

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting June 20th 2019 at 11 a.m.

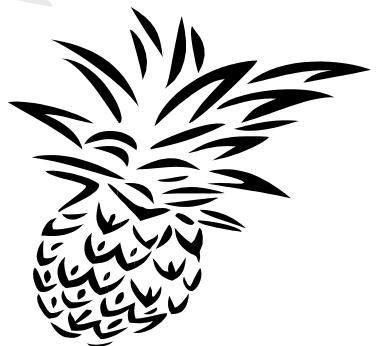
Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery  
114 Pine Street Wardell 2477  
Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: May 2019  
General Discussion

## **Editorial Team:**

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## Meeting 19th April 2018

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am  
The 10 members present were welcomed.  
A total of six apologies were received.

### General Business

The Meeting was opened by Ross to only a small attendance this month owing to the Easter and Anzac break. A review of our April Newsletter was conducted with much interest and lengthy discussions on the use and benefits of Clensel - see article Katykids and Clensel. (FNCBSG NSW April 2019, ps 10 and 11)

John's *Neoregelia* 'Yang' brought in for Popular Vote Competition in February was put back in his shade house but alas he removed the extra protective layer or topper of shade mesh too soon and burnt a couple of the leaves. The word of warning from John was to err on the side of caution at this time of the year as we do still get the occasional hot days. John offered the plant up for auction with all funds raised going to the FNCBSG coffers. Thank you John for the gesture.

We are lucky to have some very generous Members among our ranks who often make donations to run the Group, you know who you are, a huge **thank you**. We must also thank those who fill the raffle table with plants etc. each month, without your support our Groups can't function.

### Show, Tell and Ask!

Last month we had a discussion about an *Aechmea recurvata* that Keryn had brought in asking about seed and how to collect it. As reported last month Keryn and the Group were shown how to collect and put the seed down, Keryn has reported she's already got good germination in her tray. Drew is on holidays this month so we hope to hear of his results next meeting. Sue has reported good germination results also.

The issue of when to start thinning seedlings out was raised with the general response being "when they get too crowded in their container as over crowding can cause rotting/damping off". 'Damping off is a horticultural disease or condition, caused by several different pathogens that kill or weaken seeds or seedlings before or after they germinate. It is most prevalent in wet and cool conditions ([Wikipedia](#))'. Ross showed two trays of *Neoregelia* seedlings that he had put down last year, in one tray is quite a good success rate of variegated seedlings, the other only a few. Later in the year when the weather starts to warm again we

will tease the seedlings apart and pot the variegates for later selection. One or two of the none variegated seedlings may be retained to see if any of them have any outstanding features, otherwise they will all be culled.

On the Show and Tell bench were two *Neoregelia* 'Lorena Lector', one a mature plant in flower the other was one of last years pups, both easily recognisable as being related. The discussion here was about seedling selection and what a good hybridiser looks for when deciding to retain and further develop seedlings. As there are more variegated *Neoregelia* hybrids in the marketplace than one can poke a stick at now one needs to look for distinction, a plant that is distinct from any other hybrid already available. We often hear the comment that too many of the new hybrids look too much alike and that they are getting confused with each other. This is making positive identifications very difficult when one loses a name tag. As time goes by now it is becoming more and more important NOT to lose those tags. Remember the green *Neoregelias* with the red centre from days gone by, so mixed up these days who really knows which is which due to lost tags.

However if only the best and very distinct hybrids are retained the problem becomes less as we see with *Neo*. 'Lorena Lector'. This hybrid is so distinct from any others with its broad cream centre to the leaves and its reddish flush to the entire plant makes it easy to identify. Hopefully in the future we will see more of these 'distinct' hybrids being registered rather than the same ol' same ol' plants reproduced over and over which are difficult to distinguish from each other. Anybody can create a hybrid but not everybody creates an outstanding one, try, try and try again until you hit the mark of 'distinction' and cull the **Same Ol' Stuff**. We're having these discussions as some of our Members are trying their hand at seed growing, hopefully we can encourage all to be responsible in their efforts and only keep their very, very best results. (photo 'Lorena Lector' p.7)

