



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO**

# **THE BSGC NEWS**

**January/February, 2019**

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Lori Weigerding

We hope your plants are doing well this New Year. We will be having our first meeting at the Chicago Botanic Garden at 2 pm on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We hope to see you there. We will begin plans for the July 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> Show.

### *President's Column*

*Well we certainly are having a frigid winter. Hopefully everyone has been staying warm and comfortable. I'm sure you've all had to add some extra moisture to your plants as the heat has been running extra hard drying out the air. Our plants and us are yearning for spring to be here real soon. So what have you been doing to keep your plants happy and healthy? I only have a few air plants left, missed getting them in before it got cold so the others didn't fair well.*

*Our next meeting will be March 10, 2019 I'm sure the weather will be much better by then! I look forward to seeing you all then.*

*Lori Weigerding*

A group in Italy is having a Tillandsia exhibition on Feb. 9 & 10<sup>th</sup>. You can see some of their past exhibition on the follow link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=8&v=MLmAu8mUpR4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=MLmAu8mUpR4)

I went to a seminar at the Desert Botanic Garden in Phoenix in January about Euphorbias. While we were there we walked outside to see what was growing. In a covered area there were several bromeliads growing.



*Deuterocohnia brevifolia*  
Damage done by ???



Hechtia bloom

One of the things, the speaker mentioned was the name changes of some of the plants. We are dealing with that now with many of our bromeliads.

Later in January, one of our members of the cactus Society invited people to come and buy plants since she will be moving. I got a hechtia glauca and a deuterocohnia there. She mentioned that you should not cut off the bloom spike as it blooms on it again. She was going to take some of the dyckias, hechtias and deuterocohnias and experiment and see how they would do in Payson. AZ.



Hechtia glauca

I looked up some information on deuterocohnias. In the 1992 BSI Cultural Manual, the genus was listed as Abromeitiella which is still found on many plant labels in cactus clubs. The genus Deuterocohnia is found mainly in Argentina and Bolivia. They grow into large dense mats. In the Encyclopedia of Succulents, it says that deuterocohnia is a dense, cushion like plant that grows over rocks in arid areas. This often helps to slow soil erosion on hillsides. As far as care it should be watered regularly during the summer and kept on the dry side in the winter. In an article from the East Bay Times by Ruth Bancroft she found that in her garden that it can tolerate temperatures down to the low 20°'s. It does require good drainage.

At the January cactus meeting Kelly Griffin showed us a picture of *Deuterocohnia chysantha* growing in the Atacama Desert in Chile.



This picture is from xerophilla.ro Taken by Robert Bader

I found this article that I just received from the South Bay Bromeliad Associates..

## **Deuterocohnia**

*Deuterocohnia* is a diverse genus, with some 12 species that can be found in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru. The genus is named for the German botanist Ferdinand Julius Cohn and as there was already a genus named *Cohnia*, they added the prefix 'deutero' to show that it was a second genus named after Ferdinand Cohn.

Many have a resemblance to *Dyckias*, as they have a similar rosette form with heavily spined leaf margins. Others are clump-forming and typically smaller. These distinctive smaller species were once described as belonging to the genus *Abromeitiella*, however they were re-evaluated and classified with *Deuterocohnia* following DNA analysis.

