

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Despite the fact that he has never been in the UK, Ben Wijffelaars grew impressed by TV programs showing English cottage gardens. In his ongoing series on the 'Verkade' cactus and succulent books from the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Conophytum wettsteinii*. This small leaf succulent from the South African province Noordkaap was named after the Austrian botanist Richard Wettstein. It was first described as *Mesembrianthemum wettsteinii* by Alwin Berger in 1908. In 1922 the plant was transferred to the new genus *Conophytum*, a group of plants with bodies composed of two reversed-conical leaves which are almost entirely fused. Steve Hammer recognized 4 subspecies of *C. wettsteinii*, viz. ssp. *francoiseae*, ssp. *fragile*, ssp. *ruschii* and of course ssp. *wettsteinii*. Cultivation is rather easy; in nature the plants are adapted to winter rain conditions, so during the dry summer period they remain dormant. A beautiful picture of a multi-headed specimen is on the cover page. Bertus Spee presents the 100th episode of his 'in the spotlight' series of articles, this time focussing on *Stenocereus eruca*, a creeping cereoid cactus from the Mexican province of Baja California. Because of this peculiar growth habit, this plant is best cultivated lying in an oblong container. Bertus' plant flowered for the first time in August last year, but only for one night. To celebrate Bertus Spee's 100th 'in the spotlight' article, his 70th birthday and his 25th trip to Mexico, Michael Greulich puts 'speedy Bert' himself in the spotlight. Aat van Uijen presents part 4 of his series of articles on the genus *Rhipsalis*, epiphytic cacti from the tropical woods of Brazil. This part includes the species with a subepidermal bud formation (the former genus *Lepismium*), such as *R. floccosa*, *R. dissimilis*, *R. neves-armondii*, *R. puniceodiscus* and *R. hoelleri*. Attention is paid to the phenomenon of neoteny (adult plants maintaining their juvenile growth habit), shown by *R. floccosa* and *R. dissimilis*. Henk Viscaal visited the Ernst Specks nursery in Germany and bought a tuber of *Ipomoea welwitschii*, an African member of the family Convolvulaceae. The plant was named after the Austrian medical doctor Friedrich Welwitsch. The famous *Welwitschia mirabilis* from the Namibian desert also carries his name. The subterranean tuber produces shoots that can reach a length of 50 cm and large white funnel-shaped flowers with a purple throat.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his visit to the Joshua Tree National Park in southern California, an area encompassing parts of both the Mojave Desert and the Sonora Desert. The article is illustrated with photos of many native cacti such as species of *Cylindropuntia*, *Echinocereus*, *Echinocactus*, *Ferocactus*, as well as other succulents like *Yucca* and *Fouquieria*.

Frank Süplie deals with *Lepismium paranganiense*, a species also placed in the genera *Rhipsalis*, *Pfeiffera* and *Nothorhipsalis*. The epithet refers to the hacienda Parangani, in the Bolivian department of Cochabamba. The plant is not an epiphyte but is found hanging from rock crevices. The stems may reach 3-4 meters in length. A yellow-flowering cultivar named 'golden dream' was introduced by the Epiphytic Plant Research and Information Centre (EPRIC).

Kees Jan van Zwienen and Kok van Herk introduce us to the cacti of Patagonia, a region in South America covering the southern parts of Chile and Argentina. 23 cactaceous species occur in this area, which is known for its cool and dry climate, predominantly in Argentina. The genus *Austrocactus* is endemic to his region.

Henk Viscaal reviews a new book by Detlef Schnabel, entitled 'A monograph of *Euphorbia polygona*'.

Wolter ten Hoeve presents a summary of the contents of other journals on succulent plants.

Tom Twijnstra's contribution on the back page deals with the cutting he took from a very large *Agave* in southern France. It did not survive our wet winter. So that was not too bad after all.

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