



FLORIDA COUNCIL
of
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.
Newsletter

This Newsletter published by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. & mailed to all paid up members of those Bromeliad Societies of Florida which make up the Council. Non-members may subscribe for \$2.00 per year. Make checks payable to:

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Mail to: Carol Johnson, Editor at cover address.

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VOLUME VIII - ISSUE IV

NOVEMBER 1988

VOLUME VIII - ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 1988

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

NEW LOGO - Florida Council is in the market for a new logo and to this end is conducting a contest. Our old logo (see the front of this Newsletter) was conceived in haste and has served its purpose for ten years, although nobody has ever seemed to like it. Artists are invited to submit drawings on 8½ x 11 paper in black ink. If possible, try to make the design round rather than square so as to fit on a seal if that need should arise. DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 1989 and the winning design will be selected at the April, 1989, Council meeting. FIRST PRIZE IS \$100.00. All drawings submitted will become the property of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. Mail entries to the Editor at the cover address.

VISITORS - I regularly receive all the Newsletter from the various Florida Bromeliad Societies and am extremely grateful. However, what you DID is of very little use to the Newsletter. It is what you are GOING TO DO that is of interest. In our February, 1989 issue, we would like to print a list of all new officers of your society, your meeting place and time, and a preview of programs planned for the year. I know, I know! I have been program chairman and it is very often a scramble at the last moment for a speaker or program. Let's just say "if possible". This information is of help to those who are going to be in your area and would like to attend your meetings as a guest.

MORE SELBY - Elsewhere in this issue is information regarding submission of bromeliads to Harry Luther at the Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby Gardens for identification. It is suggested that each society designate one member to attend to the task of packing and shipping. If the plant is brought to a society meeting prior to being shipped, this will create interest in the process and learning the results. Remember if your society regularly contributes money to the BIC, there will be no charge made for the i.d. process. Remember, also, SPECIES ONLY. Hybrids are too often the result of the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune".

WINNERS - Best in Show at the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Show on Labor Day week-end was won by a foliage variegated pineapple entered by Bill McCrory. Best in Show at the October 1 Sarasota Bromeliad Show at Selby was won by a *Billbergia horrida* v. *tigrina* entered by Vicky Chirnside. Foliage plants, both.

COLLECTORS - On the Show Page I remarked that the Newsletter does not use material from other state newsletters. So now I am going to do so-- In the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Newsletter (Gene McKenzie, Ed.) appears the following information of interest to potential collectors:

Twenty kilometers west of Tuxtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico is the dam site of Presa Cerro de Oro, one of Mexico's largest construction endeavors since the days of the Mayans. This dam site is located in a tropical forest region, the northernmost extent of rain forest in the Western Hemisphere. When the dam is completed in 1989, the final flooding during the summer will bring the water level to 65 meters above normal. Eventually, over 22,000 hectares (a hectare is 2.471 acres) of prime orchid, bromeliad, palm, cycad and other plant habitats will be flooded. An organization called "Save the Flora International" (SFI), a corporation located in Washington, D. C. plans to conduct rescue the plant tours and establish nurseries in select rescue operation areas. These operations begin in Mexico. SFI operates from Rancho La Joya in state of Puebla. Tours will be conducted on a weekly basis, beginning January and continuing through May. For further details, write SAVE THE FLORA INTERNATIONAL; c/o Thomas E. Plant, Esq.; 1847 Lamont St. NW; Washington, D.C. 20010. Tel. 202-265-6771

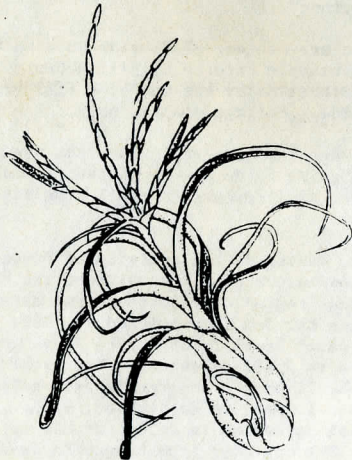
GOOD NEIGHBORS

At the risk of setting a precedent, the time has come for this Newsletter to give thanks to two people who have really made a difference in the state bromeliad scene. They are Ron and Carolyn Schoenau of Gainesville. Technically, their home society is the Jacksonville Bromeliad Society. However, they belong to several other societies in the state.

