

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars leads things off with the report of the yearly open day at the Ubink cactus nursery near Aalsmeer, one of the largest in Europe. This event is more and more becoming a meeting place for succulent plant lovers from western Europe.

In his series of articles on the 'Verkade' books from the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Crassula muscosa*, a leaf succulent from SW Africa with stems that look like shoe laces. The plant habit also resembles a lycopodium (club moss). He found the plant in the Canary Island of Tenerife as an invasive species. *C. muscosa* was first described by Carolus Linnaeus in 1760. *C. lycopodioides*, described by Lamarck in 1786, turned out to be conspecific with *C. muscosa*. The flowers are minutely small, hardly 2 mm in diameter. They are probably pollinated by flies. Apart from the basic form, three subspecies are recognized: ssp. *parvula*, ssp. *obtusifolia* and ssp. *polpodacea*. Several cytotypes (number of chromosomes in the cell nucleus) are known ( $2n=16, 32, 48, 64, 96$  and even 112). Almost all plants in cultivation are cultivars, with names like 'variegata', 'monstruosa', 'cristata', 'acuminata' and 'purpusii'.

Bertus Spee puts three nice succulents in the spotlight, viz. *Adenium obesum*, *Aloe mitriformis* and *Aeonium arboreum variegatum*.

Wolter ten Hove presents part 5 of his series (in translation) 'now and then a little water', a report of a search for cacti in Mexico with sometimes unusually heavy rain showers.

Peter van Dongen paid a visit to Jannes Uuldersma, a hobbyist in the northern province of Groningen.

Ruud Tropper gives recommendations how to cultivate *Schlumbergera opuntioides*, an epiphytic cactus from the Brazilian Atlantic rain forest. Flower buds require relatively low temperatures and shady conditions to develop into flowers. Winter temperatures should be around 6 °C and the substrate must be airy.

Aiko Talens deals with *Conophytum burgeri*, a mesemb from South Africa. In this plant the old leaf remnants do not fall off, thus protecting the young leaf pair. It can withstand temperatures down to minus 7 °C.

Theo Heijnsdijk visited the 'Jardin de Cactus' in the Canary Island of Lanzarote. This garden was founded in 1990 and was arranged after a plan by local artist Cesar Manrique.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his results with the use of bims (a volcanic material consisting of particles with different size) as substrate for cacti (genus *Echinocereus*). He sieved the bims first; best results were obtained

by using the 1,5-3 mm fraction. Main advantages (compared to unsieved bims) are less root rot, more rapid passing of water and easier repotting. Finally, Wolter ten Hooft summarizes the contents of the recent editions of other journals on succulent plants.

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