

## Summary

*Rob Bregman*

Ben Wijffelaars opens this issue with a warning to our members who cultivate cacti outdoors. They should protect their plants against damage by magpies because these common birds use cactus spines and wool as nest material.

Theo Heijnsdijk discusses another plant from the 1932 'Verkade' handbook entitled 'Vetplanten'. This time the subject is *Cotyledon orbiculata*, a leaf succulent from the South African Cape Region. Already in 1624, this plant was collected, described and depicted by the Dutch physician Justus van Heurne. The official description followed much later (1753) by Linnaeus. In 1978 the Australian botanist Hellmut Tölken introduced the genus *Tylecodon* for those *Cotyledon* species with spirally arranged deciduous leaves. The remaining cotyledons possess leaf pairs. *C. orbiculata* is extremely variable; today 5 varieties are recognized: var. *orbiculata*, var. *spuria*, var. *flanaganii*, var. *dactyloopsis* and var. *oblonga*. *C. undulata* is considered as a synonym of *C. orbiculata* var. *oblonga*. The natural habitat stretches away from Angola to the Eastern Cape. Cultivation is easy; seeds are readily available.

In part 129 of his series 'In the spotlight' Bertus Spee gives short descriptions of *Coryphantha octacantha*, *Echeveria agavoides*, *Echinocereus dasyacanthus* var. *ctenoides* and *Mila caespitosa*.

Nadet Somers pays attention to succulent plant lover Sjaan Storsbergen. She has a large collection and sells many plants on plant markets, even in other countries. She specializes in aeoniums, many Chinese multi-colored hybrids in particular.

Henk Ruinaard presents part 3 in our series on the hardiness of succulents in the Dutch climate. Henk possesses a large collection of *Echinocereus*. For economic reasons he had stopped with heating during wintertime since 2014. His experience is that most *Echinocereus* species survive winter temperatures down to -10 °C. Only a few species from Baja California do not, so they are taken inside the house. In exceptional circumstances, such as last winter with an unusually cold December, a few more plants did not survive.

With the advice of Henk Ruinaard, Doan Tran constructed an outdoor table for her cacti. Thanks to a polycarbonate roof, a 200 Watt heater and 3 lamps, the temperature did not drop below zero.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his visit to Terlingua, situated in the Big Bend National Park, Texas. This is a place where many cacti can be found, such as *Echinocereus*, *Coryphantha*, *Thelocactus*, *Ariocarpus*.

Another travel report is presented by Andre van Zuijlen, who visited the habitat of *Mammillaria plumosa* near Garcia, Mexico, in 2008. Andre gives several other habitat locations.

Peter Knippels deals with the history of the Krelage nursery in Haarlem, an enterprise run by father, son and grandson Krelage from 1811 to 1925. They were growers of many plant groups but particularly bulbs and cacti.

Andre van Zuijlen rectifies an error in the caption of his photo in the August issue, page 160. This photo shows *Denmoza rhodacantha*, not *Soehrensia (Echinopsis) formosa*.

Wolter ten Hoeve gives his usual abstract of some interesting articles in other journals on succulent plants ('Euphorbia World', 'Piante Grasse' and 'Avonia').

Tom Twijnstra noticed some flowering yuccas in public parks and suddenly he realized how beautiful they are!

r.bregman@contact.uva.nl