SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Columnist Ben Wijffelaars regrets the loss of the word 'Belgisch' (Belgian) in the former name of our society. However, this was a condition in order to aquire the title 'royal' in our new name. Ben would welcome a closer relationship between the Dutch province of North Brabant and Flanders, with Antwerp as the center of succulent plant activities.

Theo Heijnsdijk presents another species depicted in the old 'Verkade' books from the 1930s. This time Theo outlines the history of *Kalanchoe* x *kewensis* (Crassulaceae), a hybrid created in 1900 in the London botanical garden Kew by crossing the white-flowering *K. bentii* with the red-flowering *K. flammea*. Both plants had been collected 5 years before in Yemen and Somalia, respectively. The hybrid *K. bentii* x *K. flammea* (with *K. bentii* as mother) differed considerably from the reciproke hybrid *K. flammea* x *K. bentii* in plant dimensions, flower color and leaf shape. Later, many new commercially succesful hybrids were introduced, plants with a compact short stem and all kinds of flower colors (for example *K. blossfeldiana*). A recently developed form is Kalanchoe 'Spider', not to be confused with Kalanchoe 'Spider Blue' which is not a kalanchoe but a form of *Senecio kleiniiformis*. Cultivation is easy; propagation is succesful by leaf or stem cuttings.

Bertus Spee brings part 120 of his ongoing series entitled 'in the spotlight'. *Mammillaria guelzowiana*, *Pachypodium rosulatum*, *Grahamia coahuilensis* and *Yucca aloifolia* are depicted and briefly described.

My contribution is about *Matucana polzii*, a strongly offsetting globular cactus from the central Peruvian Andes. The ecological significance of producing many offsets is emphasized: higher seed production, better chances of survival in the presence of herbivores, less danger of being overgrown by faster growing other plants and the ability of vegetative dispersal by means of detached offsets. Comparison is made with other strongly offsetting species, such as *Oroya minima*, a local form of *O. peruviana*. Flowering can be stimulated by removing the offsets. The high altitude of the habitats suggest a certain extent of resistance against frost ,but several efforts to cultivate *M. polzii* unprotected in a rock garden have failed so far.

Henk Ruinaard has been fan of The Eagles for a long time but his 'Hotel California' is in Marathon, a Texan village, suitable as a starting point to make trips to the cacti in the nearby situated Big Bend National Park. This is the place where many cacti can be found, such as escobarias, mammillarias, thelocacti, *Echinocactus horizonthalonius*, and many *Echinocereus* species. Henk visited the type locality of *Echinocereus gurneyi*.

Professional gardener Theo Rengelink gives tips to get rid of red spider mites, one of the most problematic plagues in cultivation of cacti. These little arachnids suck sap from the epidermal cells, causing a brownish coloration and slowing down plant growth. The mites stay dormant at temperatures below 15 ºC but reproduce exponentially above 20 ºC. They don't like a humid atmosphere, so it is advised to spray the plants regularly. Biological control with natural enemies can be done with the predatory mites *Amblyseius californicus* and *Phytoseiulus persimilis*. Lacewing larvae of *Chrysoperia carnea* can also be applied. For chemical control acaricides are available.

Petra Romijn reports about her trip to Malta where she visited the 'Derek Cactus Centre'. In this nice garden several plants were up to 80 years old, many of which reaching 10 meters in height.

Wolter ten Hoeve gives his summary of the most important articles in other journals on succulent plants.

As usual, the back page is the place for Tom Twijnstra's contribution, which is about grafting, a technique already familiar to the Romans and the Chinese. Tom shows his grafted *Aztekium ritteri* 'family'.

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