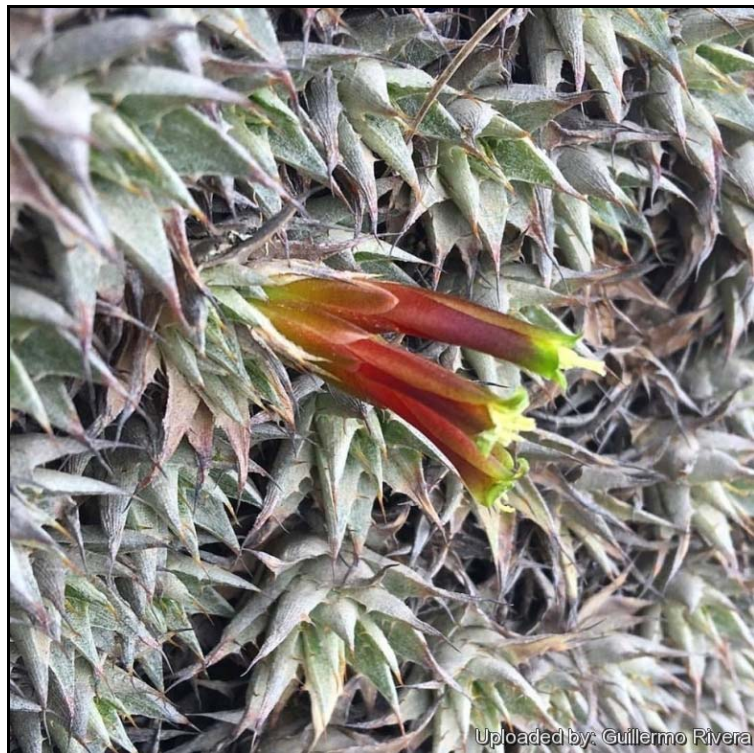
In cultivation, they will respond well when treated in a similar way to dyckias. The smaller forms do very well planted in a garden situation where they can receive full sun and plenty of water during the summer. They are very cold tolerant and will soon develop into an attractive dense cushion of plants making a stunning display, ideally suited for the edges of garden beds. Division is the best way to propagate these clumping forms, however make sure each division has its own root system as unrooted sections are notoriously difficult to get established.

*Deuterocohnia brevifolia* appears to be a variable species, with some featuring rosette of up to 3cm while others can reach up to 6cm. The rosettes will multiply and grow into a large mound over time. Small inconspicuous tubular apple-green flowers are produced during summer.

*Deuterocohnia* 'Chlorantha' was known as a subspecies of *brevifolia*, but has recently been given cultivar status (See BCR registration document 7/2014 D Butcher). This distinctive plant forms masses of rosettes at just 2cm in diameter with each one dusted in trichomes. The plant makes a popular display for bromeliad shows, where its eye catching habit of growing into large mounds can be seen to full advantage.

*Deuterocohnia lotteae* is very similar to *brevifolia*, but can be identified when it flowers, as the flowers have a distinct reddish colouration. Coromandel Cacti have been selling these for a few years, so any clumping *deuterocohnia* (abromeitiella) purchases from them will be tagged as this species.

Guillermo Rivera has a tour company. Plantexpeditions.com  
Plant Expeditions used to be known as Cactus Expeditions and South America Nature Tours.



Uploaded by: Guillermo Rivera

Picture from  
[http://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Bromeliaceae/34203/Deuterocohnia\\_lotteae](http://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Bromeliaceae/34203/Deuterocohnia_lotteae)  
taken by Guillermo Rivera

*Deuterocohnia longipetala* is a larger species with wide green leaves, giving it a resemblance to *Dyckias*. It develops a tall flower spike with distinctive bright yellow flowers.

*Deuterocohnia abstrusa* (was *lorentziana*) occurs in the typical green form and a very attractive silver form. This species has had a recent name change as Andy Siekkinnen states in a recent article for the San Diego Bromeliad Society... 'There was recently a dissertation on the genus *Deuterocohnia* published by German researcher, Nicole Schütz. She studied all known publications and existing herbarium records of the genus. In her work she discovered that the specific epithet (species name) 'lorentziana' was first applied to a plant that is really *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*. Since the first published name has priority the name *lorentziana* becomes invalid, so this species should now be known as *Deuterocohnia abstrusa*'

Reference: The Bromeliad Blade, San Diego Bromeliad Society newsletter March 2015, Photos: FCBS,irg

In our January CACSS Newsletter under "Favorite Tool", Tom Gatz suggested using drywall tape to cover the drain holes of pots. This is available at any hardware store. It prevents the soil from washing out and provides better drainage than coffee filters or window screen. Another advantage is that it is sticky and adheres to the pot. He suggests folding over the cut end of the roll or it will be very difficult to find the beginning.



Picture from Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS)

We hope you are staying well this season. You probably do have the following disease.

