

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

This second 2018 issue opens with Ben Wijffelaars' observation that somehow there seems to be a relationship between succulents and liquor. As 'proof' he mentions the larvae of *Agave* parasites in bottles of Mexican mescal and empty upside-down-placed genever bottles alongside the path in the cactus greenhouse of the arboretum Trompenburg in Rotterdam.

In his series of articles concerning the 1931 'Verkade' cactus handbook, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Mammillaria bocasana*. For many of us, one of the first cacti our hobby started with. This easy-to-cultivate little cactus was first-described in 1853 by the German chemist Heinrich Poselger. The epithet refers to the Sierra de Bocas in northern Mexico where Poselger found the plants. In 1894 *Cactus eschanzieri* was described by John Coulter (in honor of Louis Eschauzier, so the epithet was wrongly spelled) later to become *Mammillaria bocasana* var. *eschauzieri*. A most peculiar form, sprung up in cultivation, is *M. bocasana* 'Fred'. These plants look like finger tips or caterpillars, but sometimes normal shoots are produced.

Bertus Spee shows us another four nice succulents in his series entitled 'in the spotlight'. This time it is *Sedum versadense*, *Ferocactus recurvus*, *Greenovia aurea* and *Echinocereus brandegeei*.

A new *Parodia* species, *Parodia pocopocensis*, from the Rio Poco Poco valley in Bolivia is described by Lothar Diers and Hansjörg Jucker. This species was discovered by the last-mentioned author and is probably closely related to *P. otuyensis*. Compared to this species, the most striking difference is the yellow flower (*P. otuyensis* flowers red). German and English descriptions are included.

A first 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. Just by looking at the surface, you cannot see that. 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 (particularly in bims), and moisture sensors are rather expensive. So wooden sticks are the cheapest and maybe the best solution.

In Henk Ruinaard's second 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.

In a third contribution, Henk Ruinaard outlines how to make a moisture sensor using parts available in do-it-yourself stores. Surprisingly, large pots turned out to contain more water at the bottom than expected, and broad terracotta scales lost water more rapidly than expected.

Joop Schotman, one of our readers, reacted to the *Aeonium nobile* article by Theo Heijnsdijk in the last Succulenta issue.

Bert de Keijzer looks back at the 1970's, when he started collecting succulent plants. After cultivating plants on a balcony and in a rock garden, he finally got himself a fine greenhouse which partly included the rock garden.

As usual, the final pages are devoted to a summary of the contents of other journals on succulent plants, compiled by Wolter ten Hoeve.

R.Bregman@contact.uva.nl