Summary October 2026

Rob Bregman

Columnist Ben Wijffelaars is a little confused because of a number of seemingly unrelated events: his cat, the beauty and cultural value of the Dutch landscape, and the admiration of the cactus collection of our chief editor.

Theo Heijnsdijk discusses *Sedum sedifolium*, a Crassulacean species from the Canary Islands with sedum-like leaves. Probably discovered in 1846 by the Frenchman Eugène Bourgeau, it was first described as *Aichryson sedifolium* by the German Carl Bolle in 1859. The natural habitats are situated in Tenerife, La Palma and La Gomera, at a maximum altitude of 1000 m. *A. sedifolium* is capable to hybridize with several other aeoniums, such as *A. nobile*, *A. canariense*, *A. davidbramwellii*, *A. goochiae*, *A. spathulatum*, *A. urbicum* and *A. decorum*. Most of these hybrids turn out less vital than their parent species. Cultivation should be preferably outside the greenhouse in a sunny spot.

Petra Romijn deals with *Dioscorea sylvatica*, a South African climbing species with a semi-subterranean robust stem (caudex) and slender long climbing stems. The plants use to grow in the shade of trees and shrubs. On the IUCN Red List *D. sylvatica* is classified as vulnerable due to grazing by cattle and illegal collecting for medical purposes. On female specimens winged seeds may develop, which rotate downwards while falling. Cultivation is easy, but hot sun should be avoided.

In part 147 of his series ‘In the spotlight’ Bertus Spee discusses *Gymnocalycium schickendantzii*, *Haworthia retusa, Peniocereus greggii* and *Turbinicarpus valdezianus.*

Aat van Uijen brings part 5 of his series on epiphytic cacti. Now the subject is *Disocactus nelsonii,* a species from the moist mountainous forests of southern Mexico and Guatemala, with flattened stems and pink upwardly bent flowers.

Another contribution on epiphytic succulents is given by Frank Süpplie. His fascination for such plants was stimulated by his childhood visits to Dutch cactus nurseries, such as that of the Van Donkelaar family in Werkendam. In honor of the founder, Frank now introduces a new hybrid: *Schlumberge*ra × *buckleyi* ‘Huibrecht van Donkelaar’. This new hybrid is special for its ochraceous flowers. The parent plants are two other *Schlumbergera buckleyi* hybrids.

Nicolas Samin reports about *Miqueliopuntia miquelii,* a relatively unknown cactus from the northern Chilean coastal deserts. The plants survive by taking up water from sea fog. Another adaptation is the ability to accumulate salts in the vacuoles, a feature commonly found in sea shore plants.

Aiko Talens deals with *Mammillaria breviplumosa*, a recently (2020) described dwarf species from Durango, Mexico. The natural population is reported to be small, about 4000 specimens, so grazing cattle seem to be a serious threat. The fruits are hidden almost inside the plant body, so collecting seeds is rather difficult.

Henk Ruinaard visited the Canyon de Chelly National Monument in NE Arizona, USA, home of the Navajo indians. Special attention is paid *to Echinocereus triglochidiatus* subsp. *mojavensis* and *Escobaria vivipara* subsp. *arizonica*.

Annemieke van Ling reports about her communication on Facebook with other Haworthia lovers all over the world.

In our new series (in translation) ‘Gold for old’ Aiko Talens tells us about his oldest self-sown succulent. That is *Pachypodium lamerei*, a stem succulent belonging to the Apocynaceae family from Madagascar, sown in 1998.

Wolter ten Hoeve went through the contents of some foreign journals on succulent plants.

Tom Twijnstra noticed some strange looking *Mammillaria rhodantha* specimens in a cactus nursery. Flowers arose from a woolly apex, as if these plants had a cephalium.

r.bregman@contact.uva.nl