

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars reacts to the article by Peter Knippels in the previous issue about 'Floralia', a club of plant lovers raised in 1873 that can be considered a precursor of 'Succulenta'.

In his ongoing series on the 'Verkade' books published in the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Echinocereus chloranthus*. This species was discovered in 1852 by Charles Wright in the Rio Grande area, and was first described by Georg Engelmann as *Cereus* (subgenus *Echinocereus*) *chloranthus*. Some decades later, this subgenus was recognized at generic level. At present, *E. chloranthus* and its related species *E. viridiflorus* are placed in the section *Echinocereus*. According to Blum and co-authors (2012), this section now consists of 10 species which are characterized by relatively small (but many) flowers. Up till now, the species is not threatened in nature ('least concern'). Its natural habitat covers a large area in the US-Mexican border region, with *E. viridiflorus* even reaching Wyoming and South Dakota, so in culture these plants are not cold-sensitive.

Bertus Spee again presents some attractive succulents in his series 'in the spotlight'. *Abromeitiella chlorantha*, *Acharagma roseana* and *Stenocactus multicostatus* are depicted and shortly described. Peter Knippels reports about the rediscovery of *Haemanthus avasmontanus*, a bulb species from the daffodil family Amaryllidaceae native to South-West Africa. The species was first described by the German Kurt Dinter in 1923. In 2009, the South African Charles Craib claimed to have rediscovered this species. However, it remains uncertain whether Craib found the same species, since he collected at another locality.

During a trip to the Mexican state Durango in 2015, Wolter ten Hove found *Wilcoxia (Echinocereus) kroenleinii* flowering in a creosote bush. This species was not known from Durango, so its distribution area has become wider by Wolter's find.

Peter van Dongen pays attention to the baobab tree *Adansonia digitata* in Gambia. This is the world's largest succulent plant; water is stored in the massive trunk and branches. These trees can reach a length of over 30 meters and may become 1000 years old. In Madagascar 6 species occur, on the African continent only one (*A. digitata*).

*Parodia vallegrandensis*, a new species from Vallegrande, Bolivia, is provisionally described by Klaus Beckert. Possible relationships with *P. mairanana* and *P. comarapana* are still under investigation. A brief German description is included.

Theo Heijnsdijk focuses on *Astrophytum asterias*, the well-known sea-urchin cactus. This species was found in 1843 and exported to Europe in very limited quantities. In 1845 Zuccarini described it as *Echinocactus asterias*. In 1923 the plants were rediscovered by the Czech Alberto Fric. Only 500 out of the 2000 plants that were sent to Europe survived, so prices in Germany raised to 10 to 40 Mark apiece, half a month salary at the time.

Aat van Uijen brings part 5 of his contribution on the *Rhipsalis* species from the tropical woods. This time attention is paid to the species with flattened stems (subgenus *Phyllarthrorhipsalis*). Most of these species occur in Brazil, some of them in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia (*R. micrantha*, *R. cuneata*, *R. goebeliana*). A somewhat different group of species with triangular stems are known from the so-called 'inselbergen' (island mountains), isolated small elevations in a flat landscape in the state of Rio de Janeiro (*R. cereoides*, *R. agudoensis*).

Ludwig Bercht was invited to give a presentation in Xiamen (China). He and Henk Viscaal visited local botanic gardens, a cactus nursery and a private collection. This article is to be continued.

At the back page, Tom Twijnstra remembers his first cactus: *Mammillaria zeilmanniana*.

R.Bregman@contact.uva.nl