

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars leads things off by reporting all kinds of trouble that occur during and after organizing an open day for other Succulenta members to visit his plant collection.

In his ongoing series of articles concerning the 'Verkade' succulent plant books from the early 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with the partridge breast aloe (*Aloe variegata*). This species was discovered in 1685 during a Dutch expedition in search of the copper mines in Namaqualand, western South Africa. The name *Aloe variegata* was introduced by Linnaeus in 1753. Nowadays, after DNA studies, the plant belongs to the genus *Gonialoe*. In our moist climate the plant does not feel at ease in a hot greenhouse, so it grows better in an unheated room in a cooler and drier atmosphere. Several hybrids with other *Aloe* species are known, even with gasterias (xGasteraloe).

In his series of articles 'in the spotlight', Bertus Spee gives short descriptions of *Echeveria nodulosa*, *Mammillaria carnea*, *Kalanchoe tomentosa* and *Mammillaria schumannii*.

In another ongoing series of articles, called 'a special place', André van Zuijlen takes us to impressive and beautiful landscapes in Mexico and the USA. In part 13, he reports about the Huasteca Canyon in northeast Mexico. Close to the dam in the Santa Catarina river, he and his friends spotted splendid specimens of *Agave victoriae-reginae*, also some species of *Echinocereus*, *Epithelantha* and *Mammillaria*.

Henk Ruinaard reviews a new book on the genus *Echinocereus*, written by Peter Hallmann. This book, entitled 'Faszination Echinocereus' (in German), is very much recommended, also because of the great pictures.

Peter Kuppen and Karin Braamhorst present an interesting contribution concerning a painting by the Dutch-Friesian artist Lourens Alma-Tadema. One of his paintings called 'de bloemenmarkt' (the flower market), made in 1868, shows a classic Roman scene in the town of Pompeji (so prior to the disastrous eruption of the Vesuvius volcano in the year 79 AC). In the foreground a group of potted plants with agaves and opuntias can be seen. Such plants have only been introduced in Europe after the discovery of America in 1492, so they could not have possibly been present on a Roman market.

Ger Olsthoorn and Sjef Theunissen commemorate Dirk van Vliet, who passed away on the 21st of July at the age of 92. Dirk was a well-known specialist of the genus *Notocactus* and an IOS member. He emigrated to Brazil in 1976, where he found several new species. During the last 30 years of his life, he protested strongly against the union of *Notocactus* and *Parodia*.

Ruud Tropper reports about his experiences with *Maihuenia*, a cactaceous genus from Patagonia (southern Aergentina) that belongs to the subfamilie Opuntioideae. Ruud cultivates the two species *M. poeppigii* and *M. patagonica* in an unheated greenhouse. For quicker germination, it is advised to 'chip' the seeds first (removal of the basal part of the seed coat). The plants survive temperatures down to minus 15°C and are watered already in February.

Henk Ruinaard gives an overview of recent new names and taxonomic rank changes in the genus *Echinocereus*, activities which are for the greater part the work of the German 'Arbeitsgruppe Echinocereus'. The 'new' *E. bakeri*, *E. blumii*, *E. canus*, *E. coccineus* ssp. *transpecosensis*, *E. dasyacanthus* ssp. *crockettianus*, *E. dasyacanthus* ssp. *multispinosus* and *E. felixianus* are discussed and depicted.

The contribution by Aat van Uijen deals with the so-called 'Werner Rau project'. The German botanist Werner Rau (1913-2000), professor of plant morphology at the University of Heidelberg, was an expert in succulent plants and discovered and collected many cacti, bromeliads and other xerophytic and succulent plants, predominantly in Peru and Madagascar. His field notes are now digitalized and available at <https://scriptorium.cos.uni-heidelberg.de>.

The final pages are devoted to the contents of other succulent plant journals, put together by Wolter ten Hove.

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