Several times over past years we have had discussions and demonstrations about removing pups from *Goudaea ospinae* var. *gruberi*. This is a plant that has its pups in the upper leaf axils near to the base of the inflorescence spike. One meeting when demonstrating how to remove these pups Ross managed to break a couple short, or was this a demo on how not to do it. The lesson went on to show how best to treat these little accidents and to show that not all is lost. These pups were dropped into the leaf axils of a large *Alcantarea* to hopefully recover and grow some roots, one which has developed roots was shown to the Group and is now ready to be potted and grown on as per normal. John brought along a couple of pots of *Gd. ospinae* var. *gruberi* that he had gone home and practiced on. John must be a very good student as his results were fantastic, not only did he have great success in removing the pups he also

gained many more pups on the old stump. John used the split the leaves method rather than totally stripping leaves away to gain access to the base of the pups for easier removal, it also allows the plant/stump to continue to 'grow' still gaining nutrients from the split leaves. John also gave the plant plenty of additional fertiliser hence the abundance of pups forming a nice clump.

While travelling around Ecuador in 2015 Ross managed to collect some seed from several *Neoregelias*. Having success with three out of five seed collected, two have flowered and were identified as *Neoregelia tarapotoensis*. The third shown to the Group this month was in flower and is yet to be identified. It is a smallish to medium sized green stoloniferous plant with a reddish/orange centre and small white petal flowers. Only one pup has been produced from this plant to date so we are hoping to get some seed before any butchering takes place to confirm a possible identity.

Dave spoke about his *Aechmea* 'Shining Light' which he acquired last year is grown under shade cloth rather than in the open garden. Being a plant with discoloured leaves (red on the abaxial side/underside of the leaf) indicates it prefers a shady position rather than bright light. It appears Dave has got these conditions just right as his plant was in excellent condition.

Even though John had removed his topper/second layer of shade cloth from his shade house too early and caused damage to some plants, he noticed some plants had actually benefited from the additional bright light. One such plant was his *Neoregelia* 'Painted Delight', John's only disappointment with this plant is that it is a slow pupper. (photo p.8)

This month we had two presentations of Members visits to Singapore Gardens and other points of interest in Singapore, one from Debbie (photos p.5), the other from Dave and Keryn (photos p.6). After listening to them talk you realise it would take several visits to do the 250 acre Gardens justice as there is so much to see. Aside from the spectacular "Supertrees" there are two huge enclosures, one simulating a cloud forest and the other an ever changing display of many types of plants and flowers. At night there is a completely different atmosphere when an incredible light show focuses on the "Supertrees". Debbie especially enjoyed the many displays of orchids as well as the Bromeliads. Her visit to the zoo was another highlight as seen in her flamingo reflection pool photo. Dave and Keryn were amazed at the many displays and how often Bromeliads were used as accent plantings. *Neoregelias* lined pathways and many *Guzmanias* were used in the colourful display areas. Keryn and Dave's photos showed an extensive use of Bromeliads through-out the Gardens, the cactus and succulent gardens were amazing also. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us.



Photos by Debbie Smith taken at Singapore Gardens and Singapore Zoo







Photos by Dave and Keryn taken at Singapore Gardens and the Airport



*Tillandsia rihondoensis*  
shown by Dave Boudier



*Tillandsia 'Fuego'*  
shown by Gary McAteer



*Tillandsia dura*  
shown by Helen Clewett



*Neoregelia 'Lorena Lector'*  
shown by Ross Little





*Aechmea* 'Shining Light'  
equal 1st Open Dave Boudier



*Neoregelia* 'Painted Delight'  
equal 1st Open John Crawford



*Tillandsia* 'Samantha'  
1st Tillandsioidea and Judges Choice  
John Crawford



*Wallisia cyanea*  
shown by Keryn Simpson



'Easter Bummy Egg Hunt'  
equal 1st Decorative Helen Clewett



'Happy Easter'  
equal 1st Decorative Keryn Simpson



*Neoregelia* 'Carnival Queen'  
shown by Coral McAteer



*Guzmania* 'Grado'  
shown by Keryn Simpson



## *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola*

by Derek Butcher April 2019

(note – no hyphen between jalisco and monticola)

In Feb 2019 I was surprised to see a plant called *Tillandsia fasciculata* (*lampropoda* type) on display by Adam Bodzioch at a Bromeliad Society of South Australia meeting and with bluish petals. My first reaction was that a plant linked to *Tillandsia lampropoda* would have yellow petals. No natural hybrid had been reported. Further investigation revealed that the plant had come from Olive Trevor who in turn had got it from PK.(- Pam Koide).

