

**Subject:** Taxonomy

Plants are scientifically classified by:

- Kingdom
- Division
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species

For our purposes we only need to understand from the Family level down. Plant enthusiasts are usually attracted to certain families:

- Roses
- Ginger and Heliconia
- Cactus
- Bromeliads
- Hibiscus

We follow the following guides for naming:

- Our plants are all in the bromeliad family with many different genera.
- Genus and species names are italicized
- Genus is singular, genera is plural
- Species is both singular and plural. Specie refers to money,
- A binomial is a scientific name consisting of a genus and species, such as *Aechmea blanchetiana*.
- If another species in the same genus is referred to the genus is usually abbreviated, such as *Ae. gamosepala*.
- A hybrid is a cross between two naturally occurring species.
- The genus name is italicized, the hybrid name is not and is enclosed in single quotes, such as *Guzmania* 'Puna Gold'.

The best single source for confirming spelling is the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org). Go to the site, click on "Photo Index" on the left side of the screen, and you will find thousands of listings and photographs.