

## Summary

Rob Bregman

Item number one on Ben Wijffelaars's bucket list is his wish to once more visit the Canary island of La Palma, to admire *Senecio kleinia*.

In his series about the 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s Theo Heijnsdijk discusses *Echinocereus pentalophus*. This cactus from northern Mexico has been known since 1828, when T. Coulter sent two boxes filled with cacti to A. De Candolle in Geneva, Switzerland. According to Coulter, one box contained 3 varieties of *Cereus pentalophus* (var. *simplex*, var. *subarticulatus* and var. *radicans*). In 1859 George Engelmann described *Cereus procumbens*, another pentalophus-looking plant. In 1848 Engelmann proposed *Echinocereus* as a new genus for the small *Cereus* species but changed his mind in favor of the rank of subgenus. Later, the name *Echinocereus* was broadly accepted as genus. *E. pentalophus* is easy to cultivate and is not threatened in nature ('least concern' in the IUCN Red List).

Wolter ten Hoeve has a large collection of Mexican cacti, many of which are mammillarias. In 2003 he found out that in our climate many species can withstand several degrees below zero, providing that the substrate is completely dry. They survive because water loss lowers the freezing point of the cell plasma. For most of his plants Wolter stops watering at the end of August. Moreover, he discovered that fully desiccated cacti flower better the next year. Of course, there are exceptions, such as fall-blooming genera (*Ariocarpus*) and plants from warmer habitats.

In part 133 of his ongoing series Bertus Spee shines his spotlight on four African succulents, viz. *Aloe compressa*, *Cyphostemma currorii*, *Kalanchoe bitteri* and *Moringa ovalifolia*.

Nicolas Samyn reports about his trip to the mountains of the Yerba Loca Park in central Chile, not far from Santiago. He and his companions Luc Vandecaveye and Stefan Burger found *Echinopsis chiloensis*, *Eriogyne curvispina* and *Austrocactus spiniflorus*.

Another travel report (part 18 of his series entitled 'a special place') is presented by Andre van Zuijlen. In 2019, he went to the Parque Nacional Huascarán, Peru, to see the famous *Puya raimondii*, the giant 'queen of the Andes'. A flowering plant can reach a height of 15 meters. The thousands of flowers of the inflorescence are pollinated by humming birds. One plant can produce 10 million seeds but the majority seems to die after germination.

Jos Huizer started an experiment to plant a number of frost-resistant opuntias on a flat roof of the barn next to his home. He was surprised to see that particularly *O. cespitosa* and *O. humifusa* were doing fine, producing many flowers.

A third travel report is brought by Bart Hensel. He and his wife visited two quebradas (dry river beds) in coastal Chile to look for copiapoas, especially the recently described *C. hoffmanniana*, which may be considered as a southern form of *C. cinerascens*.

Nadet Somers visited Jan Magnin, Succulenta member for 65 years. From 1978 on, he is chairman of a local (close to Rotterdam) division of Succulenta.

Ruud Tropper deals with the cold resistance of *Echinocactus* species. He collected data concerning the lowest temperatures these plants have survived at four different locations in the western Netherlands. *E. polycephalus* even survived temperatures down to minus 15 °C!

Wolter ten Hoeve gives his usual overview of the contents of other journals on succulent plants.

Tom Twijnstra feels a special attraction to plants with unusual names, such as *Haworthia springbokvlakensis* (named after the Springbok Plain in South Africa). However, the flowers are less promising than the name suggests.

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