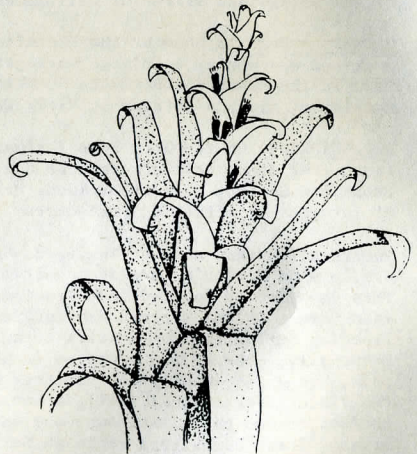
Their specialization is Membership Plant Sales, not only for their own society, but for any other society which asks for their services. This began in the early 70's and it is doubtful even they could tell how many plant sales they have managed. Both the 1980 and 1988 World Conference Membership Sales were in their charge. My commercial booth was just across from the Membership Plant Sales at the Miami World Conference this year so I had a chance to observe it's operation. It was amazing--no panic, no noise, no crises--yet that operation perhaps moved more plants than any other at the show. Ron put 1980 World Conference plant sales on computer, which was also a first and very successful.

Ron & Carolyn also grow beautiful bromeliad plants and they do it like Mother Nature intended--outdoors amidst squirrels, wind, rain or drought. Yet, they consistently exhibit and take top prizes for their plants. Once a year, with the coming of winter, all the plants are tucked into lath houses and just prior to that time they often have, not a "coming out" but a "putting in" party. Both have served on the Florida Council since it's organization, both are bromeliad judges and Ron is serving his third year as a Director on the Bromeliad Society, Inc, Board of Directors. If Ron can fit it into his busy work schedule (he is an executive in the Data Processing Division of the University of Florida) he will do a program for your society. They particularly like to grow Vrieseas, Nidulariums and terrestrial Tillandsias. While it must cost them a good bit to travel and do all the things they do for us, they never complain or demand attention for their activities.

Florida is lucky to have them working in our midst. Next time you see them, please add your thanks to mine.



Tillandsia caput-medusae



Tillandsia candelifera



October, 1988

The following listing of Tillandsia species are those that frequently are mis-named in horticulture. The first column is the wrong name, the second column is the correct name. These name changes are the result of studies by several specialists. In some cases the changes are because an older, valid name has been discovered, in others the name applied to cultivated plants was simply wrong and in certain cases species previously synonymized by previous specialists have been found to be distinct and worthy of recognition. These name changes have been published in a number of works and if anyone wishes the reference please request it from me.

WRONG NAME

CORRECT NAME

<u>Tillandsia rosea</u> Lindley	=	<u>Tillandsia stricta</u> Solander ex Ker-Gawler
<u>Tillandsia rosea</u> sensu hort	=	<u>Tillandsia carminea</u> Till
<u>Tillandsia rutschmannii</u> Rauh	=	<u>Tillandsia dyeriana</u> Andre
<u>Tillandsia nubis</u> Gilmartin	=	<u>Tillandsia hamaleana</u> E. Morren
<u>Tillandsia kruseana</u> Matuda	=	<u>Tillandsia xerographica</u> Rohweder
<u>Tillandsia velickiana</u> L.B. Smith	=	<u>Tillandsia matudae</u> L. B. Smith
<u>Tillandsia intumescens</u> L. B. Smith	=	<u>Tillandsia langlasseana</u> Mez
<u>Tillandsia mexicana</u> L. B. Smith	=	<u>Tillandsia dugesii</u> Baker
<u>Tillandsia maritima</u> Matuda	=	<u>Tillandsia rolandgosselinii</u> Mez
<u>Tillandsia fasciculata</u> var. rotundata L. B. Smith	=	<u>Tillandsia rotundata</u> (L.B. Smith, C. S. Gardner)
<u>Tillandsia fasciculata</u> var. venospica Mez (2 distinct species have been lumped under this variety by past authors).	=	<u>Tillandsia buchii</u> Urban OR <u>Tillandsia compressa</u> Bertero ex Schultes
<u>Tillandsia valenzuelana</u> A. Richards	=	<u>Tillandsia variabilis</u> Schlectendal
<u>Tillandsia circinnata</u> sensu hort.	=	<u>Tillandsia paucifolia</u> Baker
<u>Tillandsia benthamiana</u> Klotzsch ex Baker	=	<u>Tillandsia erubescens</u> Schlectendal

