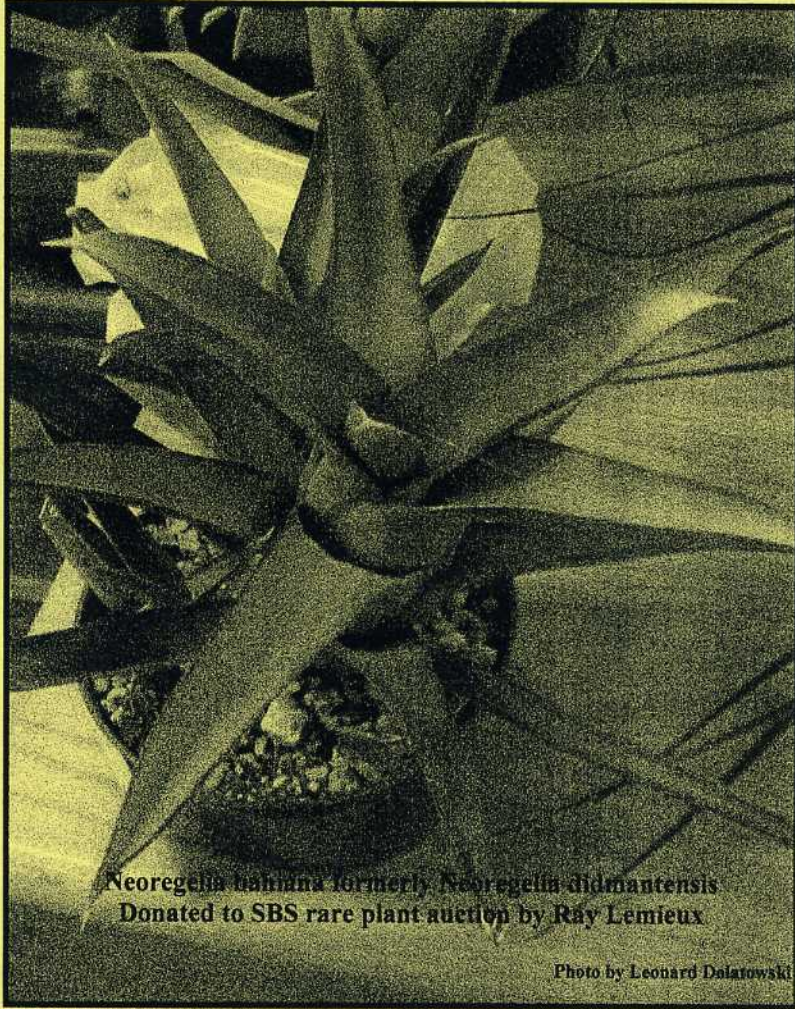


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**FLORIDA COUNCIL  
of BROMELIAD  
SOCIETIES INC.  
Newsletter**



*Neoregelia bahiana* formerly *Neoregelia didmantensis*  
Donated to SBS rare plant auction by Ray Lemieux

Photo by Leonard Dolatowski

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## Weevil Report April 12, 2003

### Biological control/weevil research:

#### *Status of flies:*

The field season for collection of bromeliad weevils in Honduras came to a close as fly populations declined dramatically in January with the onset of the dry season. However, field-collected weevil larvae continued to be reared out for parasitoids. Attempts were made to establish a colony of the fly in Honduras before the end of the collecting season. We do not yet know the final outcome of those attempts, although it is not promising.

From fly shipments sent during the fall, one weevil larva had been parasitized, producing five new flies. However, despite changes in the rearing setup to allow for better mating conditions, these did not result in new parasitism. Additional changes in the rearing setup were also made to increase the amount of ventilation for the flies without reductions in humidity.

On March 14, a shipment of 21 *Lixophaga* sp. puparia was received in Gainesville. The package spent an extra day in Miami as a result of not clearing customs rapidly. We do not know if the heat during that extra day in transit killed the puparia or if they might

have entered diapause since they were collected so late in the season. They are being maintained under appropriate conditions should the latter be the case.

#### *Host-range testing of weevil:*

Forty-three species and hybrids of the following genera are being exposed to weevils in a greenhouse to determine in which the weevil will lay eggs and develop: *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Canistrum*, *Guzmania*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Orthophytum*, *Portea*, *Quesnelia*, *Dyckia*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesia*. We have received no response from our request for suggestions of plants to test (plants which would be found in people's collections or yards, not indoors). If you would like to know which of your ornamental bromeliads may be susceptible to attack by the weevil, please let us know (phone: 352-392-1901 ext. 122 or email: BCLarson@mail.ifas.ufl.edu).

