

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars reports about the latest 'open day' (April 1st) at the Ubink cactus nursery in Kudelstaart, North-Holland. At that time of year most cacti do not flower yet. However, Ben noticed that on the internet it looks as if some people are trying to play the game who can present the first cactus flower of the year.

In his series dealing with the 'Verkade' handbooks of the 1930s, Theo Heijnsdijk discusses *Adromischus cristatus*. This leaf succulent from the Cape region of South Africa was first described as *Cotyledon cristata* by Adrian Haworth in 1827. In 1852 Charles Lemaire introduced the genus *Adromischus* for those *Cotyledon* species with spirally arranged leaves. The related genus *Tylecodon* was raised by R. Tölken in 1978 for the deciduous *Cotyledons*. This author recognized 27 *Adromischus* species and 4 varieties of *A. cristatus*: var. *cristatus*, var. *clavifolius*, var. *schonlandii* and var. *zeyheri*. Var. *cristatus* is characterized by a bunch of aerial roots at the base of the stem. A fifth variety (var. *mzimvubuensis*) was described in 2003. Cultivation is easy; the growing season is in spring and autumn. The easiest way of propagation is by rooting of detached leaves.

In part 127 of his series of articles entitled 'In the spotlight', Bertus Spee shows us 4 pretty succulent plants, viz. *Austrocactus bertinii*, *Dudleya pulverulenta*, *Thelocactus tulensis* and *Turbinicarpus lophophoroides*.

Aiko Talens cultivates many subtropical bulb species on the balcony of his home in The Hague. The plants are exposed to the elements from April till November and are doing well, except *Amorphophallus konjac*, which obviously prefers warmer conditions. Some agaves are sooner brought inside the house because they don't like a very wet compost.

In 2020 Ton Smit sowed seeds of 13 South American cactus species in his living room at home. Now he reports the results. The seedlings of 4 species all died in the first winter.

Peter Knippels pays attention to our former president and honorary member Albert F.H. Buining (1901-1976). After Buining's death, his archives entered into possession of our former editor Ludwig Bercht. In the period 1966-1974 Buining undertook 4 expeditions to South America, guided by local cactus connoisseur Leopoldo Horst. One of those was the search for an unknown melocactus (later to be described as *M. schulzianus*) growing on the 'Voltzberg' in Surinam. Large parts of Buining's notes about that trip are included here. Buining and Horst discovered 35 *Melocactus* taxa, of which 7 names are still recognized.

Nadet Somers visited the botanic garden of Kassel (Germany), and spotted a 72 year old agave with its inflorescence growing through the roof of the glass house. Unfortunately, the flowering stalk froze to death, so the species epithet remains unknown.

Paul Laney and Frans Mommers drove to Gent, Belgium, to visit Freddy Delabarre. In the course of many years this cactus lover built up a collection of all kinds of cactus-related objects such as journals, stamps, seed lists, pictures, etc. He has offered his entire collection to Succulenta.

A new book on the genus *Aeonium*, written by the Italian Marco Cristini, is reviewed by Theo Rengelink.

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

Lithops plants are called 'living stones' but Tom Twijnstra jokes that they lack certain features of living creatures: they don't talk or move!