Bromeliad growers are requested to forget the names in the first column as quickly as possible and use the correct names. Bring correctly labeled examples to meetings and shows so that everyone can see the plants with their valid epithet.

Harry E. Luther

Director, BIC;

Curator of Bromeliaceae



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

MINUTES OF THE

OCTOBER 1, 1988 MEETING

The meeting was held at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL and our host for this meeting was the Sarasota Bromeliad Society.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer, Carol Johnson, submitted the attached detailed report of our finances. The report shows that four societies have not paid their dues. The net worth as of October 1, 1988 is \$1551.96. Vicky Chirnside moved that the treasurer's report be approved and it was seconded. Motion carried.

Before we went into the business of our meeting, Carl Perryn introduced Larry Pardue, the Executive Director of Selby Botanical Gardens. On behalf of the board of directors, he welcomed us to Selby Gardens and hoped that we have as much fun with the show as they have had and invited us to come back and hoped that we will continue to grow. He further stated that next year they will have a new building with 6000 sq. ft. in the great room with air conditioning. He expects to have this room ready by April, 1989.

Carl Perryn then introduced another guest to our meeting - Harry Luther. He requested that Harry give us a report on what's been happening here at Selby and the Identification Center and what he would like to see happen in the future. Harry stated, as for the Center, the biggest problem was the lack of use. He reported to the BSI trustees a few months ago that only 50 submissions were made across the country during the last reporting period. This is compared with several hundred from other institutions, botanical gardens, etc. The problem is that the center is not being accepted at the _____ level for whom it was originally set up, the bromeliad populus, growers and collectors. If there is anything that we could do to increase interest at affiliated society level he would appreciate it. Contributions made by societies to the maintenance of the BIC are treated as prepayment for any plant sent in for ID. Please remind your membership that the Center is available and that they should take advantage of it. Carol Johnson suggested that a standard form be used in submitting plants. This was accepted and Carol will produce the form.

Nat DeLeon suggested that each society designate someone who is interested enough to collect the necessary information, etc., and send the plant to Harry for ID. This might help the society members to get their plants identified and assist in the action at the center.

Harry finalized his talk by stating that the BIC takes very little of his time and he is involved in long term study of bromeliads of Ecuador with publication in early 90's. Also upcoming, bromeliads in Costa Rica and a book on bromeliads of Southeastern United States, etc.

STATE SHOW - Ed McNulty advised that Central Florida is working on the state show and plans are being considered to make it similar to the Miami show. Carol Johnson requested Caloosahatchee to inventory the ribbons and bring them to the next meeting for Central Florida but give her an inventory so she can estimate expenses for ribbons for the next state show. South Florida advised that their show was set up a year ago and they cannot change the date with Fairchild Gardens. We hope that some of South Florida will be able to join in the State Show.

With two shows going on at the same time next year, we might have a problem getting judges. Therefore, it is suggested that we include student judges with our regular judges at our shows next year.

Bylaws Clarification - Since Ellen Peyton was not able to attend this meeting, Carl will contact her to see if we can finalize this in our January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Johnson advised that the Florida Council needs a way to make monies due to expenses that have occurred during the year. In the past it was suggested that each society have an auction or plant sale once a year to support the Florida Council. Each Quarterly cost about \$325 per issue of \$1300 per year. We are taking in \$459 per year.

Peggy Bailey suggested that the Council consider doing something different to raise money - like a Florida Council Extravaganza at Selby Gardens, including a dinner, dance and auction. Vicky Chirnside stated maybe Sarasota could sponsor the affair through the Gardens. Carol Johnson moved that Vicky Chirnside investigate Selby Gardens on behalf of the Florida Council to put on this affair and report back to the Council in January. Seconded and approved.

