Summary

Rob Bregman

Columnist Ben Wijffelaars's succulent plant hobby seems to enhance his 'ecological footprint'. He got this information from his bank!

Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Aeonium goochiae*, a compact bushy species from the Crassulaceae family with remarkably thin leaves. It is endemic to the Canary island of La Palma. The plant was first described in 1836 as *Sempervivum goochiae* by the British botanist Philip Webb, who named the plant after his stepfather Thomas Gooch. The flower consists of usually 8 pale pink-colored petals and twice as many stamens. In cultivation sometimes hybridization takes place with other aeoniums. The plants should preferably be kept outside the greenhouse, for as long as it does not freeze.

In his series of columns entitled 'In the spotlight' Bertus Spee discusses *Maihuenia poeppigii*, *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* and *Yucca thompsoniana*.

Nicolas Samyn visited the habitat of *Copiapoa cinerea*, near Taltal in the Chilean Atacama desert. He came across large plant groups of probably several hundred years old. Sadly, the plants are increasingly threatened by habitat destruction caused by mining activities.

Aat van Uijen starts a series of articles on epiphytic cacti. In part 1 he discusses the natural habitats [mostly (sub)tropical woods] and the cultivation of these plants. Many species can be successfully cultivated on a window-sill facing east or west. In summer a shady but light place outdoors will be fine. Hot sun should be avoided. In Germany there is a club called EPIG, for lovers of epiphytes.

Aiko Talens reports about his method of preparing and cleaning seeds of mesembs. He first put the seed capsules in a glass jar filled with water. After shaking thoroughly, the seeds are set free. Then, the water is removed by pouring through a coffee filter.

A comparable method is described by Wolter ten Hoeve. He outlines how to get rid of the fruit pulp of mammillarias in order to collect the seeds. He uses a stick blender, even to collect seeds from dead plants with seeds still hidden inside the plant body, such as in *M. theresae*.

Henk Ruinaard presents part 3 of the results of his germination experiments with *Echinocereus* seeds. He now focusses on the influence of coverage of the seeds by fine gravel, using seed samples of 12 species, 4 of which were diploid, 6 tetraploid and 2 hexaploid. The general result was that uncovered seeds germinated better and faster. However, seeds covered by a thin layer of gravel germinated slower but at the end the overall results were almost the same, because there was less mortality of the seedlings.

Henk de Groot presents his last contribution on cacti in Europe (in fact, cacti settled in Spanish and Portuguese islands outside the European continent). On the Canary island of Tenerife, he found species of *Tephrocactus*, *Cleistocactus*, *Pilosocereus*, *Cylindropuntia* and *Stenocereus*.

Wolter ten Hoeve went through the foreign journals 'Kakteen und andere Sukkulenten' and 'Kaktusy' and gives a short abstract of the most interesting articles.

As usual in our December issue, all articles published in 2025 are listed. They are arranged according to subject.

Finally, Tom Twijnstra reports about peat as a component of a cactus substrate. He used to repot his plants right after acquisition from a cactus nursery, but he found out that such plants were doing surprisingly well without repotting.

r.bregman@contact.uva.nl