

# BROMELIANA

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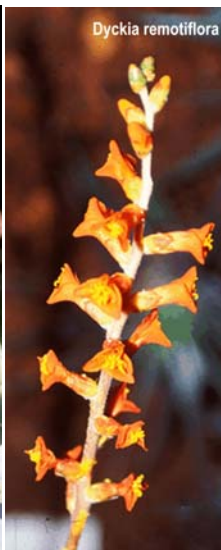
## SOME OF THE LESS FAMILIAR GENERA

by Herb Plover

At some time or other most indoor growers have grown plants from at least one popular genus such as *Guzmania*, *Aechmea*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesea*, *Cryptanthus*, *Neoregelia* and *Nidularium*. Over the years we have had intermittent programs with videos or slide shows of these and other genera in alphabetical order.



*Dyckia remotiflora*



*Dyckia remotiflora*



*Dyckia fosteriana*

*Dyckia fosteriana*

This month we are starting with letter “D” up to letter “H”, and we will showing fourteen genera which may not be familiar to most of our members. The bromeliad family has 57 recognized genera with more than 3,000 species. In addition to the species there are thousands of registered (and unregistered) cultivars from hybridization or genetic mutation which are sold or traded for. There are so many plants the indoor grower with limited space can choose from; our programs are intended to familiarize members with as many of them as is

feasible.

Many of the bromeliads shown in our programs are or can be made available in our Spring plant order. It is a good idea to make notes of the plants that strike your fancy and ask questions about their size and culture and whether they can be ordered.

The 14 genera that will be shown at our January 2<sup>nd</sup>

meeting are as follows: in subfamily *Pitcairnioideae* - *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia*, *Encholirium*, *Fosterella* and *Hechtia*; in subfamily *Bromelioideae* - *Deincanthon*, *Distiganthus*, *Edmundoa*, *Fascicularia*, *Fernseea*, *Greigia*, *Hohenbergia* and *Hohenbergiopsis*; in subfamily *Tillandsioideae* - *Glomeropitcairnia*.

Seven of these genera have very few species and no registered cultivars: *Deincanthon* with 1 species, *Distiganthus* 2, *Edmundoa* 4, *Fascicularia* 1, *Fernseea* 2, *Hohenbergiopsis* 1 and *Glomeropitcairnia* 2 species. It would be a digression to review here the

*Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!*

**NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 promptly at 7:00 P.M. at the SLC Center, 352 Seventh Avenue, between 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Streets, 16<sup>th</sup> floor in the large room D4. **DEINCANTHON to HOHENBERGIOPSIS** - a video of the species and many cultivars of 14 genera, not well known and rarely grown indoors, with habitat descriptions and cultural needs. If weather permits, please bring in plants for Show & Tell and for our plant sale table.

reasons for some seemingly strange taxonomic separations and lumpings. Indeed there is good botanical support for them, based on the similarity of flower parts or lack thereof. To the untrained eye, however, many seem unnatural, such as the lumping of *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* and *D. lorentziana* (which used to be in the separate genus *Abromeitiella*) that have tiny leaves and flowers with *Deuterocohnia longipetala* and *D. meiziana* that have long leaves and very tall inflorescence scapes (see photos this page).



*Deuterocohnia lorentziana*



*Dyckia 'Cherry Coke'*

For identification purposes, a clearer picture and evolutionary analysis of the relationships between the various species and genera will come from the molecular DNA studies now being done by many molecular biologists around the world. The impressive report of the status of the DNA sequencing work of Dr. Walter Till at the Scientific Seminar at the 2006 World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego gave indications that many changes in bromeliad taxonomy are on the horizon. We look forward to the next report at the 2008 World Bromeliad Conference in Cairns, Australia which may sum up the work of many researchers.



*Deuterocohnia meiziana* (courtesy fcbs.org)

Except for *Fosterella*, the pitcairnioid genera are spiny xerophytes, terrestrial or saxicolous and look like succulents. *Fosterella* species have insignificant spines (or none at all) and they are not xerophytic. Of its 31 species *F. villosula* and *F. petiolata* are available and easily small enough for indoor spaces. Also available are the larger *Fosterella penduliflora* and *F. spectabilis*.



