

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars leads things off by telling us about his trip to the Canary island of Fuerteventura with its many dragon blood trees (*Dracaena draco*).

In his ongoing series of articles about the 'Verkade' books from the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Euphorbia caput-medusae*. This remarkable plant, with its short robust base from which several spreading stems arise, is native to the Cape Region of South Africa. The first publication goes back to 1679 by Jacob Breyne. In 1697, Dutch botanist Johan Commelin described the plant more elaborately. The first description under the name *Euphorbia caput-medusae* was published by Linnaeus in 1753. He recognized 5 varieties, which he indicated by the first letters of the Greek alphabet. The plant is quite easy to cultivate.

Bertus Spee shows us another four nice succulents by means of pictures and short descriptions, viz. *Sinningia leucotricha*, *Toumeyia papyracantha*, *Hylocereus undatus* and *Agave macroacantha*.

Annemieke van Ling explains how she tried to get rid of thrips, small sucking insects which are difficult to kill. She used several different insecticides; 'spinosad' turned out to give the best results.

After studying living and herbarium material of the genus *Sansevieria* in Kew Gardens, Peter Mansfeld came to the conclusion that 3 species (*S. patens*, *S. sordida* and *S. varians*) are conspecific. According to the author, these plants should be treated as one species: *S. varians*.

Henk Ruinaard went to the Salt River Canyon in the American state of Arizona. In this area a large population of *Echinocereus bonkerae* ssp. *bonkerae* grows. These plants show considerable variation in spine length. Also *E. bakeri* (syn. *E. coccineus* ssp. *coccineus*) occurs in this region. Henk was curious if both plants would hybridize in nature, so he successfully pollinated plants of both species in his greenhouse, to find out what the F1 generation will look like. Within 4 years we will know the answer.

Johan Pot is still struggling with the nomenclature of the cactaceous genus *Weingartia* (the former *Sulcorebutia*-group). He put many characteristics of plants with known origin in a matrix. But by using these morphological features, it is still difficult to determine an unknown plant.

Piet Kamminga reports about his experiences with a heat pump for warming a greenhouse. His conclusion is that there are several negative aspects (compared to gas heating), so at this moment it is too soon to recommend a heat pump system. The same topic is discussed by Tom Ramak. He stresses the high costs of a heat pump system.

Volter ten Hoeve summarizes the contents of other journals on succulent plants.

Finally, at the back page Tom Twijnstra let us know that he can identify some of his cacti by the smell of the flowers.