

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Columnist Ben Wijffelaars leads things off with a report of his first experiences with ChatGPT, a computer program that by itself can produce text. It turned out that the program had difficulties with some cactus names.

Theo Heijnsdijk continues his series of articles dealing with the 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s. This time he concentrates on *Echinofossulocactus multicosatus*, a globular cactus from east Mexico. This plant was first described as *Echinocactus multicosatus* in the 19th century. Some confusion, going on until the present day, exists about the generic name of this plant. In 1922 Britton and Rose preferred the name *Echinofossulocactus*, rather than *Stenocactus*, a name created by Karl Schumann. In 1923 Spegazzini proposed the name *Brittonrosea*. Also the number of species remains unclear and depends on the opinion of the author: it varies from 6 (Taylor) to 22 (Backeberg). *E. multicosatus* is a variable species in many characters. The number of ribs may increase to appr. 150; the flowers, which appear in early spring, may be pale lilac to purple. Cultivation is easy and the plants are not cold-sensitive.

Bertus Spee presents part 128 of his series 'In the spotlight'. This time *Aloe littoralis*, *Echinocereus brandegeei*, *Monvillea spegazzinii* and *Pyrrhocactus umadeave* are depicted and briefly discussed.

Given the recent raise of energy prices, it becomes more and more advantageous to cultivate succulent plants in an unheated greenhouse. In his introduction Henk Ruinaard announces a series of articles about the hardiness of cacti in our climate. In following editions of Succulenta some authors will share their experiences as to this topic.

Ruud Tropper has been cultivating cacti in an unheated greenhouse for over 30 years. He grows his plants in flugsand (a volcanic material); 'Albatros Hydro' (a mixture containing necessary elements) is used as nutrition. Watering is done from March till September. All year long the greenhouse is ventilated as much as possible, without any isolation.

In a second contribution Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Ceropegia bosseri* (syn. *C. adriennae*, family Apocynaceae), a climbing species from Madagascar. The peculiar 2 cm thick, shiny dark brown stems look like the tale of a reptile. The erect 4.5 cm long flowers are white with purple petal tips.

Peter Knippels reports about some plant shows in the UK organized by the Royal Horticultural Society. He visited the Chelsea flower show and the Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival. In several gardens emphasis is put on biodiversity and climate change, with attractively arranged succulent plants.

Nadet Somers discusses the medical applications of *Kalanchoe pinnata*, also known as *Bryophyllum pinnatum* or *B. calycinum*, a leaf succulent with countless plantlets at the leaf margin (family Crassulaceae). In Indonesia this plant is called 'Sosor bebek'. It is being used as a medicine against all kinds of physical problems.

Henk de Groot starts a series of travel reports to European countries where cacti survive in nature. In part 1 he tells us about the way *Opuntia ficus-indica* fruits on Gran Canaria are harvested.

Stan Oome explored the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, east of San Diego, California. He describes the landscape, focusing on succulent plants such as agaves, ferocacti, opuntias, mammillarias and echinocerei.

Wolter ten Hoeve made a selection of the most important articles in foreign journals on succulent plants.

Tom Twijnstra remembers the German couple Jörg and Brigitte Piltz, cactus lovers and seed sellers. Jörg Piltz died last April.

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