

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

On the first page, Ben Wijffelaars reports about a Succulenta directorate meeting with local executives, focussing on the problem how to cope with the increasing aging of our members. Theo Heijnsdijk presents another part of his ongoing series of articles concerning the 1931 'Verkade' cactus handbook. This time, *Mammillaria bombycina* is dealt with. The species description was first published in 1910 by the German Leopold Quehl. At the time the natural habitat was only referred to as 'Mexico', so the precise habitat location has long been unknown. Until 1988, when a group of botanists and the couple Walter and Betty Fitz Maurice rediscovered the plants in the state of Aguascalientes. A form with forked centrals is known as 'cv. split spines'. Attention is also paid to *M. perezdelarosae*, a closely related species with a beautiful white radial spination and dark brown hooked central spines. A form with straight centrals was described in 2001 as subspecies *andersoniana*. According to the IUCN Red List, *M. perezdelarosae* is critically endangered in nature.

In his series 'in the spotlight', Bertus Spee deals with 4 attractive succulents, viz. *Ariocarpus trigonus*, *Delosperma nubigenum*, *Tephrocactus geometricus* and *Stenocactus albatrus*.

Rik Coenen rescued two massive euphorbias (*E. ingens*), placed beside the altar in his home town church. The building had to be broken down, so he moved them to the 'Jochumhof' garden in Steijl, Limburg. One plant was so big that it had to be sawn in half.

Theo Heijnsdijk visited the Canary island of La Palma where he found *Aeonium nobile*, an endemic species and the only red-flowering aeonium. It is also the largest species in the genus, reaching up to 80 cm in diameter. Including the (sub)genus *Greenovia*, 36 species are known. *A. nobile* does not produce offsets, so after blooming and fruiting the entire plant will die.

Henk de Groot's memories went back to two years ago when he started collecting succulent plants. It all began with a 40 year old hybrid echinopsis.

Theo Heijnsdijk gives some additional information about *Crassula pyramidalis*, a species he discussed in the December 2016 issue. This plant is illustrated in a book from 1738 by the Dutch botanist Johannes Burman but with the wrong subscription '*Euphorbia aphyllum*'. In fact this is probably a drawing of *Crassula pyramidalis*, as was already noticed by 3 different authors.

Henk Ruinaard brings part 2 of his overview of recently published new taxa in the genus *Echinocereus*. These taxa are *E. gurneyi*, *E. koehresianus* ssp. *gruberianus*, *E. occidentalis* ssp. *breckwoldtiorum*, *E. pectinatus* ssp. *rutowiorum* and *E. relictus*. They mostly exhibit only minor differences compared to the type species and/or differences in ploidy level.

Henk Viscaal reviews a new book written by Robin Frandsen on the succulent flora of southern Africa. To those who are interested, the book is very much recommended.

Another contribution by Henk Ruinaard deals with the question how to determine the moisture content in pots filled with an inert substrate (bims) or normal compost. Several options are available, such as wooden sticks, moisture indicators, moisture meters and moisture sensors. Henk tested these instruments using pots filled with bims or compost containing 0 up to 100 % water. Moisture meters and moisture indicators turned out to be not very accurate and reliable (especially in bims), and moisture sensors are rather expensive. So wooden sticks are the cheapest and maybe the best solution.

In Henk Ruinaard's third article he asks the question whether or not a heat pump system is better for greenhouse warming than a common (oil or gas) heater. Readers are encouraged to react.

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

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