

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

On the first page, Ben Wijffelaars admits that he has a preference for plants with peculiar or funny names, so he likes to purchase seeds of such plants.

In his long-going series on the 'Verkade' books from the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Trichodiadema densum*, a South African leaf succulent from the Aizoaceae family, which looks remarkably similar to a mammillaria. Already in 1732, the plant was depicted by the German botanist Johann Dillenius in a catalogue. Linnaeus (1753) described the plant as *Mesembryanthemum barbatum*, later (in 1794) the British botanist Adrian Haworth changed the name to *M. densum*. The genus *Trichodiadema* was raised in 1926 by Martin Schwantes. For best cultivation some shade is recommended; temperatures down to -4°C are sustained.

Bertus Spee shows us again 4 nice succulents in his series 'in the spotlight'. *Agave impressa*, *Coryphantha pallida*, *Tylecodon paniculatus* and *Thelocactus hexaedrophorus* ssp. *lloydii* are depicted and briefly described.

Lothar Diers and Hansjörg Jucker introduce two new varieties of *Parodia juckeri* from the Rio Pilcomayo region in Bolivia: var. *australis* and var. *borealis* (meaning southern and northern, respectively). Var. *australis* has more ribs, the young spines are not tuft-like arranged and the seeds have a smooth surface. Var. *borealis* has shorter spination and also no tuft-like young spines. Hybridization between the two new varieties and with var. *juckeri* can easily take place.

Frans Noltee explains the adaptations to semi-desert conditions of small South African leaf succulents, mostly meant to prevent water loss. Examples are small globular leaves, a subterranean standing period during the dry season, or a light-transmitting 'window' at the top of the leaves (genus *Fenestraria*). 'Living stones' (*Lithops*) are able to transport water from the old leaf pair to the young pair.

Henk Ruinaard visited the Superstition Mountains, part of Lost Dutchman State Park in Arizona, USA. By following the Siphon Draw trail, Henk was able to admire (among others) *Echinocereus bonkeriae* ssp. *apachensis*, which occurs at altitudes 700-1430 m. At high altitudes the plants exhibit a more compact appearance.

Ruud Tropper outlines the way he cultivates *Echinocereus fendleri*, a species with a wide distribution area in the southwestern USA and adjacent Mexico. Ruud cultivates the plants in 'flugsand', in an unheated well-ventilated greenhouse and waters them already in early March for the first time, keeping in mind that in nature these plants benefit from melting snow.

In reaction to his series of articles on inert substrates, Henk Ruinaard answers the letters he received from two readers. Growing cacti by hydroculture is possible but rather difficult.

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

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