

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars opens this issue with his conclusion that nowadays more and more people like to collect abnormal plants (strangely shaped hybrids with unusual colors, plastic flowers) rather than 'normal' plants such as Ben's first cactus *Mammillaria zeilmanniana*.

Faucaria tigrina, the South African 'tiger jaws', is the subject in Theo Heijnsdijk's series of articles dealing with the 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s. This leaf succulent from the Aizoaceae family was discovered in 1789 by the Scotsman F. Masson, who sent plants to Kew Gardens. In 1795 the plant was first described by A. Haworth as *Mesembryanthemum tigrinum*. The genus *Faucaria* was raised in 1926 by G. Schwantes. Today, 8 species are recognized; a key to these species is included. All faucarias have yellow flowers, except the white-flowering *F. candida*, which is probably a natural mutant. In Europe the blooming period is late summer to fall. In nature *F. tigrina* is threatened because only 4 populations exist.

In his column 'in the spotlight', Bertus Spee discusses *Crassula alstonii*, *Tanquana prismatica*, *Aloe striata* subsp. *karasbergensis* and *Euphorbia eustacei*, all succulent plants from South Africa.

As a tribute to the recently deceased Belgian cactus grower Cyriel De Herdt, Wolter ten Hoeve pays attention to *Mammillaria deherdtiana*. This species was discovered in 1959 by F. Schwarz. (Another story goes that it was discovered 3 years earlier by C. Mieg.) In any case, 50 plants were sent to De Herdt for propagation, and in 1969 S. Farwig published the first description in honor of the De Herdt brothers. An almost identical species is *M. dodsonii*, described in 1970 by H. Bravo-Hollis. This plant is often considered conspecific, or as variety or subspecies of *M. deherdtiana*. These plants seem to grow slowly, but this is caused by shrinkage of the lower part of the plant body.

Peter Knippels continues the report of his work in the greenhouse. In spring last year *Euphorbia horrida* and *E. stellispina* flowered. Most baobab seedlings did not survive a temperature dip in May but the Melocactus seedlings were doing fine.

Ludwig Bercht presents part 7 of the *Weingartia* populations he found in Bolivia in 2008. In succession, LB 3642, LB 3645, LB 3647, LB 3670, LB 3676, LB 3684, LB 3694 and LB 3701 are shown and briefly discussed. The 5 last-mentioned field numbers represent *W. pulquinensis*.

Louis Van de Meuter reports about the cultivation of ceropegias. Most species prefer a shady and humid place. Louis advises to buy habitat-collected seeds, since hybridization between cultivated species takes place pretty easily. Root tubers of *C. linearis* subsp. *woodii* can be used for grafting of sensitive species.

Frank Süpple deals with the cultivation of Epiphyllum hybrids. In summer many of them can be successfully cultivated outdoors, in a moist and shady environment. In winter, they should be kept at temperatures above 5°C without sun protection. Frank uses a compost mixture of 80% peat with a little perlite, rough sand and lava grains. This article is illustrated with nice photos of 21 different hybrids.

Henk Viscaal remembered his finding of *Strombocactus disciformis* along a narrow foot path in Mexico. This plant is one of his favorites, each year blooming with many flowers in his greenhouse. Strangely, Henk's plant produces offsets, which is a rare phenomenon in this species.

Paul Klaassen ends his contributions about the impact of sea fog on coastal arid vegetations. He outlines this event in the Namib desert, SW Africa, where particularly the flat leaf pairs of *Welwitschia mirabilis* take advantage of this moisture. Also some Aizoaceae and Crassulaceae occur here.

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

On the back page, Tom Twijnstra feels nostalgia for visiting cactus nurseries, walking in botanic gardens, chatting with other plant lovers, things like that.

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