Carl Perryn suggested that Nat DeLeon investigate South Florida on the possibility of having an affair there and to report back to the Council in January. Dean Fairchild advised that South Florida has an auction every October for their membership and would like Florida Council to consider joining and sharing in the auction. Since their auction is next Saturday, October 8th, we cannot join Miami this year, but maybe next year.

Peggy Bailey moved that Carol Johnson publish in the next Quarterly that the Florida Council has a need for private donations. Seconded, motion carried.

Carol Johnson requested as to the status of the list of experts on bromeliads. It is understood that any past or current judge is considered an expert, however, there are many in our societies who have not gone to judges school who are considered experts. This is the list of people who we would like to identify and then notify the BSI so they can be cleared.

Polly Pascal advised that she was informed by Valerie Steckler, that all people who were in the judges school symposium have passed the test.

Dean Fairchild stated that the purpose of experts on bromeliads is to expand the list of names of people who can judge. These people will be used only when regular judges cannot be obtained. Carl Perryn suggested that each representative go back to their society and check with their people and report their

society's names to Ellen Peyton, so we can get these available names on a list in January to assist in judging.

Speakers/Programs - Ed Hall stated very few people have filled in forms to give programs, etc. Dean Fairchild suggests that each society bring a list of their programs and give them to Carol Johnson for publication in the Quarterly, so all societies can use it as a reference. Ron Schnabel moved that one rep from each club, on a quarterly basis, bring the program meetings of that club (subject, person, etc.) to the Florida Council and present them to the Speakers Bureau (Ed Hall) and the chairperson of the council put this on each of his agendas as a subject to be discussed. Seconded, motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Rotation of officers for 1989:

Chairman	Miami
Vice Chairman	Orlando
Secretary	Tampa

The Florida Council welcomed Polly Pascal to our meeting and we all sincerely hope that her society will consider rejoining the Florida Council in the near future.

NEW LOGO - Carl Perryn suggested we have a state contest to have a new logo for the Florida Council. Dean Fairchild moved we start the contest and require the logo to be round and submitted on 8½"x 11" paper. All entries will be the property of the council. Seconded, motion carried. Nat DeLeon stated he would offer, through the Florida Council, a prize of \$100 and a rare plant.

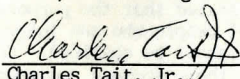
Nat DeLeon proposed that each rep come to the January meeting with a suggested project for the Florida Council to consider during 1989. Seconded, motion carried. Keep in mind to write up the project - do not just give it a name, etc.

MATERIAL IN THE QUARTERLY - Carol Johnson asks - should we protect the information published in our quarterly. Dean Fairchild moved that in the front of the Quarterly we should include, "The information in the Bromeliad Quarterly is copyrighted and can only be used or reproduce with permission for educational purposes." Seconded, motion carried.

Carol Johnson moved that two plaques be purchased for 1987 and 1988 chairpersons of the Florida Council. (Ed Hall, 1987 and Carl Perryn, 1988) Seconded, motion carried.

Carl Perryn honored Carol Johnson not only for all of her work in the Florida Council but for all her years of dedicated contributions to the world of bromeliads with a beautiful "Aechmea Chantini Shogun".

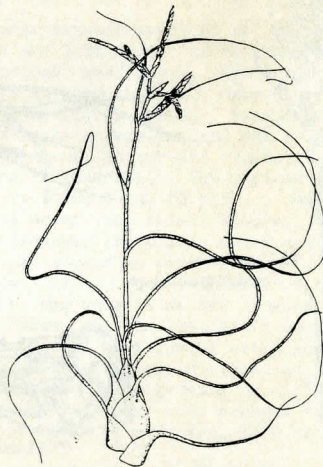
The next meeting will be sponsored by the Florida West Coast in January. The 1989 chairperson will notify all rep's of the date, time and agenda.



