freezing temperatures, as do the canvas blinds that may be lowered to cover the screen windows.

On any given day there are about 200 plants, from bromeliads to succulents, growing on my porch. This year my collection overtook the porch and the overflow of plants was tightly packed into the small patch of grass left in my back yard where they were covered with a tarp and blankets.

After having a very busy eight months, it is now September and I decided to conquer the "overflow" plants still huddled together in the back yard….All of my bromeliads adapted to their eight months of neglect. [However] the bad thing is, some of the bromeliads fell over, pot and all. In some of the severe cases, there is no way to repot these crooked plants and they will be placed back in the garden the way they were found—on their sides! Fortunately, bromeliads correct themselves when they tip over. Yes, the mother grows crooked but her pups grow in the normal vertical direction.

SIX BENEFITS OF USING SEAEWEED IN THE GARDEN:
FROM SEAWEED FERTILIZER TO PEST CONTROL - By Chris Hull, July 13, 2016
(Reprinted from the newsletter of the Far North Coast Study Group, April 2019)

What's your favourite thing about going to the beach? Relaxing with a good book while soaking in Vitamin D? People watching? Collecting shells and sea glass? Now you can add collecting an all-natural garden soil amendment to that list. On the beach Mother Nature offers seaweed, which is one of the best tools for a healthy garden. Read on to learn about the benefits of seaweed for your garden.

How to collect seaweed:
Collecting seaweed is as easy as walking on the beach. Couldn't. Be. Easier! The only supply necessary to collecting seaweed is a bag. I often use a plastic bag because that's what I have on hand, but others use burlap bags or onion bags which are great because water can drain out. Some folks claim that it's best to collect seaweed that is in the mid beach area-- not too close to the water or too far up the beach so that it's dried out. I'm not so picky and I'll take whatever I can get. Once I grab a handful of seaweed I like to give it a shake to allow any sea critters that may be hiding to fall out.

- **Fertilizer:** Seaweed has 60 trace minerals and ready-to-use nutrients including nitrogen, potassium, phosphate and magnesium. It also contains hormones to encourage plant growth. Unlike other garden amendments, such as manure, seaweed does not need to decompose before being a benefit to your garden.

- **Mulch:** Like all mulches, seaweed helps to keep soil moist thus reducing your need to water the garden. An application of seaweed will reduce how often you need to weed. It contains no seeds that could possibly turn into weeds as bark mulch sometimes does. Recently I've become aware that bark mulch can be a fire danger because it is dry and acts like kindling. Seaweed presents no such danger.

- **Pest control:** Slugs especially hate seaweed because of its sharp edges and salt. Birds and other garden pests dislike it for the same reasons.

- **Improved aeration:** Seaweed helps aerate the soil just like peat moss does, but it has the added benefit of delivering nutrients and minerals.

- **Prevents fungus and disease:** Seaweed helps you to grow strong, healthy plants, and healthy plants resist fungus and disease.

- **Doesn't blow away:** Unlike other compost and mulches, seaweed (especially when it is still wet) won't blow away in a stiff wind.

Concerns
Some gardeners worry about the salt in seaweed negatively impacting their garden. I can report that after years of using seaweed in my garden I have no evidence of that negative impact. Take a moment to check your local beach's codes before collecting seaweed. You shouldn't run into a problem with removing seaweed from the beach because you're not a commercial operation but best to check first.

How to Apply Seaweed to Your Garden
The only thing easier than collecting seaweed is applying it to your garden. Simply place it around plants just as you would compost and/or mulch. Use as much as you can; don't be skimpy. Your garden beds will appreciate a generous 100 mm to 150 mm (4-6 inch) application.

THE BENEFITS OF LIQUID SEAWEED FERTILIZER

By Cindy Lawson (Reprinted from FNCBSG April 2019 newsletter)

One of the best fertilizers you can use on your plants is liquid seaweed yet this is probably the last fertilizer people think of buying when they go to their local garden centre or shop online. Liquid seaweed fertilizer is not only organic, but comes from a sustainable source and can be harvested without damaging the environment.

