SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars opens this ‘Succulenta’ with a report of the yearly bus trip to some cactus nurseries in South West Holland, with compliments to female bus driver Mimi.

Instead of dealing with a species depicted in the old ‘Verkade’ books, this time Theo Heijnsdijk goes back in history to the cactus craze of the 1930’s, when several books came out, the pictures of which could be obtained with food products such as chocolate and biscuits. Using this formula. many other books focusing on nature subjects were published in this decade. Most titles are still available on internet sites for reasonable prices.

In his column ‘in the spotlight’, Bertus Spee presents another four nice succulents, viz. *Thelocactus buekii* ssp.*matudae*, *Echeveria xichuensis*, *Echinocereus maritimus* and *Mammillaria haudeana*.

Ludwig Bercht and Albert Hofman provide part two of their study on the genus *Weingartia*. The type species *W. fidana* (originally introduced as *Echinocactus Fidaianus* by Backeberg in 1932) is discussed. A year later, Backeberg raised a new genus *Spegazzinia* for this plant together with *E. neumannianus*. Another year later, this name was changed to *Weingartia*. Both species show a remarkable thin stem section between a large root tuber and the base of the plant body (however, not in all cases). All relevant characters of this species group are brought together in a table. Presently, all weingartias are placed in the genus *Rebutia*, according to Hunt.

Herbert Thiele deals with *Lithops optica* forma *rubra*.

During his many visits to the national parks of the southern USA, Roelof Salters came across many beautiful cacti growing under barbed wired fences.

Ruud Tropper outlines his experiences with the culture of *Toumeya papyracantha*, a cactus from southwestern USA, with grassy spines that function as camouflage against herbivores. The seeds can be dispersed by cattle after grazing off plants with ripe fruits. Plants damaged in this way may produce new shoots. Ruud winters his plants very coldly (down to minus 15ºC) and waters them already in Februari, no matter if it still freezes!

Ben Zonneveld continues his series of articles on succulents with longitudinally folded leaves. In part 4 he deals with the genus *Sempervivum*. The degree of folding seems to depend on the number of mutated genes. These plants often show other deviations such as less or no seed production, cristate formation and/or chunky habit.

Wolter ten Hoeve summarizes the contents of other journals on succulent plants.

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