

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars opens this first 2020 issue with joyful information that in November last year our society has been awarded the predicate 'royal'. So we are proud to present our present name: 'royal Dutch society of lovers of cacti and other succulents, Succulenta'.

In his ongoing series of articles concerning the 'Verkade' books from the 1930s, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Aloe humilis*. This leaf succulent was first discovered in 1685 during an expedition near Cape Town, South Africa. In 1753 Linnaeus classified this plant as a variety of *A. perfoliata*, but in 1768 P. Miller upgraded it to the rank of species. Due to offsetting the plant can develop multi-headed clumps. Inflorescences reach far beyond the leaf rosettes. *A. humilis* is variable species; in the course of time many subspecies, varieties and forms have been described. Also several hybrids with other *Aloe* species are known.

As part of his series 'In the spotlight', Bertus Spee discusses *Lobivia amblayensis* and *Lophophora diffusa*. As usual, he focuses on the cultivation of these attractive cacti.

After a 20 year pause, Peter Knippels restarted cultivating South African plants (and some cacti), succulent and bulb species in particular.

Henk Ruinaard's plant hobby goes back to his childhood in Rotterdam, where he picked *Sempervivum* plantlets out of plant boxes hanging from the railings of city blocks. He still cultivates *sempervivums* in his rock garden.

Sjef Theunissen pays attention to 'Internoto', a club of *Notocactus* lovers, set up by him together with the German Jozka Neduchal in 1979. This genus became popular in the 1970s, mainly as a result of many new species that were found by Friedrich Ritter, Albert Buining, Leopoldo Horst, Hugo Schlosser and Dirk van Vliet. The journal 'Internoto' still exists, with 4 issues a year. Most Internoto members are Germans, so yearly meetings are mostly held in Germany.

In Henk Ruinaard's second contribution he outlines his crossing experiments with *Echinocereus* species, in order to learn more about their genetics. He also carried out crossings with plants of different ploidy level (2x, 3x and 4x), all of which were quite successful (70 % seed formation). However, crossing triploid plants of the same species yielded poor results due to problems during meiosis (the formation of gametes).

Henk de Groot reports about his second trip to the Canary island of Fuerteventura. He succeeded in finding the rare endemic *Euphorbia handiensis* and finally, as a big surprise, its cristate form.

Ludwig Bercht presents a list of his LB fieldnumbers of *Weingartia* plants he found during his field work in Bolivia. This list is to be continued.

Wolter ten Hoeve gives his usual abstract of the contents of other journals on succulent plants.

At the back page, Tom Twijnstra deals with *Lophophora williamsii*, a cactus that produces hallucinatory substances, but according to Tom it is more fun to look at than to consume.

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