

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars looks forward to the weekend of 15-16 June 2019, when Succulenta will celebrate its centenary in the botanical garden of the Utrecht University. Ben feels that our hobby might as well survive for another 100 years, since he saw greenhouses with (plastic) plants on a cemetery in southern France.

In his ongoing contributions on the 'Verkade' cactus and succulent handbooks of the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with the 'button cactus' *Epithelantha micromeris*. This well-known plant from the American-Mexican border area was discovered in 1849 by Charles Wright and was first described in 1856 by Georg Engelmann as *Mamillaria* (with one 'm') *micromeris*. In 1922 L. Britton and J. Rose placed the plant in their new genus *Epithelantha*, because the flowers do not emerge from the axils (as in *Mammillaria*) but from the tubercles. In 1969, L. Benson described a second species: *E. bokei*. In 2010, the Italians D. Donati and C. Zanovello distinguished 7 species, based on differences of the juveniles. *E. micromeris* is easily recognizable for its small globular habit with a white, short and dense spination, small whitish to rose-colored flowers (the smallest of all cacti) and the relatively large, scarlet elongated fruits.

Bertus Spee presents another episode of 'in the spotlight'. This time, he discusses the genus *Lithops*, *Mammillaria albicoma* and *Welwitschia mirabilis*.

Aat van Uijen visited a botanical garden in the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil, founded by the Brazilian botanist Robert Kautsky. His name lives on in *Schlumbergera kautskyi*, an epiphytic cactus from tropical woods. This plant resembles the well-known Christmas cactus *S. truncata* but the ovary of the flower is slightly different.

Kees Jan van Zwienen and Kok van Herk proceed their series of articles on the cactus flora of Patagonia (southern Argentina and Chile) with short descriptions of the plants they came across (species of the genera *Austrocactus*, *Maihuenia* and *Maihueniopsis*). Madeleine Elizabeth reports about *Epiphyllum anguliger*. She sowed seeds but due to her impatience she bought an adult specimen.

In a second contribution, Theo Heijnsdijk pays attention to the German painter Carl Spitzweg. A photo of two people admiring a cactus, published in Succulenta in 1931, reminded him of his work, which includes several paintings with a more or less similar image, for example 'der Kaktusfreund'.

André van Zuijlen disagrees with people who assert that sowing cacti is easy. A sowing test carried out by 7 participants yielded rather poor results. Even when germination is successful, the main cause of mortality is inadequate disinfection of the soil, so that fungi spores and sciara flies larvae can survive.

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

As usual in the December issue, indexes of all authors, articles and plant illustrations are listed alphabetically.

On the back page, Tom Twijnstra remembers not being very amused when a friend gave him an *Euphorbia trigona* as a present. Later, an *Euphorbia obesa* changed his mind.

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