

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Now that our plants are in dormancy and the Corona pandemic forces us to stay at home, columnist Ben Wijffelaars spent some time in a nature reserve close by, an area in which herbivores have been introduced to limit extreme growth of grasses. Some of those animals can be dangerous if you come too close.

Theo Heijnsdijk continues his series of articles concerning the 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s. This time he deals with *Pleiospilos bolusii*, a South African 'living rock' species from the Aizoaceae family. This plant was first described in 1882 by J.D. Hooker as *Mesembryanthemum Bolusii*, named after the British plant collector Harry Bolus. However, even around the year 1700 the plant was already present in the botanic garden of the Amsterdam University. Besides the usual yellow flowers, also a white flowering form is known. The fruit capsules are hygrochastic (open by rain drops). The plant is easy to cultivate and blooms (in Europe) in late fall. Due to excessive collection *P. bolusii* has the IUCN Red List status of 'vulnerable', the related species *P. nelii* and *P. simulans* are 'threatened' and 'critically endangered', respectively.

In his series of articles entitled 'in the spotlight', Bertus Spee pays attention to *Corynopuntia kunzei*, *Epiphyllum pittieri*, *Mammillaria saboae* subsp. *roczekii* and *Turbincarpus klinkerianus*.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his visit to the Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, New Mexico, USA. Along the 'Dog Canyon Trail' he found many cacti (*Coryphantha*, *Opuntia*, *Echinocereus*, *Sclerocactus*, *Mammillaria*, *Escobaria*, *Epithelantha*). A special paragraph is devoted to *Echinocereus stramineus*.

Peter Knippels proceeds with the report of his cultivation activities. In March last year, his *Bulbine natalensis* showed a first flower stalk, *Hylocereus undatus* was gnawed by a moth caterpillar, some of his baobab seedlings perished, but his *Euphorbia* and *Melocactus* seedlings were doing well.

Louis Van de Meutter deals with *Ceropegia sandersonii* (Apocynaceae), a leaf succulent from South Africa with spectacular, up to 7 cm long umbrella-like flowers. Pollination takes place by small flies and mosquitos which normally feed on dead honey bees. They are attracted by the odour of the flower, which is similar to the smell of the substances produced by a dying bee. Then, the insects slide into the slippery floral tube where pollinia get attached to the insects, now ready to pollinate another *C. sandersonii* flower.

Seeds of plants in cultivation are often of hybrid origin.

A contribution by myself is about the monkey tail cactus, *Winterocereus colademononis*. This recently (2002) discovered pending cereoid plant from central Bolivia shows flowers with a double corolla, the inner one consisting of short, pale rose-colored petals. A striking feature is the hooked base of the floral tube, with a droop functioning as the nectar chamber. It is assumed that this construction prevents the nectar from dripping out of the flower. The plant is commonly known as *Hildewintera* but the Backeberg name *Winterocereus* is the correct one.

Rolf Weber acquired a *Rebutia einsteinii* cutting derived from the collection of the late Herman Rubingh, former president of Succulenta. This plant appears to be self-fertile, whereas other plants with this name are self-sterile.

On December 25th the well-known Belgian cactus grower Cyriel De Herdt, the last of the three De Herdt brothers, passed away. Gerard Rutten remembers him.

Niek Hoebe reacts to an article about *Pachyphytum oviferum* in the June 2020 edition of Succulenta. The author suggested that *P. oviferum* 'rubra' is a hybrid, but according to Niek it is *Graptopetalum amethystinum*.

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

Tom Twijnstra's neighbour asked him which plant he loved the most. After some time of consideration he grabbed his *Mammillaria dixanthocentron*, but the guy was already gone, being more interested in his phone and his cigarette.

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