

BOOK REVIEW: BROMELIACEAE OF VENEZUELA

This book's authors are Francisco Oliva-Esteva and Julian Steyermark. It was published by E. Armitano in 1987.

Venezuelan bromeliad habitats, as well as details of many individual Venezuelan bromeliads, are described in the book. Some bromeliads which are not native to Venezuela, but are grown there, are also discussed.

The book commences with a short history of the discovery of Venezuelan bromeliads and a description of the country's geography, especially its mountainous areas, where many bromeliads are found.

Several chapters, describing species from a number of bromeliad genera, are then presented. A description of each plant, its habitat, and, occasionally some cultural suggestions, is complemented by at least one, and often two or three, colour photographs of a flowering plant.

The number of plants treated in this manner are: Acanthostachys-1, Aechmea-36, Ananas-3, Androlepsis-1, Araecoccus-1, Billbergia-4, Bromelia-5, Cryptanthus-1, Canistrum-1, Greigia-2, Hohenbergia-2, Neoregelia-4, Nidularium-3, Portea-1, Quesnelia-2, Streptocalyx (now Aechmea)-2, Catopsis-2, Glomeropitcairnia-1, Guzmania-21, Tillandsia-50, Vriesea-24, Ayensua-1, Brewcaria-1, Brocchinia-7, Connellia-2, Lindmania-5, Navia-17, Pitcairnia-21, Puya-4, and Steyerbromelia-1.

The book concludes with a bibliography and index.

One of the book's strengths is its coverage of species from the "minor" genera such as Glomeropitcairnia, Ayensua, Brocchinia, Connellia, and Lindmania. Pictures and descriptions of these plants are not often found in most bromeliad books. A similar comment applies to some of the rare tillandsia and vriesea species described in the book.

There have been a number of taxonomic changes at both the genus and species "levels" since the book was published. So, access to a current listing of genera and species is desirable, when you are reading this book.

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