*Edmundoa lindenii*



*Edmundoa lindenii* var. *rosea*

The largest genus covered is *Dyckia*. Its 130 species grow terrestrially in dry fields and saxicolous in open, rocky

ground. *Dyckia* species all have lateral blooms emerging from the leaf axils and not from the center of the rosette.

With their lateral inflorescences and their prominent spines, they resemble a

cactus, and you can be fooled into thinking dyckias are tolerant of a dry-growing culture and that they don't mind the absence of water. On the contrary, many dyckias in cultivation, especially those from lower altitudes as *Dyckia chloristaminea*, *D. fosteriana*, *D. remotiflora* and *D. platyphylla* don't like being dried out and want constant moisture in the growing medium. They are mostly small to medium sized plants that can grow in a south or west window.

Many of the cultivars that came out of Bill Baker's *Dyckia 'Brittle Star'* (*Dyckia dawsonii* x *D. (fosteriana x platyphylla)*) are close in appearance (we will show you four). (In its 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and succeeding generations *D. 'Brittle Star'* has demonstrated some instability, producing offsets which are dissimilar.)

*X Puckia 'Sparkle'* is a nice bigeneric cross of *Puya laxa* x *Dyckia (fosteriana x platyphylla)* with multiple, tall inflorescence spikes. Michael Kiehl, who made the cross, lists it in his catalogue as *X Dyckipu 'Sparkle'*, but we defer to the name given the plant by the B.S.I. Registrar as listed on [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org). *X Dyckobnia 'Conrad Martin'* is a beautiful, recent bigeneric cross of *Dyckia macedoi* x *Deuterocohnia meiziana*. It was shown by Tropiflora at the

2004 World Conference in St. Petersburg, but it is not yet in circulation. We'll watch for its availability.

Unlike the dyckias, the similar looking hechtias with 48

species are true xerophytes that grow terrestrially or saxicolous in arid conditions. This might make them suitable for a dry apartment (some species as *Hechtia glomerata*, *H. rosea*, *H. texensis* and *H. marnier-lapostollei* are not too large), but care must be taken in handling them as their spines can be very large and sharp.



*Hechtia texensis*



*Hechtia texensis* inflorescence  
photo by Len Harrison, fcbs.org

Other species of sub-family *Pitcairnioideae* from dry habitats are: *Deuterocohnia* whose species are xerophytic at high altitudes, and they are uniquely perennial bloomers. They will adapt well to dry apartments. I have flowered *Deuterocohnia longipetala* with repeated perennial blooms in the past. The new blooms seem to be lateral because they first grow new leaves and thus appear to emerge from a leaf axil, but they are actually in the center.

The 22 *Encholirium* species are very spiny, large xerophytes and all of the *Encholiriums* have lateral inflorescences. Chilean *Fascicularia* has but one species, *F. bicolor* and its sub-species *canaliculata*. This is a large, narrow leaved, serrulate plant which prefers cool temperatures.

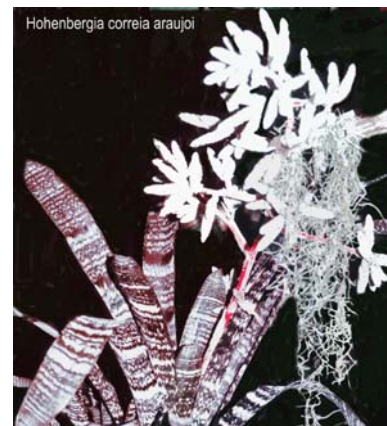
Among the species of sub-family *Bromelioideae*, *Deincanthon urbanum* is a spiny saxicole from dry woodlands and rocky cliffs at about 1,000 ft. in Paraguay and western Argentina.

Genus *Distiganthus* is characterized by lateral blooms as indicated in the names of its 2 species. *Distiganthus basi-lateralis* is a medium sized plant that grows terrestrially in the wet forests of French Guiana. It is better suited to a greenhouse than an apartment, but in any event it is not commercially available. *Distiganthus lateralis* is a similar plant.



*Hohenbergia castellanosii*

The 4 species of *Edmundoa* are attractive, medium to large rosettes suitable for



*Hohenbergia correia-araujoi*

indoor culture. Their inflorescences resemble *Nidularium*, but instead of being down in the cup, they rise on a conspicuous scape. *Fernseea* has but two species, *F. itatiaiae* and *F. bocainensis* which grow on high mountain tops in Brazil in wet, very humid conditions. Their adaptation to sea level is difficult, especially

indoors, but they might adapt to a greenhouse if given very humid and cool conditions.