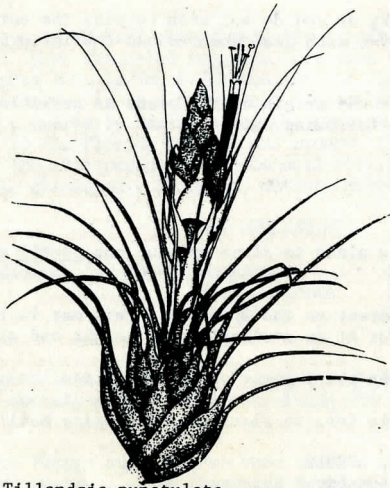
Charles Tait, Jr.
Secretary

HOW TO PREPARE A BROMELIAD SPECIMEN FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE BIC

- A. If the flowering plant is small and you have a plant to spare, send the entire plant.
- B. If the plant is large and bulky or you do not wish to send the entire plant you must include two complete leaves with leaf sheaths and the inflorescence including the scape.
- C. Give as much information about the origin of the plant as possible. If wild collected, please provide the following data:
1. Country
 2. Province or State
 3. Habitat
 4. Elevation
- D. A photograph or drawing of the plant is often helpful but CANNOT substitute for an actual specimen.
- E. Describe any features not apparent on the specimen. This may include corolla and calyx color, whether or not it is stoloniferous, height and diameter, etc.
- F. Please send \$5.00 to help cover the expense of determination.
- G. Specimens should be sent by air (or, in Florida, by Priority Mail) to:
- BIC, HARRY E. LUTHER
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
811 South Palm Avenue
- H. With few exceptions, it is impossible to identify hybrid bromeliads with any degree of certainty.



Tillandsia pseudo-baileyi



Tillandsia punctulata



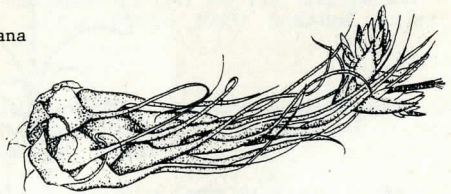
Tillandsia recurvata



Tillandsia schiediana



Tillandsia rodrigueziana



Tillandsia seleriana

Many thanks to Harry Luther for these drawings.

A GEOGRAPHY LESSON

by Carol Johnson

Prospective bromeliad buyers most often ask, 1. How much light is best for this plant? and 2. Will it take cold if planted outdoors? Rarely do they ask Where does this plant come from? Yet this is the most important of all information required to grow bromeliads successfully and the answer to this question will also settle the first two. Geography plays a major role in the growing of our plants--altitude, moisture, and heat go along with this.

Bromeliads from Southeastern Brazil generally do very well in Florida. That is because their latitude is very similar to ours, their altitude is not too far out of line and Brazil does have definite winter and summer seasons just as we do, I have always made it a practice, when ordering bromeliads to be shipped by mail from Brazil, to do so either in the Spring or Fall so that the plants will not be coming from extreme heat into our coldest season, or vice versa. Think about it. *Vrieseas*, *nidulariums*, *neoregelias*, *quesnelias*, our toughest species are from Southeastern Brazil.

Altitude is perhaps the great test determining factor in the success or failure of plants imported into Florida. Most high altitude plants are in the *Tillandsioideae* subgenus (*Tillandsias*, *Vrieseas*, *Guzmanias*), then the *pitcairnioideae* (*pitcairnia*, *puya*). Most of the bromeliads which are grown successfully in collections are those found growing under 5,000 ft. If you doubt me, check your Padilla. It is often possible to get high altitude plants thru a first blooming, but then they fail to pup and just die. *Tillandsia imperialis*, perhaps the most beautiful bromeliad of all, grows and blooms in the cloud forests of Mexico. In October, 1984, we brought back blooming specimens which lasted for months, but we had to regard them as cut flowers and know that the growing plants could not survive or reproduce at sea level. On our recent trip to Ecuador it was a great temptation to collect the beautiful *pitcairnias*, *guzmanias* and *tillandsias* found blooming at 8-10,000 ft. However, it has been painful to watch those I could not resist wither and die, one by one, in our Florida summer. In borderline cases, plants brought back to Florida from high altitudes during our Winter months stand a better chance of survival.

