Summary

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars suffers from fear of heights (acrophobia), maybe that's why he prefers cultivating globular cacti rather than tall columnar species.

Theo Heijnsdijk deals with *Aeonium lindleyi*, a rather small Crassulacean species from Tenerife. It was first described in 1840. *Aeonium viscatum* from the island of La Gomera, described in 1859, is now considered a subspecies of *A. lindleyi*. Both subspecies have rosettes of sticky leaves. Flowers are borne on 15 cm long racemes; the number of petals varies, ranging from 6 to 9. The sap seems to reduce the nasty effect (particularly on the human eye) of the white latex of *Euphorbia* species. The leaves comprise lindleyine, which is used in the treatment of Parkinson patients. *A. lindleyi* hybridizes with other *Aeonium* species. Cultivation is easy, in summer preferably outside the greenhouse.

Bertus Spee brings part 145 of his ongoing series 'In the spotlight', this time with brief descriptions and habitat pictures of *Pachypodium lealii*, *Echinocereus bonkerae*, *Mammillaria humboldtii* and *Copiapoa solaris*.

A second contribution by Theo Heijnsdijk is about the monumental dragon blood trees (*Dracaena draco*) on the Canary island of La Palma. Nowadays, these magnificent trees can only be seen in small towns and villages. Natural habitats do not exist anymore, with exception of Tenerife. Theo gives details of five locations on La Palma where old dragon trees can be admired.

Aat van Uijen pays attention to *Weberocereus tunilla*, an epiphytic cactus from Costa Rica and adjacent Panama. *Weberocereus* is closely related to *Selenicereus.* The 5 cm long pale-pink flowers open at night; the flower buds are spreading a peculiar odor that disappears after full anthesis. Pollination takes place by bats. The subspecies *biolleyi* has triangular stems and white flowers.

A 13 page (translated) article about *Pediocactus paradinei* is presented by Jean Bonnefond. This small cactus occurs in pine-juniper woods (Kaibab forest) in Arizona, USA. In 2006 its habitat was badly damaged by a mass fire, destroying almost 20 % of its total (already small) distribution area. Consequently, survival of this rare species is even more in jeopardy. *P. paradinei* was discovered in 1956, but at first taken for a new variety of *P. simpsonii*. For its pilose radial spines, the new genus *Pilocanthus* was introduced by Curt Backeberg. Cultivation is tricky, growth is very slow; a pure mineral substrate is recommended.

Ruud Tropper presents part 13 of his research on the frost tolerance of cacti. Now he publishes the results of his experiments with lobivias (*Echinopsis*). Surprisingly, in Ruud's greenhouse many Andean species did not survive temperatures below zero, with exception of *L. bonnieae* and *L. famatimensis*. All results, including those of Belen (New Mexico, USA) are put together in a table. In general, the American data show a stronger cold tolerance than the Dutch.

Wolter ten Hoeve went through other journals on succulent plants. He gives abstracts of the most important articles.

Tom Twijnstra hates the use of plastic flowers in cacti by florists, but when he tried to remove such fake flowers, he found out that it were real ones.

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