

SUMMARY

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In his opener, Ben Wijffelaars reports about a schlumbergera (Christmas cactus) which was thought to be 100 years old. But nowadays, many people say that, speaking about age, 100 is the new 80, so this cactus may well be much younger.

In his ongoing series concerning the 2 'Verkade' books published in 1931/32, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Frithia pulchra*, a small leaf succulent from the Aizoaceae family. Each leaf of the rosettes are provided with a sort of lens at the top, allowing light to penetrate to the internal tissues when the plant is hidden in the soil during the dry season. In 1906, the plant was discovered by Mrs. O. Nation near Rustenburg, South Africa. Its description followed in 1926 by N.E. Brown. Thereafter, the plant became rapidly popular, considering names as 'fairy elephant's feet' and 'purple baby toes'. In the IUCN Red List this species is listed in the category 'vulnerable'. In 2000, a smaller species was described as *Frithia humilis*.

The series 'in the spotlight' by Bertus Spee is continued with *Echinomastus unguispinus* ssp. *lauii* and *Echinocereus fendleri*. Short descriptions and recommendations for succesful cultivation are given.

In part 6 of his series of articles about the *Rhipsalis* species from the tropical woods, Aat van Uijen treats the subgenus *Erythrorhipsalis* (*R. cereuscula*, *R. clavata*, *R. pilocarpa*, *R. campos-portoana*, *R. pulchra*, *R. juengeri*, *R. ormindoi*, *R. burchellii* and *R. aurea*). This species group is characterized by the bell-shaped and downward-turned flowers borne at the top of the (mostly slender) stems. Remarkably, the seeds of *R. juengeri* are dispersed by bats. *Rhipsalis* plants are best cultivated in hanging baskets, planted in a mixture of bark flakes and orchid compost.

André van Zuijlen summarizes the reactions he got on his previous article about sowing cacti. In an experiment, Aad Vijverberg and André tested the germination of 30 seed samples (25 seeds per sample), the results of which are presented in a

table. The average overall results were 17% (Aad) and 25% (André) germination.

My contribution is about *Matucana calocephala*, a densely spined columnar cactus with magnificent lilac flowers from central Peru. This plant, described in 1973, is commonly considered conspecific with *M. comacephala*. A remarkable feature is the relatively open nectar chamber of the flowers, which may indicate that also animals other than hummingbirds can pollinate them.

Peter Knippels outlines how he cultivates his favorite plants, which include South African bulbs, succulent euphorbias, caudex plants and some cacti.

In the beginning, Annemieke van Ling did not really like schlumbergeras (Christmas cacti) but later she grew enthusiastic about them.

Ludwig Bercht presents part 2 of his overview of the *Weingartia* populations (LB fieldnumbers) that he found in Bolivia. This time, he deals with his findings during his 2005 trip. GPS information is also given.

Henk Ruinaard constructed a system to spray his cacti in early spring, in order to stimulate new growth. Another advantage of spraying is to lower the greenhouse temperature to prevent burning of the plant epidermis, which happened during last summer's heat wave.

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

At the back page, Tom Twijnstra found a resemblance between the pending stems of *Aporocactus flagelliformis* and the rasta hair style.

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