Humidity is perhaps the most misunderstood of all the factors influencing bromeliad growth. Humidity is not just water, it is atmosphere. Terrestrial plants (*Hechtia*, *Dyckia*, *Puya*, *Cryptanthus*) need water. Epiphytic plants require humidity and are engineered to retain it in some fashion. Many bromeliads are murdered due to the misunderstanding about humidity vs. water. Example: some years ago I made an investment in a stock of *Tillandsia tectorum* and was told they must be kept very dry--no watering whatever. Of course, in our dry season, and in the greenhouse, they all died. The misunderstanding is reasonable, the habitat of *T. tectorum* is perhaps the driest in South America. In Lima, Peru, in 1983, a woman at our hotel told me that her six year old child had never seen rain. However, every night, heavy fog rolls in from the Pacific and drenches the plants which soak up the moisture like sponges. Now my *T. tectorum*s get soaked by every rain and as long as they dry out between waterings and have plenty of air circulation, they thrive. Most cultural information in print still lists the *Dyckias* as dry growing plants "suitable to be grown with cacti". For pot culture, this is absolutely untrue. *Dyckias*, *Pitcairnias*, *Hechtias* are all terrestrial plants and must have a water source to produce sustaining roots. They will tolerate dry, hot conditions overhead as long as the roots are kept moist. *Hechtias* collected in Honduras were growing on cliffs where water poured over them constantly. *Pitcairnias* (and they have been present everywhere we have collected) were all growing along wet creek banks or on moist, dark cliffs.

Light. For many years I struggled to grow *Tillandsia punctulata* without much success. It neither lived nor died. Then, in Mexico, at about 3,500 feet, we collected *Tillandsia punctulata*. It was growing in the tree tops in cool, dense shade and nurtured by wet rotted leaf mold. That taught me a lesson about the *Tillandsias*. All those years I had lumped all *Tillandsias* together, as sun loving, dry growing

epiphytes. Now I know that every Tillandsia, in fact every bromeliad, should be researched before becoming part of a collection.

It is fairly easy to classify plants as tender or hardy when you know the native habitat:

1. Plants from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean are all extremely cold sensitive. Examples: *Aechmea ludemanniana*, *Aechmea mexicana*, *Aechmea smithiorum*.
2. Plants from Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia adapt best to our North American growing conditions and extremes of heat, cold, wet and dry. Examples: *Aechmea distichantha*, *Vriesea carinata*, *Vriesea schwakeana*, the *Nidulariums* and most *Quesnelia*.
3. Plants from the Amazon Basin, its tributaries, in fact all of sea level equatorial South America will tolerate no cold and would prefer a stable, constant growing environment. Examples: *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea zebrina*, all the *Streptocalyx*, *Neoregelia eleutheropetala*.
4. Items 1 thru 3 presuppose that the plants in question originate from an altitude acceptable for Florida culture.

Every bromeliad grower should make a point of securing a copy of "Bromeliads, for Home, Garden and Greenhouse" by Werner Rauh and reading the first 18 pages of the book. He says the same as I, but has the space to do it much better.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Billbergia fungus

During the Winter of 1985-86 the Billbergias in my greenhouse developed a strange malady. Dark lesions appeared on the leaves, becoming gradually worse until the crown eventually rotted away. The plants would then produce offsets, which in turn went through the same cycle. Only Billbergia plants were affected, and then only those in the subgenus *Helicodea* (*B. venezuelana*, *B. brasiliensis**, *B. tessmannii*, *B. zebrina*, *B. porteana*). Neither isolation nor treatment with Cygon 2E or various fungicides checked the spread of this obviously lethal condition. Leaf samples were sent to the Plant Pathology Dept. of Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. They reported no disease, pest damage or fungus could be detected and suggested environmental damage. I took seeds from the plants which bloomed and their seedlings developed the same condition. Nearly all my Billbergias had to be destroyed.