This brings us to the 1990's where Pamela Koide (now Hyatt) of Bird Rock Tropicals was involved and she reports:

"In the early years of collecting, there were (and still are) many forms of *Tillandsia fasciculata*. We would keep the different forms or types, (not at all referring to the type specimen) separate by giving them a unique number, and some details about the form or type. This group of plants called *Tillandsia fasciculata* in Mexico, can vary quite a bit in different localities, and even vary on the same tree. We have *Till. fasciculata* Peach type, *Till. fasciculata* Yellow type, *Till. fasciculata* Candelabra type, etc.



*Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* 'Pink Clone'  
grown by Adam Bodzioch



*Tillandsia lampropoda*  
Chiapas, Mexico, R. Little

The plant referenced here is what we labelled *Tillandsia fasciculata* (*lampropoda* type). T446. The reason for this name was that it usually only had a single spike, sometimes double and they present upright and close to each other. The inflorescence was colored pink (salmon-pink) to light green-yellow, and compressed or flattened with a little bit of white lepidote coating. The shape and colouring of the inflorescence reminded me of *Tillandsia lampropoda*. I knew that it was not *Till. lampropoda*, it was also different than what we were calling *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola*, which was more red, green and yellow with more inflated, or fatter spikes.



*Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* 'Pink Clone'  
grown by Pamela Koide-Hyatt

We have propagated this clone from offsets and sold it under this name and number for years. Several years ago, I was reading Matuda's description for *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* and realized that the plant that he described in his publication of the species had coloring similar to my T446. It was also discovered near where we found our plant T446. So the name was changed to *T. jalisco-monticola* 'Pink Clone'

So we have a name change not noted by the growers of this plant in Queensland. I would now like to give some indication of the mine-field of plant identification we are in. *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* was described by Matuda in 1975 and has caused strife to growers who query identity ever since!

First let us look at:

***Tillandsia jalisco-monticola*** Matuda Cact. Suc. Mex. 20: 99. fig 51.  
"Oct- Dec 1975"

**Type locality** Pine forest, El Tuito, 700m., Jalisco, Mexico.

**Type** Carlos R. Beutelspacher No. 74,  
27 Oct. 1974 (MEXU)

Matuda says that it differs from

*Tillandsia lampropoda* in:

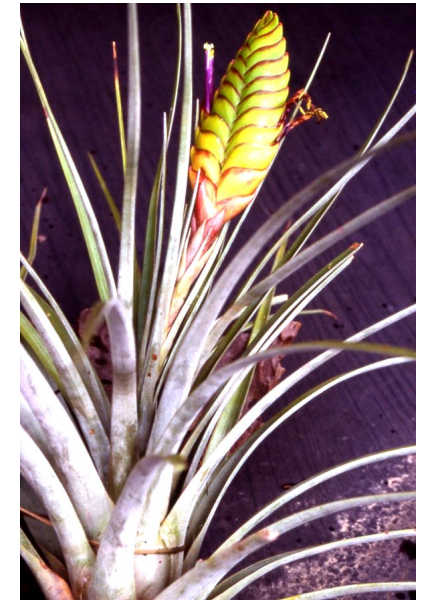
Leaves much larger and more rigid

Leaves long tubular tipped, channelled

Inflorescence much larger

Petals violet

Spikes often half red half green.



*Tillandsia jalisco-monticola*, Jalisco, Mexico  
El Tuito to Puerto Vallarta  
R. Ehlers

We now move to:- from Sue Gardner papers 1982:

Distributed from coastal Oaxaca to Jalisco, Mexico, this species has been confused with *Till. fasciculata* var. *convexispica* (Rauh 1981). Matuda compares it to *Till. lampropoda* but its resemblance to that species is superficial. I find it most similar to *Till. compressa* and *Till. buchii*. It differs from the first in thick, inflated spikes, dense, spreading floral bracts that are rose on the proximal spike, and yellow distally. The spike is short when the first flowers emerge. It continues to elongate and produce flowers over an extended period.