## **“Bromeliaditis”**

by Dianne Molnar

From April 1998 CBS Meristem

Unlike the flu, Bromeliaditis doesn't go away. The symptoms get stronger everyday. After being exposed to the plants responsible for this sickness, you get a fever to have every plant you see. The fever is followed by a skin rash, which is really a bunch of scratches and puncture wounds. Bromeliads become the center of your interest. You no longer care to be inside your house. Your closets can be cluttered, your meals late and your shopping list can wait another day. You just want to be in your garden. Those who get this disease think nothing of traveling long distances to go on collection trips, or, if they can't do that, go to every show or sale they can to obtain new specimens, even such treacherous ones that you would not have been caught dead with before you got this sickness. You walk around with dirt under your fingernails, learn a strange new vocabulary to be able to converse with other victims, don't mind staying up all night grooming your plants for show, and learn patience you never knew you had, waiting for a plant to grow up and bloom. You even go to “Sunday Meetings” in jeans or shorts, long sleeves to cover your bloody arms) and floppy hats you've adopted. Some, who are severely afflicted, even sit in front of a screen, seeking out other victims, some that even change their names by adding “.com”, getting terrible backaches in the process. It seems, misery loves company. Bromeliaditis hit you hard, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world! I'm glad there are no shots to prevent it.

## **“What A Psychiatrist Can Tell About You From Your Bromeliad Habit”**

**According to Dr. Mary Ann Bartusis, former President of the New Jersey Psychiatric Association:**

Found in the June 2000 CBS Meristem

Raising large plants that require enormous pots and lots of room is an

indication of dramatic, out-going people. These are people who tend to be quite independent, who like to make their own decisions, and follow through with them.

Those who enjoy caring for small plants tend to be less inclined to be independent. They are more apt to be reliant on others. They are more caring nurturing types of people.

People who go out of their way to have plants that are all one size, whether on the the small side or the large side, or plants of one type tend to be perfectionists, she explains.

In contrast, a display of all different kinds and sizes of plants, perhaps arranged somewhat haphazardly would generally indicate a more flexible responsive person, she claims. These people tend to adjust well to different situations. They are able to be spontaneous and impulsive.

Those who concentrate on flowering plants tend to have a cheerful attitude and are lively active people.

Cactus lovers tend to be very busy people, having many different activities in their lives. They like plants, but they don't have the time to devote to them and cactus generally require little care.

Those who are extremely careful about plants, shining leaves, and misting often carry this pattern of behavior into other areas of their lives. They are good with details and do well as accountants and bookkeepers.

Lovers of rare and exotic plants like the bonsai plants often enjoy challenges. They tend to have somewhat of a gambler's spirit. They are willing to pay a lot of money for a plant with no real assurance that the plant is going to do well.

If you have plants in every room, she says you are probably warm and affectionate. You have a zest for living and feel that instead of just having a room full of inanimate objects, plants can bring happiness and warmth to each room.

Herb growers tend to be careful about spending money and enjoy being thrifty.

People who decorate their home with artificial plants are generally not willing to venture out and try new things.

Did you find yourself somewhere in this article???

(Ed note: This article was originally taken from the October 1982 newsletter of the Bromeliad Study Group of Northern California and repeated in the May 2000 copy of the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco newsletter, Editor Roger Lane. Thanks, Roger. According to the above article, I'm really a mess.) (The previous note is from the editor of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society)



Anne shared some pictures with us from her greenhouse.



Tillandsia in bloom in my greenhouse, in November/December.

Top L: *T. stricta*

Top R: *T. ionantha zebrina*

Bottom L: *T. ixioides*

Bottom R: *T. vernicosa*

We're doing fine though... heat is going strong, in the greenhouse as well as the rest of the house. We have a temperature sensor out there that sends a

phone-call message to us if the temp in the greenhouse drops below a specific level (for us, that's 45 degrees). But so far, no problems, thank goodness.

On the picture front, here's a composite of four of my Tillandsia plants that bloomed in November/December (zebrina and vernicosa are still blooming away!). I posted this on my "Tilly Plant Designs" Facebook page, with the text below. (Maybe you can let folks know about the FB page... I am not always the most diligent at posting, but trying to do more).

Don't forget to renew your membership now, if you haven't already.

Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago Membership Application

(New Member) (Renewal)

Chose one below

Individual \$5.00 Annually Dual \$8.00 Annually

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Simply fill this form out and mail with payment to:

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