Summary

Rob Bregman

Columnist Ben Wijffelaars remembers Eloino Perdomo Placeres, director of the cactus garden on Lanzarote, who passed away four years ago.

In his ongoing series dealing with the old 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s, Theo Heijnsdijk discusses *Parodia scopa*, probably better known under its former name *Notocactus scopa.* This plant from the Brazilian-Uruguayan border area has already been in cultivation since late 18th century, first as *Cactus scopa*, thereafter as *Echinocactus scopa.* The first-published illustration was by the German botanists Johann Link and Friedrich Otto in 1831. Despite several differences in flower, fruit and seed, the Briton Nigel Taylor transferred the plant to the genus *Parodia* in 1987. Due to the wide variety in spination, many infraspecific taxa have been described during the last century, most of which are now considered synonyms. At present, many natural populations are in danger of extinction by grazing cattle, over-collecting, agriculture and forestry, so on the IUCN Red List *P. scopa* is classified as 'vulnerable'. In cultivation the plant requires a warm but not too hot and sunny place; in winter 8-10 ºC.

Bertus Spee presents part 135 of his series 'In the spotlight', this time showing *Aztekium hintonii*, *Dioon edule*, *Echinomastus mariposensis* and a cristate form of *Thelocactus conothelos*.

Stan Oome deals with *Mammillaria bertholdii*, a recently (2014) described small species related to *M. theresae*. He bought a portion of 10 seeds, 4 of which germinated. In the second year one plant already flowered. Then, he bought another 20 seeds yielding 15 seedlings. Stan now tries to find out which substrate is most suitable.

Theo Heijnsdijk's second contribution is about *Aeonium simsii* (Crassulaceae), an endemic species from Gran Canaria that looks like a haworthia. In contrast to most other aeoniums, this species is not monocarpic, which means that the plant does not die after flowering. The inflorescence consists of a raceme of yellow flowers arising from the stem just below the small leaf rosettes.

Ruud Tropper continues his series on cold resistance with *Leuchtenbergia principis*. Cactus grower Steven Brack in Belen, New Mexico, told him that this species is able to survive -10 ºC. However, back home all specimens tested by Ruud died at this temperature.

Henk de Groot takes pleasure in visiting cactus populations in Europe. In part 3 he found a group of espostoas, on the Canary island of Tenerife. This population probably belongs to the remains of a deserted nursery.

Nicolas Samyn reports about his visit to the natural park of Puquén, in Los Molles, Chile. Together with Luc Vandecaveye, he could admire two *Puya* species, and several cacti such as *Eriosyce*, *Echinopsis* and *Eulychnia* species.

Nadet Somers visited Herman Vertongen, a 87 year old Flemish cactus hobbyist and 70(!) year member of Succulenta. Herman has made a lot of journeys to succulent plant habitats all over the world. In 1992 he discovered a new *Pyrrhocactus* species in Argentina, which was described as *Pyrrhocactus vertongenii*. Moreover, a subspecies of *Gymnocalycium bodenbenderianum* was named after him.

Freddie Delabarre remembers the Belgian Frans DeLaet (1866-1928), one of the most leading cactus growers at the end of the 19th century.

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

At the back cover, Tom Twijnstra shows the beaucarnea (*Asparagaceae*) he got from his parents. The plant turned from a miserable and neglected small globule into a nice and healthy plant.

r.bregman@contact.uva.nl