

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars criticizes a recently adopted proposal by the Dutch senate to improve animal rights. In reaction to this, Ben asks the cynical question if grafting of cacti will soon be forbidden...

Theo Heijnsdijk continues his series of articles dealing with the 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s with *Larryleachia marlothii*, a stem succulent from South Africa that belongs to the Apocynaceae (formerly Asclepiadaceae) family. The nomenclature of this group of plants is still confusing. Some authors, such as South African botanist Peter Bruyns, classify all stapeliad species in one genus *Ceropegia*. *L. marlothii* was formerly known under the name *Trichocaulon dinteri*. The specific epithet 'marlothii' refers to the German Rudolf Marloth, who discovered the plant in 1905. The generic name *Larryleachia* was introduced in 1996. Nowadays 5 species are recognized. The flowers are very specialized (as all species in this family) and rather small (8-15 mm across). The habitat covers a large area along the Atlantic coast of Namibia reaching to South Africa. *L. marlothii* is difficult to cultivate because the roots are very sensitive to water. Therefore, it is advised to graft it on a *Ceropegia woodii* tuber.

Bertus Spee presents part 116 of his series 'in the spotlight'. This time he deals with *Echeveria secunda*, *Ferocactus reppenhagenii* and *Soehrensia formosa* subsp. *nivalis*.

Henk Viscaal reports about *Strombocactus disciformis*, a well-known species he found during his first trip to Mexico. Later, he came across another population, with a.o.

Lophophora williamsii. His own specimen is an old plant that produces offsets, which does not occur very often in this species.

Peter Knippels looks back at his plant activities in 2020. He comes to the conclusion that after this Covid 19 year the hobby of cultivating succulent plants is only fun when you meet other plant lovers.

Henk Ruinaard discusses the topic whether or not plants are damaged by sun light after being sprayed with water. He explains that this is not the case, because water droplets on plant surfaces flatten, so they do not act as fire glasses.

Wim Alsemgeest describes a technique how to propagate multicolored forms of agaves. His method, which he tested already 20 years ago, is to first select a plant with yellow or white marks on the leaves, then to destruct the apical meristem by drilling. Another method is to saw the plant in half vertically while precisely hitting the yellow spots. Young multicolored shoots will develop at the plane section.

Louis Van de Meutter deals with *Ceropegia meleagris*, a creeping or pending leaf succulent from Nepal. The entrance of the small flowers is almost entirely covered by the corona tips, so the pollinating insects must be very small.

Peter Knippels remembers the start (around 1992) of his fascination for South African bulbs, when he met specialist Frans Noltee. One of the plants he saw in his collection was *Massonia bifolia*, a winter-growing species from the Asparagaceae family.

Wolter te Hoeve gives his usual overview of the contents of other succulent plants journals. At the back page Tom Twijnstra reports about his *Mammillaria tezontle*, which established a record by flowering already some months after sowing.

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