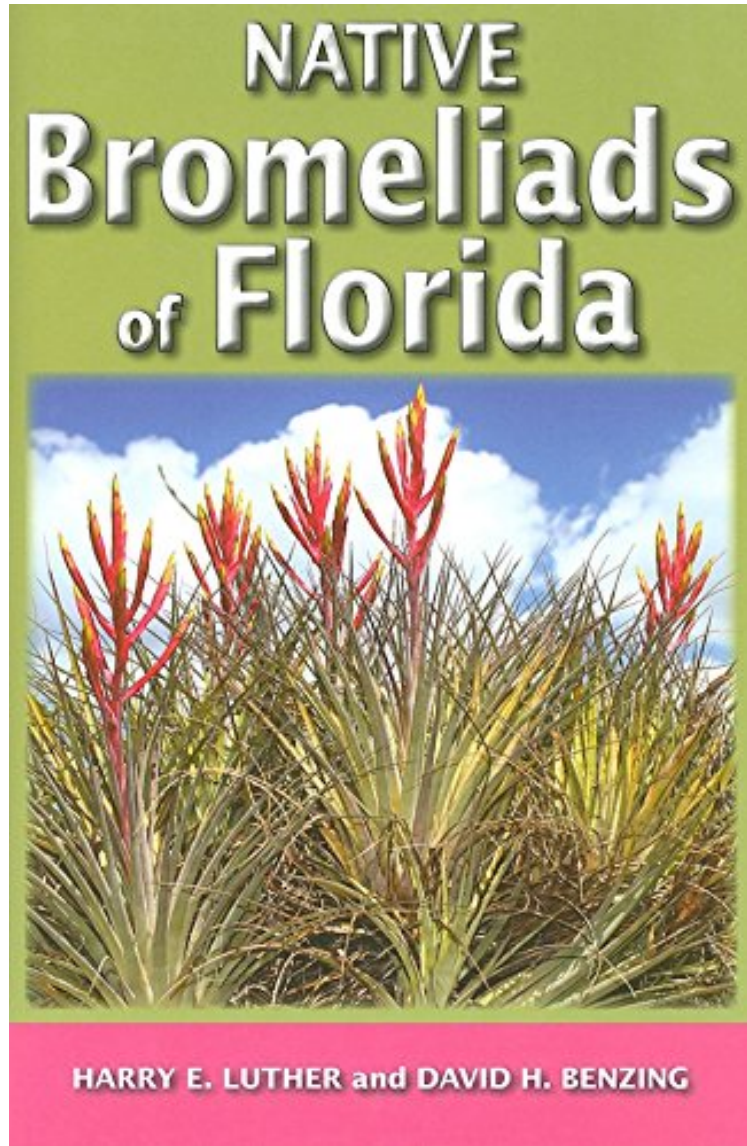


Native Bromeliads of Florida

Harry E Luther, David H Benzing
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Harry E Luther, David H Benzing : Native Bromeliads of Florida before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native Bromeliads of Florida:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Small in number but great in interest By Dr. John W. Rippon The two authors of this book are both employed at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota Florida. This magnificent enclave has become my second home since retiring to Florida over twenty years ago. I cannot extol too highly what a treasure of Botanical gems it holds. The gardens' collection of Bromiliads is excelled by the Fairchild Gardens of

Miami but holds its own with the beauty of its setting jutting out into Sarasota Bay. This book is an excellent guide both for the amateur and specialist to the few native species of the Family Bromeliaceae to be found in the state of Florida. Of the 3400 species recognized in that family in North and South America, only some 16 species are native to Florida. (Only one species has been found in the old world; a small area in west Africa adjacent to Brazil). R.P.. Wunderlin's "Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida" lists two more species as established exotics that have escaped from cultivation; one is a *Billbergia* in Manatee and Dade counties and one a *Dyckia* in Pinellas county. Otherwise of the truly native species twelve are *Tillandsias*, one a *Guzmania* and three are *Catopsis*. (Two valid hybrids are also recognized). I'm afraid all native species are eclipsed in horticultural interest by the glorious array in central and South America. Only one species is truly endemic in Florida and that is *T. simulata*. All other Florida species are also found in the Mexico, the Caribbean and central America. Our most common species *T. usneoides* spills over as far as Texas and a few adjacent states but the other common and rare species are restricted in the United States to Florida. Though few in number some are of biological interest. *T. bulbosa* has a large twisted leaf base that attracts ants which may offer protection from herbivores and *Catopsis berteroniana* appears to be dependent on prey capture for nutrition. It has water impounding waxy coated shoots into which insects and others fall, drown and are digested by microbes. Perhaps only the Cardinal Air Plant (*T. fasciculata*) can be considered as showy but all Bromeliads are fascinating to the hobbyist and the naturalist. This book is a must for both. The species descriptions are excellent and quite useful and there is much useful and interesting information. For a botanical key to the species use Wunderlin's Guide to the Vascular plants of Florida. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Guide By James Nesmith The late Harry Luther and David Benzig of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens have written the definitive volume describing native bromeliads in Florida. They have included detailed anatomical and reproductive descriptions as well as habitat descriptions and current status in the wild. Good in situ photographs, most in color, help with identification. There is also a useful key to the genera and species found in Florida. Beyond the plants, they discuss threats to the current populations and their importance in the various ecosystems. I would recommend this for professionals, outdoors lovers and tourists visiting Florida's extensive park system. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book By Gladeswader This is an excellent book! I just wanted to learn the bromeliads we have here in So. Florida, I found this is a very thorough, readable source of information about them. Anyone interested in bromeliads, whether our natives or not should read this book.

Ever wonder how Florida's air plants manage to thrive while perched in the crowns of trees and sometimes even while attached to telephone wires? Let experts Harry Luther and David Benzing show you how to identify the species and reveal how they and the other epiphytic bromeliads pursue their (aerial, unconventional, bizarre, or strange) lifestyle.