#### *Weevil spread and monitoring activities:*

January 9: Ron Cave and Ray Creel explored an area in the northern reaches of the St. Lucie with Greg Kaufmann and Jeff Beal of FDEP. The destruction from *M. callizona* was severe.

January 11: Barbra Larson visited Hillsborough River State Park and found no evidence of weevil presence in *T. utriculata* populations there.

February 14-16: Ray Creel visited the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and observed an unusually high degree of damage to mainly smaller native bromeliads both within and outside of park boundaries, much of it attributed to the native Florida bromeliad weevil, *Metamasius mosieri*. That type of damage seemed even more widespread than it had been during the previous year. Several adult *M. mosieri* were located in these plants. No adult or larval specimens of the Mexican bromeliad weevil (*M. callizona*) were located. There was, however, widespread evidence of Mexican bromeliad weevil activity within the park. Ray suggested that the vast size of the park will likely delay the appearance of massive destruction to native bromeliads observed in other natural areas. However, the degree of damage observed during the recent monitoring trip suggests that native bromeliads in the Fakahatchee Strand will experience significant destruction in the coming years.

March 3: Ron Cave observed bromeliad populations in Everglades National Park (Mahogany Hammock and along the Anhinga Trail) and saw no evidence of weevil presence.

March 19: Ron Cave and Jim Duquesnel, Park Biologist, searched for weevil damage on *Tillandsia flexuosa* and *T. fasciculata* at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key

Largo, with no evidence of damage found.

March 21: Howard Frank searched in bromeliad populations at Matheson Hammock, Miami-Dade County. He did not find bromeliad weevils or damage to bromeliads.

March 25: A Master Gardener in Brevard County reported weevil damage on *T. utriculata* in North Melbourne. This is the farthest north the weevil has reached so far. The homeowner from whom samples were collected later described the damage as widespread on native bromeliads in the area.

April 2: Moyna and Ed Prince (Bromeliad Society of South Florida) saw no evidence of weevil damage at Deering Estate, Miami-Dade County.

Teresa Cooper has set up a new monitoring site at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. In February, Ray Creel and AmeriCorp Park volunteer Karen Relish helped her map out the bromeliad populations that will be included in the monthly monitoring. With the help of volunteers, Teresa is now covering four areas (Myakka River State Park, Highlands Hammock State Park, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and Fakahatchee Strand).

*Status of grants:*

The final report for the Endangered and Threatened Native Flora Grant that FCBS received in 2000 has been submitted to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The report is available on the Save Florida's Native Bromeliads Website, in both html and Word format, at: <http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/updates.htm>.

Posters, identification decks, and workshop materials produced with the grant money from the Gulfstream Environmental and Recreational Trust program were sent to Pat Crocker at Gulfstream in February. With the submission of these materials, FCBS has no further reporting obligations for any external grants received.

The renewal of UF's bromeliad weevil contract from the Florida Park Service for the next fiscal year is uncertain at this point. The governor's proposed budget allocates \$0 to natural and cultural resources restoration for state parks, the category from which the funds originate. Unless the legislature replaces that money, the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources may not be able to support us after June 30.

**Seed Collecting:**

*Status of permits:*

Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department has issued a

permit to collect seeds on their properties. The Regulated Plant Index Harvesting Permit has been requested from DOACS/DPI. Regulated Plant Index Harvesting Permit renewals have also been requested for all county parks permits previously obtained, as well as for state parks, for which a new permit was issued by the Florida Park Service.

Berni Reeves, volunteer at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, collected seeds of *T. balbisiana* in February. In April, Moyna and Ed Prince (Bromeliad Society of South Florida) collected seeds of *T. utriculata* and *T. fasciculata* at the Deering Estate with Rick Cohen. South Florida Water Management District and Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management will both have their staff collect some seeds this spring on some of their properties. We have contracted Heidi Rhoades of Delray Beach to collect seeds for us this spring. She plans to collect seeds in state parks, especially the Fakahatchee Strand, in the Panther Refuge, and in those county parks for which we have requested renewal permits.

*Status of germination of collected seeds:*

At the January meeting, the Council requested a status report on the germination of seeds collected so far. Phil Fenner has received seeds from 3 sites and they have germi-

