

Summary

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars was glad to find the endemic *Aeonium lancerottense* on the Canary Island of Lanzarote. At home, he could not get rid of the mealybugs that had attacked the plant.

As part of his ongoing series of articles concerning the old 'Verkade' books published in the 1930s, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Tylecodon reticulatus*. This member of the Crassulaceae family was first described in 1782 by the son of the great Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus as *Cotyledon reticulata*. In 1978 the genus *Tylecodon* was introduced by the Australian H. Tölken for the deciduous *Cotyledon* species with leaves arranged in whorls. The epithet 'reticulatus' refers to the branched peduncles forming a kind of network that covers the stems after flowering. This species occurs in a large area in South Africa, from Oostkaap going west up to South Namibia. In Europe, it grows during wintertime and flowers in summer (in leafless state).

Bertus Spee presents 3 nice succulents in his series 'in the spotlight'. This time *Cereus hexagonus*, *Graptopetalum superbum* and *Neoporteria senilis* are depicted and some relevant information is given.

Parodia unguiculata is described as new species by Lothar Diers. This plant was found north of Cafayate, Argentina, by Dieter Herzog in the mid 1980s. After studying plants and seeds (field number DH 122) and comparison with *P. horrida* and *P. piltziorum*, the author concluded that it must be a new species. Most prominent differences with related species can be found in spination and seeds, with *P. unguiculata* having a much smaller strophiole (funicular remnant) at the base of the seed grain.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his experiences with sticky plates to catch sciara flies. Eggs of these tiny insects travel with the compost we use in our cactus substrates. The larvae find their way to the plant roots where they suck the sap. Their damage can be substantial, especially just germinated seedlings are killed. Using mineral substrates such as bims, as Henk does, may help, just as the sticky plates do, but his problem has not been solved yet.

Riet Maessen was surprised to discover a flower bud in an unknown agave. She followed the flowering process; the flowering stalk eventually reached a length of about 1 meter.

A second contribution by Ben Wijffelaars deals with the cactus garden ('Jardin de Cactus') on Lanzarote, designed by the artist Cesar Manrique around 1990. One of Ben's favourites in this garden was *Caralluma burchardii*.

Peter van Dongen gives an impression of the botanical garden on the isle of Faial, one of the Azores. There are many endemic species in this Atlantic archipelago, 28 of which are cultivated in this garden. Peter pays attention to 2 endemic succulent euphorbias, *E. stygiana* and *E. azorica*.

Ludwig Bercht and Henk Viscaal present the second part of their report on their trip to China. They visited the Nantong Zhouji Green Expo Garden, a private garden financed by mr. Zhou Ji. Even a replica of a Dutch mill is present.

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

At the back page, Tom Twijnstra reports about the botanical garden of Hanbury, situated near Ventimiglia at the Italian Riviera. Large aloes and agaves dominate the plant collection.