At maturity the scape decurves under the weight of the spike, the spike apex curves upward. *Tillandsia buchii*, although a much smaller plant, shares an inflated spike, although it is much shorter.

In 2009, as far as *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* goes we had a new *Tillandsia magnispica* Espejo et Lopez-Ferrari, sp. nov. Acta Bot. Mex. 86: 1-7. 2009

Type: Mexico, Oaxaca, distrito de Pochutla, municipio de San Pedro Pochutla, alrededores de Toltepec, ca. 4.5 km despues de San Jose Chacalapa, carretera Pochutla-Miahuatlan, 15°51'47" N; 96°27'58" W 285 m s.n.m., selva mediana, 10 VIII 2001, A. Espejo, A. R. Lopez-Ferrari, J. Ceja y A. Mendoza R. 6312 (Holoty-pe (in three sheets): UAMIZ; Isotype IEB).



*Tillandsia magnispica* A. Espejo Serna

Paratypes: Mexico, Oaxaca, distrito de Pochutla, municipio de San Pedro Pochutla, N of Pochutla, 1981, C. S Gardner 1445 (SEL, US, line drawing by Gardner, 1982); distrito de Pochutla, municipio de San Pedro el Alto, 18 km al S de San Miguel Suchistepec, sobre la carretera a Pochutla, 1700 m s.n.m. Bosque de *Pinus oocarpa* sobre ladera metamorfica, 22.IX.1965, J. Rzedowski 20648 ENCB(x3), LL, MICH, TEX).

*Tillandsia magnispica* is endemic to Oaxaca (Espejo-Serna et al, 2007 p.138), and known only from the Municipalities of San Pedro Pochutla and San Pedro el Alto, District of Pochutla.

The material of the new species has been identified by some authors (Gardner, 1982, pp. 145-146; McVaugh, 1989, p. 58) as *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* Matuda (Figs. 2, 3A), a taxon only known from Colima, Jalisco, and Michoacan (Espejo et al., 2004, p. 63), The differences between the two taxa follows.

Comparative characteristics of *Till. magnispica* and *Till. Jalisco-monticola*:

	<i>Till. magnispica</i>	<i>Till. jalisco-monticola</i>
leaf sheaths	7 - 10cm long, 4 - 5cm wide	11.5 - 15cm long, 5.5 - 6cm wide
spike number	1	1 - 3
spike width	5 - 4.5cm	6 - 8.2cm
petal length	7 - 8cm long	6 - 7cm long
stamens	subequal	unequal
distribution	Oaxaca	Colima, Jalisco and Michoacan

Now to a problem we all face when trying to identify a plant we have that has just flowered. We can assume the plant had been found in the wild and had been given a Latinised name by a taxonomist. Of great importance to the taxonomist is a collection number. We can use keys to help us identify. If it is a manmade hybrid we can hope it has been given a name and put in the BCR and search on guessed parentage. If supplied by a plant nursery it may even have their particular code number and this code is as important as the name you write on the label. In this case T446 does not seem to feature on the labels of plants grown in Australia

We do know that we were growing many plants in Australia called *Till. jalisco-monticola* which were better identified as *Till. magnispica* and no doubt there are others that will need to be adjusted. If you are growing T446 then *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* 'Pink Clone' is the best name to use because it agrees with Bird Rock Tropicals' current interpretation. Regrettably, this name is not acceptable as a cultivar name under the ICNCP rules, so cannot be registered.



*Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* left  
*Tillandsia magnispica* right



## A News Flash for the More Avid Hectia Enthusiast

Hechtia Changes by Derek Butcher April 2019

The following has recently been published and somewhat concerned me. Based on the concepts of Barfuss et al (2016) they could have achieved similar goals by treating them as subgenera under *Hechtia*.

"The re-establishment of *Bakerantha* and a new genus in Hechtioideae (Bromeliaceae) in Mesoamerica, *Mesoamerantha* by Ramirez-Morillo, Romero-Soler, Carnevali, Pinzon, Raigoza et al in Harvard Papers in Botany 23 (2): 301-312. 2018"

Eric Gouda is of the same opinion as me and this is reflected in detail given in The New Bromeliad Taxon list: <https://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>

It may be of interest to note that *Viridantha* is treated at generic level by the Mexicans but is shown at subgenus level in The New Bromeliad Taxon list in line with Barfuss et al (2016).

