

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars is surprised by the many sorts of sand that is used as supplement in compost for different kind of plants. Also, sand is applied in gardens of bungalow parks, even when they are built on peaty soil, just to make it look like a coastal dune garden.

Theo Heijnsdijk continues his series of articles concerning the plants described in the 'Verkade' handbooks of the 1930s. This time the subject is *Gibbaeum heathii*, a small ultra-succulent plant from the Aizoaceae family. It was first described in 1920 by Nicholas Brown as *Mesembryanthemum Heathii*. The epithet refers to Francis Heath who successfully sowed seeds from a plant that was sent to Kew Gardens by Neville Pillans in 1906. The plants are native to the Little Karoo in South Africa, a region with winter rains. A popular English name is 'Baby Bums', after the globular leaf pair with a furrow in between. Flowers appear in september/october; flower color may vary between white and magenta. The fruits open in rainy conditions and close again when the rain stops. Cultivation is not very difficult but flowers do not readily occur.

Bertus Spee brings part 122 of his ongoing series 'In the spotlight'. Now he draws our attention to *Myrtillocactus cochal*, *Haworthia truncata*, *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* and *Jatropha podagrica*.

In his second contribution, Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Ceropegia haygarthii*, a climbing species of the Apocynaceae from Natal, South Africa. It was first described in 1905 by the German Rudolf Schlechter. Theo pays extra attention to the internal anatomy of the flower. There are 5 free sepals and 5 fused petals. The 5 stamens are also fused (filament tube). The ovary consists of 2 carpels and is fused with the inner part of the filament tube. The base of the filament tube is provided with 5 flat lobes named corona. The pollen grains are lumped to form pollinia, 2 at each stamen. Each pollinium is connected with its adjacent pollinium which is called a pollinarium.

Pollination takes place by small flies which are attracted by the smell of the flower. The fruit is a bipartite follicle, filled with plumed seeds which are dispersed by wind.

Petra Romijn shows us her new small polycarbonate greenhouse, particularly meant for plant lovers with little space for their plants at home. Her favorite plant is *Leuchtenbergia principis*, which flowered for the first time.

Lothar Diers and Hansjörg Jucker present the descriptions of 2 new taxa of *Aylosteria*, viz. *Aylosteria berchtiana* and its variety var. *splendida*. Both taxa are dedicated to the memory of Ludwig Bercht, our chief editor who passed away last year. The plants were discovered by the second author in the Rio Pilcomayo valley, Bolivia. In the descriptions comparison is made with *A. sumayana*, which is believed to be the most related species.

Andre van Zuijlen introduces a new heading called 'herinneringen' (memories) to invite our readers to write something about a particular plant that brings back special memories. Andre himself leads off with his memories of *Aloe comosa*, a species he came across during a trip through the Westkaap, South Africa. Including inflorescences, these plants may reach up to 5 meters in height. The old leaves don't fall off, a feature which seems to act as a protection against fire.

Wolter ten Hoeve summarizes the contents of other journals on succulent plants, this time 'Kakteen und andere Sukkulente' and 'Cactus World').

Tom Twijnstra reports about his seemingly never ending struggle to get rid of nasty aphids and spider mites.

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