Most seaweed-based fertilizers are made from kelp, a variety of seaweed that can grow to lengths of over 50 metres. Trace elements found in organic seaweed fertilizers include magnesium, potassium, zinc, iron and nitrogen—all of which are beneficial to plants. Nitrogen, for instance, is essential to the production of nitrate, a key component needed by plants during photosynthesis.

I can't rave enough about the benefits of using a liquid seaweed fertilizer on your garden, be it on your lawns, your flower beds, your vegetables or even on your houseplants. I personally have found the results incredibly impressive and I love that this is a natural product harvested in a way that won't have any negative impact on the environment or the sustainability of the seaweed itself.

Where Should You Apply Seaweed Fertilizer?

Seaweed has more than 70 minerals, vitamins and enzymes. Here are just a handful of its many benefits and uses:

- Liquid seaweed solution promotes additional budding if applied as the plants are beginning to bud.
- It extends the shelf life of fruits and vegetables if applied 10 days before harvesting.
- The extract lengthens the life of cut flowers if they are sprayed with it a day or two before cutting.
- It can also be used as a rooting solution. Place cuttings in a solution of liquid seaweed and water until roots develop, then plant. When planting seeds or transplanting, water with the solution.
- Seaweed extract also boosts crop yields, improves resistance of plants to frost and disease, increases uptake of inorganic constituents from the soil, bolsters resistance to stress conditions and reduces storage losses of fruit.
- It promotes vigorous growth and helps deter pests and diseases on fruit, flowers, vegetables, lawns, etc.
- Seaweed fertilizers are especially useful in organic gardening. They contain almost every micronutrient in a fully chelated (immediately available) form. The algae is also full of carbohydrates, which plants use as a building block. Numerous beneficial microorganisms also use carbohydrates as a food source.
- Liquid seaweed fertilizers (especially the alginates in the seaweed) act as soil conditioners. The alginates react with metals in the soil and form long, cross-linked polymers in the soil. These polymers improve the crumbling in the soil and swell up when they get wet. They also retain moisture for a long time.

How is Liquid Seaweed Fertilizer Made?

Liquid seaweed fertilizers are made from various species of seaweed that are washed, dried, milled and processed to enable the natural benefits to go into effect immediately upon contact with either the plants' foliage or the soil itself. This speeds up the natural processes by converting raw seaweed into an easily applied and easily digested weed.

Harvesting methods ensure sustainability of the natural crop. Selecting healthy weeds growing under optimum conditions guarantees the best growth-promoting substance yield.
Liquid seaweed extract is produced with no acid and no caustic or organic solvents. It is a truly organic product that has been extensively used in organic grower trials.

VICTORIA PADILLA - CALIFORNIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

By Elmer J. Lorenz (Reprinted from the FNCBSG's January 2021 newsletter, which was in turn reprinted from the *Journal* of the Bromeliad Society, 1982 Vol. 32[6])

A beautiful bromeliad growing on a jungle tree top may remain unknown for many years until someone collects and brings it back for all of us to appreciate. The same is true of the former Editor of our *Journal.* With the exception of a few, our previous Editor was known only in print and as Victoria Padilla, Editor. It is hoped this brief narration will sufficiently inform the members so our prior Editor is known to be more than printed words, but a beautiful person who has brought us many hours of pleasure through her numerous contributions to The Bromeliad Society, Inc.

Early in 1948 Joseph Schneider of San Gabriel, California, wrote to Miss Kemble, organizer of Round Robins for the magazine *Flower Grower*, asking if she could get a group together who were interested in bromeliads. She placed a call for members in the February, 1948 issue, to which Victoria Padilla responded immediately. She was followed by eight others, and they, in turn, by four more.

There is no doubt that since that eventful 1948 no one individual has given more time, interest, energy, concern and leadership to the growing interest in bromeliads and to The Bromeliad Society, Inc., than Victoria Padilla—to whom we are forever grateful.