Because *Hechtia tillandsioides* has already been involved in a hybrid mentioned in the BCR such a move will save a new nothogenus being coined.

Taxa involved are:

*Bakerantha caerulea*  
*undelliorum*  
*purpusii*  
*tillandsioides*

*Mesoamerantha guatemalensis*  
*dichroantha*  
*malvernii*



M. B. Foster  
with  
*Hechtia caerulea*  
as  
*Hechtia integerrima*  
  
Bromeliad Society  
Bulletin  
1968 V18 (1)  
article in part p.15

While I believe the better solution is by using subgenera we wait for further publications which prove that genera status is the only option.

**Hectia:** are native to Mexico, Northern Central America, and Texas, the genus was named by Klotsch in 1835 to honour Julius Gottfried Conrad Hecht, German counselor to the King of Prussia.

## A New Hectia Species

Mulford B. Foster

**The Old Adage:** "There is an exception to every rule" applies to the *Hechtia* group of bromeliads as will be shown here.

In retrospect and with some nostalgia, the *Hechtias* came to have a special place in my study of the bromeliads.

My very first discovery of a new species in the bromeliad family was in June, 1935, when crossing the state of Guerrero, on my first trip to Mexico. It was on the way to Acapulco on the west coast where, in the 'Canyon de Sopilotes', was found this first new species. The land is so arid that it has the reputation of being desolate to the point that even the buzzards (Sopilotes), in crossing this section, have to carry their own rations! Here I found a *Hechtia* plant, although at that time I did not know to what genus it belonged. I felt sure that it was a bromeliad even though none of these plants showed any trace of an inflorescence.

Ten years later, in January 1945, I was able to study the flowering stalk; the live plant which I brought back had flourished in Florida conditions and produced an inflorescence. It rose up to 7½ feet directly out of the center (axis) of the plant. The small, white female flowers were without doubt those of a *Hechtia*. Dr. Smith later named it *Hechtia melanocarpa*.

This central inflorescence was an exception that caused me some embarrassment. I had just submitted an article to be published in the *National Horticultural Magazine* (Jan. 1945), titled, "Lateral Inflorescences in the Bromeliaceae", which stated that all *Hechtia* species produced their inflorescences laterally. This generalization was based on the fact that other *Hechtia* species taken on that first trip, as well as on later trips in Mexico, all had lateral inflorescences. Twenty-two years later, I find that another assumption is erroneous. Heretofore it was observed that all known *Hechtia* species had leaves that were armed with spines on the edge of the leaf. Now, a new species appears which upsets this assumption and presents to us a *Hechtia* with entire (spineless) leaves as well as the central inflorescence. Such an exceptional *Hechtia* should have an appropriate name.

A *Hechtia* without spiny edged leaves has thus far been unknown, but now this one has that distinction. *Hechtia integerrima* has absolutely smooth-edged leaves. During the ten years before this plant flowered, I felt that it might be a smooth-edged *Cottendorfia*. But when a seven foot spike of delicate white, male *Hechtia* flowers appeared, and the leaves had no *Hechtia*-like spines, I was perplexed. Later it was proven to be another *Hechtia* species.

Because labels and records have been lost, it is not possible to give an exact location of collection.



## **Novice Popular Vote**

1st

2nd Nil Entries

Nil Entries

3rd

## **Open Popular Vote**

1st John Crawford

*Neoregelia* 'Painted Delight'

1st Dave Boudier

*Aechmea* 'Shining Light'

2nd Coral McAteer

*Neoregelia* 'Carnival Queen'

2nd Keryn Simpson

*Guzmania* 'Grado'

## **Tillandsioideae**

1st John Crawford

*Tillandsia* 'Samantha'

2nd Keryn Simpson

*Wallisia cyanea*

3rd Helen Clewett

*Tillandsia dura*

## **Decorative**

1st Helen Clewett

'Easter Bummy Egg Hunt'

1st Keryn Simpson

'Happy Easter'

## **Judges Choice**

1st John Crawford

*Tillandsia* 'Samantha'

### **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](http://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.