Species of *Greigia* are terrestrial or saxicolous with spinous leaves mostly too large in size for the indoors. All of the species of genus *Greigia* have lateral inflorescences. (Individual species in other genera display this trait, such as *Quesnelia lateralis*, *Tillandsia complanata*, *T. monstrum* and *T. multicaulis*.)

*Hohenbergia's* 35 species mostly grow at low altitudes in coastal Brazil, Venezuela, Jamaica and the lesser Antilles as terrestrials, epiphytes or saxicoles. Many are beautiful plants and prized for cultivation. They range from relatively small or medium in size such as *Hohenbergia ramageanna*, *H. leopoldo-hortstii*, *H. pennae*, *H. castellanosii* to gorgeous, large plants as *H. rosea*, *H. stellata* or *H. correia-araujoi* that are worth growing if you can make space for them in your indoor setup. A culture suitable for aechmeas will work for them too. The single species *Hohenbergiopsis guatemalensis* resemble the aechmeas, visually and culturally.

Of course the tillandsioid genus *Glomeropitcairnia* has no spines; it has only two species, *G. penduliflora* and *G. erectiflora*, and both are too large to be grown in an indoor setup.

The wide range of the species and cultivars of these less known 14 genera from "D" to "H" will be shown graphically in the video at the January meeting. Plan on attending and take notes for future reference in our plant orders. □

NEWS and NOTES

2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES of \$20.00 are now payable (except for those new members who joined us in the fall and are deemed paid up for 2007). A subscription to BROMELIANA is \$8.00 and an overseas subscription is \$12.00. Mail your check payable to N.Y. Bromeliad Society to Barbara Lagow, 54 W. 74th St. N.Y.C. 10023 or pay it at the next meeting.

**ELECTION** - The following officers and directors for 2007 have been elected:

For President - Les Graifman, Vice President - Nadine Baker, Treasurer - Barbara Lagow, Editor - Herb Plever. Directors: George Axiotakis, Steve Catalano, Bill Holmstrom, David McReynolds, Veronica Saddler, Sara Savitt and Jim Welch, all for new 2 year terms.

**SOL FATEMAN** is trying to reduce his collection and he has generously offered to give plants free to our members. Sol lives at 1529 East 7th St. in Brooklyn. Call him at (718) 645-1942 to arrange for a visit.

**HOLIDAY PARTY** - 46 people attended and had a wonderful time at our annual holiday party. Members brought a veritable feast of tasty dishes, deserts, and wine. Kudos to Michael Riley who undertook to grow on for pups 10 pots of *Cryptanthus* that we bought at the Greenmarket 2 months ago. Thus we had more than 60 pups for the door prizes that Michael kindly potted up. We had a raffle and an auction of some of the late Henry Turner's plants, the proceeds from which will be turned over to the Turner Memorial Garden. Once again the children of the late Theresa Begley, our beloved Secretary for many years, came and brought a huge dish of ravioli, and they also made a generous contribution to our society in Theresa's memory.

**PARTY PHOTOS BY BILL HOLMSTROM**



Section of plant display at party showing *Neoregelia* 'Spot On', *Billbergia* 'Strawberry', *Guzmania* 'Nacho', *Guzmania* #270-1 (Hill), *Orthophytum navioides*, and *Guzmania* 'Neon'. Also displayed but not shown here were *Guzmania* 'Snowball', *G.* 'Lance', *G.* #482-3 (Hill), *G.* 'Lemans' (Kent), x *Guzvriesea* 'Garden Party', *Billbergia* 'Fantasia', another *Orthophytum navioides* and *Cryptanthus* 'Alpine Frost'.



Auction sale of a Shiigi *Vriesea* hybrid



Auction of *V.* 'Red Chestnut'



Having fun in a corner of the room



Chow hounds at the festive table

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>DIRECTORS</u>
President.....Les Graifman	George Axiotakis
Vice-President..Nadine Baker	Steve Catalano
Treasurer.....Barbara Lagow	Bill Holmstrom
Secretary.....Pending	David McReynolds
Editor.....Herb Plever	Veronica Saddler
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