

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

This first 2017 edition shows a somewhat different lay-out of our journal, for example the use of text colors other than black.

In his opener Ben Wijffelaars reports about his struggles to remove leaves, not only from his garden but also from his greenhouse.

Theo Heijnsdijk discusses another cactus depicted in the old 'Verkade' cactus handbook from 1931: *Echinocactus grusonii*, a well-known plant with a popular name that refers to **mothers-in-law in almost every language. The species was first described in 1891 by the** German Heinrich Hildmann. In 2014 the name was changed to *Kroenleinia grusonii* because the taxonomic position of the plant appeared to be somewhere inbetween *Echinocactus* and *Ferocactus*. The building of the Moctezuma dam in Mexico has destroyed much of the natural habitats but fortunately some new locations have been found, one of those even more than 500 km to the north. The plants from this location exhibit spines with rose-colored bases. Some cultivars are known: cv. *albispinus* (with white spines), cv. *brevispinus*, cv. *subinermis* and fa. *intermedia* (with short spines).

In his series 'in the spotlight', Bertus Spee deals with *Notocactus horstii*, *Ferocactus peninsulae*, *Epiphyllum oxipetalum* and *Pachypodium succulentum*.

Henk Ruinaard presents part 2 of his investigation of inert substrates such as 'bims', 'seramis', lava, 'flugsand' and 'argex'. He measured the particle size and the pH value.. All substrates showed a slightly alkaline pH value when mixed with distilled water, so he recommends to use acidified or rain water for watering our plants.

Ruud Tropper gives an account of his experiences with the cultivation of epiphytic cacti. This group is attractive because the plants usually bloom in a period (fall and winter) when other cacti are in rest. Ruud cultivates these plants outdoors in summer but with protection against too much rain, in a mixture of cocopeat, vermiculite and flugsand.

Albert Hofman tries to answer the question what the first Dutch cactus book was. Probably this was an authorless book from 1847 that he recently could acquire. He suggests that the author is likely to be Th. Uilken, the author of a 1858 book that is remarkably similar.

Riet Maessen reports about the use of cochineal, a red substance produced by aphids living on *Opuntia ficus-indica* pods. Already in the 10th century Mexican peoples developed methods to apply the dye for coloration of clothes and other textile. In 1788 cochineal production was set up in Australia by introducing aphids and opuntias. However, the aphids did not survive and the opuntias turned into a plague, suppressing the local vegetation. That induced the introduction of a moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*, which successfully kept the opuntias under control.

Theo Heijnsdijk's second contribution deals with *Ceropegia fusca*, a stem succulent from the Asclepiadaceae family, native to the Canary islands of Gran Canaria and Tenerife. The stem color is greyish green to almost white, leaves are small and only present in young shoots and the small umbrella-like flowers are brownish red. Besides *C. fusca*, the only other Canarian species is *C. dichotoma*. Propagation from seed is not very easy.

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

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