Then, this Spring, 1988, my plant inspector, Ann Weathers, persuaded me to send additional samples for study, saying there had been some new viruses and fungus isolated. On the following page is a copy of the report received. Now, at least once each week, all Billbergias of *helicodea* subgenus are soil drenched with diluted Subdue 2E and new offsets seem to be coming along much better. Subdue 2E is a systemic fungicide and should not be used as a foliar spray. Label specifics are METALAXYL: N-(2-6 dimethyl-phenyl)-N-(Methoxyacetyl) alanin methyl ester, 25.11%; inert ingredients 74.89%. There are perhaps other preparations which could be used. Ask. Don't wait, start treatment immediately this condition occurs. I believe this fungus developed on seedlings during the cold winter of 1985-86.

**Billbergia brasiliensis* is listed in the Monograph as belonging to *Billbergia* subgenus *billbergia* but, pardon me, it resembles all the *helicodea* species in every way and was also affected by the fungus.

Log No.	F882503		
Host	Billbergia tessmannii		
Host Common Name	bromeliad		
Diagnosis or Determination	Colletotrichum sp.		
Date Collected	06/09/88		
Collector	Weathers		
Owner	Pineapple Place		
Address or Location	3961 Markham Woods Rd		
City, State	Longwood	FL	
Zip	32779		
County No.	59		
Survey Code			
Section, Township & Range	Bk		
Total Number of Host Plants	Acres		
	12		
Percent Affected	30		
Infection Intensity	2	(1) Slight	(2) Moderate (3) Severe
Symptoms and Remarks	<p>Brown leaf spots with dry raised centers and some water soaking. Centers of spots blacken and often crack open. Fungus disease?</p> <p>This fungus was detected. It may be pathogenic.</p>		
New Record	(1) Host	(2) State	
Determiner	Schubert/Leahy		
Recipient of Report	219, R2A1, R2, NSY		
Date Completed	06/14/88	Culture Microscopy Host Indicators	Serology Symptoms Gnhse. Observ.

PI 79 Plant Pathology Specimen Report

Division of Plant Industry—Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

SHOW PAGE

5/12-14/89 Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Bromeliad Show, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami.

1989 FLORIDA STATE BROMELIAD SHOW. Pending approval by the Florida Council, the Florida State Bromeliad Show has been moved to Labor Day week-end, 1989, at the Florida Mall, Orlando. It had been planned for Mother's Day week-end, but the annual South Florida Bromeliad Show also falls on that week-end and their contract with Fairchild Gardens has already been signed. If approved, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida remains the host society.

BROMELIAD BASH

Member societies of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies annually pay \$1.00 per member assessment for the publication of this Newsletter. The low annual inflation rate touted in the US certainly does not take into consideration rising publication costs. While the Florida Council has non-profit postal rates (presently 8.4¢ each piece), the total cost of the newsletter, mail, annually, is close to \$1,000.00. It is what I consider a bare bones operation. There are no graphics, no typesetting. Our printer reduces, prints, folds, collates and staples the copy furnished by the Editor. Mailing labels and mailing lists are done at cost only on the Editor's home computer. Sorting, bundling and mailing is also done by the Editor. While copy (or news) is welcome, very little is forthcoming--consequently most of the material is also composed by the Editor. I try not to use material from the Society Newsletters received from all over the state, because those editors rely on swapped material for their own newsletters. So, while some of the past issues of this Newsletter make me shudder, all written material is original. Beginning with this issue, the Council hopes to protect our material by requesting that prior permission for its use be secured.

Some of the societies complain about the \$1.00 per member assessment and the Council does not feel that the answer lies in raising it to cover costs. Some other fund raising project is needed. At the last meeting of the Council in Sarasota, it was decided to explore the possibility of an annual "Bromeliad Bash" at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, with plant sales, demonstrations, workshops, raffles, etc. This would occur always in early Spring and kick off the bromeliad show season for the year. The Florida State Show, which is supposed to share it's profit with the Florida Council, has in the past several years ended up costing the Council money. This annual event would require the co-operation and participation of all the member societies, but should yield us enough funds to cover added printing costs, and who knows? maybe even improve and expand the Newsletter.

There is another way. Donations to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. are income tax deductible, and donors will promptly be furnished written proof of any such donation for the record. Mail such donations to the Newsletter.

Keep the Spring Bromeliad Bash in mind-----.