Victoria was the director of the Round Robin and guided the group in exchanging their experiences with bromeliads through correspondence with one another for almost two years.

During the spring of 1950, an invitation was sent out to all members of the Round Robin and others interested in bromeliads to attend a get-together on May 21, to discuss the suggestion made by Joseph Schneider that a Bromeliad Society be formed.

On September 17, 1950 an organizational meeting was held at the home of Frank and Lucille Overton in Glendale, California. Twenty-one prospective members attended the meeting. The highlight and surprise of the meeting was the appearance of Mulford B. Foster who had been personally invited by Mr. David Barry, Jr. to attend the organizational meeting. Most of us present at the meeting were unaware that Mr. Foster was going to appear. Mulford was hidden in a back closet with Victoria until he was introduced to the group when the meeting began!

During the first meeting, the officers elected were Mulford B. Foster, President; David Barry, Jr., First Vice-President; Russell J. Seibert, Second Vice-President; Victoria Padilla, Secretary; and Frank H. Overton, Treasurer. Victoria was also elected to the Board of Directors at this time.

The *Bromeliad Society Bulletin* (now the *Journal of the Bromeliad Society*) made its appearance in 1951 with the January-February issue. Volume 1, Number 1, consisted almost entirely of an article by Mulford B. Foster, entitled "A Message From the President." It dealt with the organizational meeting, the objectives and aims of the new Society, etc. The *Bulletin* contained one other short article entitled "Note From the Secretary" and gave a description of the Bromeliad Insignia designed by Mulford B. Foster—the article was written by Victoria Padilla. This makes Victoria the first contributor to the Society's *Journal* other than the Editor.

Victoria was Secretary and later Editorial Secretary of The Bromeliad Society for many years. However, it was when she became Editor of the *Bulletin* of the Bromeliad Society with the November-December, 1960 Vol. X, No. 6, issue of the *Journal* that she began to make her greatest contributions to The Bromeliad Society, Inc.

The ***Journal*** is the cornerstone of The Bromeliad Society, Inc. It is the one feature that holds the whole structure of the Society together, making the Editor the most important member of the

Society. The enthusiasm or lack of enthusiasm of the Editor can make the society, through its journal, a success or failure. Victoria, through her determination and enthusiasm, surely made The Bromeliad Society a successful organization for the many years she was its Editor.

The assignment as editor of a journal dedicated to a 'One Plant Society' is not an easy one. The Bromeliad Society is no exception. The Editor of the ***Journal*** of the Bromeliad Society is responsible to collect, prepare and arrange informative, educational, instructive, and descriptive material pertaining to, or associated with, bromeliads. It is necessary that this combination be balanced in order for each issue to satisfy the beginning amateur grower and the advanced amateur grower.

The herculean task of issuing a journal six times a year that would fulfil the expectations of all the members of the Society is an impossible dream', but Victoria did an excellent job in meeting the challenge. The one major detail not realized or ignored by the membership is that a journal can be no better than the articles submitted—in number and quality.

Victoria Padilla, having been a teacher of business English at the college level, was very demanding that articles submitted have proper grammatical construction, correct punctuation, and proper spelling, plus being informative and instructive. Often she would have to severely edit an article or rewrite portions to meet her standards of acceptance for publication in the *Journal.* She was at times criticized for this editing, but Victoria always had the high standards for the *Journal* uppermost in her mind. She would not 'bend over backwards' and give in to the author's whims.

Victoria was just as demanding in the selection of photographs submitted for publication in the *Journal*. She, along with her brother, Jules Padilla, a professional photographer, would carefully screen all illustrations submitted before making the selection for publication. Jules Padilla also took many of the pictures used to illustrate the *Journal*.

Understanding the personality and background of Victoria is an important key to the understanding of her job as Editor. Included with her experience as a teacher, is Victoria's remarkable knowledge and great love of bromeliads. The combination of these important factors adds up to making an excellent Editor of the *Journal* of The Bromeliad Society. It is with great pride that we in California can broadcast that California's contribution to the Bromeliad Society is Victoria Padilla, and the fact that The Bromeliad Society was organized in California.

