

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars leads things off with his report of the latest general meeting. Due to the Corona crisis, only 23 members were allowed to attend.

In his ongoing series of articles concerning the old 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930's, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Gymnocalycium saglionis*, a well-known cactus from northern Argentina. This plant was first described in 1847 by the French brothers Cels as *Echinocactus saglionis*. In 1922 it was transferred to the genus *Gymnocalycium* by Britton and Rose. In the beginning of the 20th century the Belgian grower Franz De Laet played an important role in distributing the plant through Europe. Since then, quite a number of infraspecific taxa have been described: *G. saglionis* var. *minus* (smaller body), var. *australe* (southern form), forma *splendens* (with glassy spination and rose-colored flowers), forma *columnare* (columnar plant body) and *G. saglionis* subsp. *tilcarensis* (with more ribs and denser spination). All these plants are easy to cultivate. A remarkable character is the fact that the pollen can be used to pollinate other *Gymnocalycium* species; no hybridization is taking place.

In part 112 of his contributions named 'In the spotlight', Bertus Spee shows us 4 attractive succulents. This time it is *Agave bracteosa*, *Aloe dichotoma*, *Soehrensia bruchii* and *Sedum dendroideum*. Some relevant information is also given.

Peter Knippels deals with the work in his greenhouse in november-december. Apart from the regular work, he focuses on fungus damage in his euphorbias, peach aphids in his baobabs, cultivation of *Melocactus* seedlings and making plans for next year. He also reports about his visits to botanical gardens in Vienna, Berlin and London (Kew).

Henk Viscaal got 2 specimens of *Mammillaria pennispinosa* from the German Andreas Wessner. Both plants, which differ in spination, are shown.

Bert de Keijzer noticed that in nature cacti often grow on rocky slopes or in rock crevices. So he carried out experiments with more rock pieces and stones in the compost of his cacti (Chilean species). Furthermore, he changed from compost to bims for his sowing experiments, which gave better results. His future plan is to expose cactus seeds to cold in order to imitate natural mountainous conditions.

Another report about sowing cacti is brought by Ton Smit. He monitored the germination of 13 species.

Because of his name Peter Knippels got interested in *Echinocereus knippelianus* (named after the German grower Knippel), a cactus first described in 1895. Three subspecies are known, viz. subsp. *knippelianus*, subsp. *kruegeri* (a small form) and subsp. *reyesii* (with longer spines and dark rose flowers).

Henk Ruinaard points out the importance of keeping the greenhouse clean. Especially in this time of the year, all kinds of inconveniences such as viruses, fungi, mosses, weeds and bugs may flourish. To prevent fungi, we should remove dead plant parts, blown flowers, fruits and dead insects.

Ludwig Bercht presents part 6 of his overview of the weingartias he found during his field work in Bolivia. This part includes 6 populations of *W. neocumingii* and 1 of *W. gracilispina*. The plants, provided with Ludwig's LB field numbers, are shown in their natural habitats.

In arid coastal areas many cacti take advantage of sea fog by absorbing condensed water droplets at their spines. Paul Klaassen visited the islands Magdalena and Cedros, situated nearby the Mexican peninsula of Baja California. He reports about some species that he found there.

Ludwig Bercht reviews the new handbook entitled *Monocotyledons* volume 1, edited by Urs Eggli and Reto Nyffeler. This is the revised and extended version of the 2001 German edition.

It covers the families Agavaceae to Asphodelaceae. Unfortunately, the number of illustrations is a bit shabby.

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

As usual at the end of the year, the names of all authors, articles and depicted plants published in 2020 are listed alphabetically.

On the back page Tom Twijnstra goes over a cutting of an *Epiphyllum* hybrid that he initially wanted to discard, but its amazing orange red flowers made him change his mind.

R.Bregman@contact.uva.nl