

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars has just a small greenhouse and therefore he is jealous of people with large greenhouses. Nonetheless, he is happy with his plant collection because he specialized in small plants such as *Anacampseros*.

A long (16 pages) contribution by Theo Heijnsdijk deals with the queen's agave, *Agave victoriae-reginae*. Consecutively, its history, forms and varieties, related species, details about its habitat, cultivars and the way of cultivation are discussed. In 1863 the plant was first discovered near Monterrey, Mexico, by the French politician Victor Considerant who brought it to Europe. His intention was to describe the plant as *Agave Consideranti* but In 1875 it was Thomas Moore who first described it as *Agave Victoriae Reginae*. The *A. victoriae-reginae*-complex now consists of subsp. *victoriae-reginae*, subsp. *swobodae*, *A. nickelsiae* and *A. pintilla*. Several cultivars (most of them with yellow or white patterns on the leaves) have been created in Japan. According to the IUCN red list, *A. nickelsiae* is critically endangered in nature. In a single paragraph the genus *Agave* is briefly discussed, with *A. americana* as its most common species.

Another agave, *A. albipilosa*, is discussed by Bertus Spe in his series 'in the spotlight'. *Ferocactus latispinus* is also dealt with. Short notes and tips for succesful cultivation are given.

Peter Knippels carries on with the report about his favorite plants (South African stem succulents and bulbs, euphorbias, baobabs) during last year's fall. He also outlines the way he got rid of sciara fly larvae.

Ludwig Bercht presents part 5 of his discoveries of Weingartias in Bolivia in 2008. This time populations with his fieldnumbers LB 3540, 3544, 3545 (all *W. cintiensis*), LB 3552, 3555, 3592 (all *W. westii*) and LB 3595 (*W. neocumingii* aff.) are listed. Plants and habitats are depicted.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his sowing experiments with *Echinocereus* seeds. In his article, he focuses on the influence of the substrate on germination and growth. He used compost of 5 different sources, as well as 3 types of bims with different particle sizes. Germination was good in all substrates but growth was considerably better in compost than in bims. So Henk advises to enhance the concentration of nutrients when using bims as sowing medium.

Jan van de Broek developed a taste for the African genus *Adenium*. He explains how to grow these caudex plants from seed.

Ben Wijffelaars saw a small leaf succulent at the sea shore of the Canary island of Fuerteventura. This turned out to be *Zygophyllum fontanesii*, a salt-tolerating member of the Zygophyllaceae family which can be found at most Atlantic islands.

Ludwig Bercht reviews the second (and improved) edition of the book on monocotyledons by Urs Eggli and Reto Nyffeler. Volume 1 of this book deals with the families Agavaceae to Asphodelaceae, volume 2 with the Bromeliaceae to Xanthorrhoeaceae. Regrettably, the number of pictures is a rather shabby.

Wolter ten Hoeve presents his usual overview of the contents of other journals on succulent plants.

Finally, Tom Twijnstra pays attention to *Graptopetalum bellum* (formerly *Tacitus bellus*), a rosette plant from Mexico. In Tom's words 'a graceful and beautiful plant'.

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