Many times Victoria has written a number of letters to various individuals asking for, or even pleading for, articles. The response in most instances was negative. Occasionally she would get an answer or two with the promise of an article. Oftentimes she would get no response to her numerous letters requesting articles. Many is the time Victoria had to compose an article or two to complete an issue of the *Journal.* No one has contributed more to the *Journal* than Victoria. To verify this, all one has to do is turn to *The Cumulative Index to The Bulletin and Journal of The Bromeliad Society*, published by The Reed Herbarium, Contribution No. XXIX, and note that eight pages of contributions by Victoria Padilla are listed—no other individual in the Society has approached that number.

Victoria's contributions to The Bromeliad Society are not limited to being Secretary and Editor. She is responsible for the publication of several books on bromeliads. The first book was *Bromeliads in Color and Their Culture*. It was a compilation by Victoria Padilla of articles and photographs from the *Bulletin* of *The Bromeliad Society.* The book was published in 1966 and is now very rare, having been out of print for many years. Two other books have been written by Victoria and have become very popular. *Bromeliads* is accepted as the horticultural authority for bromeliad growers as it is one of the best reference books available for the amateur grower. It is now in its sixth printing.

Next came *The Colorful Bromeliads—Their Infinite Variety*. This book is primarily a picture book of beautiful bromeliads. The comments expand the usefulness of the book by giving descriptions of plants and background information, in addition to the beautiful photographs.

Victoria also compiled *A Bromeliad Glossary* to assist the amateur bromeliad grower in defining some of the more technical botanical terms used in the *Journal* of The Bromeliad Society.

The *International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids* was gathered together by Victoria to meet one of the important requirements necessary for The Bromeliad Society, Inc. to become the International Registration Authority for Bromeliads.

Victoria was responsible for the groundwork of establishing The Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at The Marie Selby Botanic Garden in Sarasota, Florida.

During a visit to Florida in 1978, Victoria investigated the facilities of The Marie Selby Botanical Garden as a possible location for a bromeliad identification center. After an enlightening conversation with Dr Calloway Dodson, Research Director of The Marie Selby Botanical Garden, Victoria returned to California full of enthusiasm for the establishment of the identification center in Sarasota, Florida. She presented a detailed report to me, and I, as President of The Bromeliad Society, Inc., began the formal procedures to have The Bromeliad Society's Identification Center established in Sarasota, Florida at The Marie Selby Botanical Garden. After many years of debating, investigation and searching, the Identification Center was finally established and became an important function of The Bromeliad Society, Inc. After the death of Mulford B. Foster, the Identification Center was renamed The Mulford B. Foster Identification Centre in his memory.

Victoria accepted no remuneration from The Bromeliad Society for her services as Editor of the *Journal.*

This article is but a brief resume of Victoria's contributions to The Bromeliad Society. The real contributions are forever enshrined in the 121 issues of the *Bulletin* and *Journal of The Bromeliad Society* that Victoria edited and the books she authored.

A small group of members of The Bromeliad Society gathered at the home of Victoria on July 25, 1982. The occasion of the momentous meeting was to present Victoria with a gift on behalf of ALL the members of The Bromeliad Society, Inc. in recognition of her many years of service and dedication to the Society. This was done upon the request of the Board of Directors of The Bromeliad Society. Inc.

Left to right - Back Row
Morris Schick, Director;
Dr Russell Seibert, 2nd Vice President;
Frank Overton, Treasurer

Left to right – Front Row
Victoria Padilla, Secretary
Mulford Foster, President
David Barry, Jr., First Vice President

Victoria retired as Editor with the November-December, 1981 issue of the *Journal* and Victoria now has many additional hours she can spend with and enjoy her bromeliads and other plants. [Victoria died on September 16, 1986 at the age of 81—Ed.]