

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars opens this last 2016 issue with the report of his visit to the cactus garden in the Canary island of Lanzarote, a garden designed by local artist Cesar Manrique.

In the series on the 'Verkade' books from the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Ferocactus glaucescens*, already in 1828 described as *Echinocactus glaucescens*. A nice 1837 illustration by the Italian botanist Zuccarini is included. The species was discovered in Zimapan, Mexico. It can reach 50 cm in diameter and is remarkable for its (usually) blueish color. An almost spineless form is known as *F. glaucescens* forma *nuda* or forma *inermis*.

Theo pays special attention to grafting *Astrophytum caput-medusae* on a *F. glaucescens* f. *nuda* stem. After doing so, it may occur that young shoots and even flowers of the astrophytum spring from the ferocactus stem rather than from the astrophytum tubercle! This phenomenon is called a chimaera.

In his series 'in the spotlight', Bertus Spee shows us 4 nice succulents. This time *Ferocactus peninsulae*, *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, *Pachypodium succulentum* and *Notocactus horstii*.

Aat van Uijen gives an overview of the nomenclature of a group of epiphytic cacti formerly known as *Epiphyllum*, *Phyllocactus*, *Heliocereus*, *Nopalxochia* or *Aporocactus*. Based on recent molecular research, these plants should now be placed in the genus *Disocactus*, however with exception of *Aporocactus*.

Ruud Tropper's contribution is about the cultivation of *Sclerocactus schlesseri*, a small globular cactus from south-east Nevada, USA. In nature these plants grow in between grasses, so without flowers they are hardly visible. The plants can be cultivated in an unheated greenhouse all year long. Watering is only necessary in early spring and late summer.

Following his series on the 'Verkade' books, Theo Heijnsdijk found additional information on *Crassula columnaris* and *C. pyramidalis*. In a book by the Dutch botanist Johannes Burman published in 1738 (so long before the first descriptions as crassulas by Carl Thunberg), both species are depicted and named 'Euphorbium'. This book includes descriptions of plants from Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, the Dutch base of the VOC (United East-Indian Company) halfway towards the East Indies. Another historic book by Peter Kolbe (1727) deals with the VOC activities in South Africa, among which shipments of South-African plants to the botanic gardens of Amsterdam and Leiden.

Peter van Dongen introduces us to the botanic garden of Kerkrade (South Limburg), founded in 1937. The collection includes many plants from

Madagascar. In order to manage this special collection, there is a vacancy for a new assistant.

Henk Viscaal reviews a new book on small opuntias by John Pilbeam and Michael Partridge.

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

As usual, the final pages of this December issue are devoted to indexes of all authors, subjects and plant names.

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