

SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Since we all are still in shock by the sudden death of our dear friend and chief editor Ludwig Bercht, we would like to honor him posthumously by publishing *Schlumbergera x reginae* 'Ludwig Bercht', shown on the cover of this issue. Frank Süpplie dedicates this new hybrid to Ludwig's memory.

Also, columnist Ben Wijffelaars reminisces Ludwig, who was editor during 27 years. Sadly enough, he will just be missing the centenary of the journal 'Succulenta', which will be on June 16 this year. In a second contribution, Ben describes one of Ludwig's many presentations at local meetings throughout the country, captivatingly telling about his experiences in South America while searching for cacti.

In his short column at the back page, Tom Twijnstra is the third author who remembers Ludwig. His *Gymnocalycium* collection is the result of purchasing seeds from Ludwig's catalogue.

In his ongoing series of articles dealing with the 'Verkade' handbooks of the 1930s, Theo Heijnsdijk now concentrates on *Ariocarpus retusus*. This spinesless Mexican cactus was first described in 1838 by J. Scheidweiler. One year later, this very same plant was described as *Anhalonium prismaticum* by C. Lemaire, apparently unaware of Scheidweiler's description. The epithet 'retusus' refers to the African leaf succulent *Haworthia retusa*, which is a bit similar. While the mature plants seem to lack areoles, young seedlings exhibit tiny spines. Some plants produce purple flowers, but the dominant flower color is whitish to cream. In

their 1997 revision of the genus *Ariocarpus*, E. Anderson and W. Fitz Maurice recognized 6 species and 2 subspecies. One of those subspecies is *A. retusus* subsp. *trigonus* (with longer tubercles), in 1893 described by F. Weber as *Anhalonium trigonum*. Probably because of its vast distribution area, *A. retusus* is not seriously threatened in nature. However, for practical reasons, all *Ariocarpus* species are placed on CITES appendix 1.

Bertus Spee presents part 115 of his series entitled 'In the spotlight'. This part covers *Anacampseros comptonii*, a South African leaf succulent, and *Austrocylindropuntia floccosa*, a cactus from the Peruvian high Andes. Both plants are shown in their natural habitats.

A contribution by myself deals with the *Thelocactus conothelos* complex, a group of Mexican cacti consisting of *T. conothelos* (with its subspecies *argenteus*, *aurantiacus* and *flavus*), *T. saussieri* (syn. *T. conothelos* subsp. *aurantiacus*), *T. panarottoanus* (syn. *T. flavus*) and *T. garciae*. A common characteristic is the pyramid-shaped and smooth seed coat. For its granular and weakly convex testa surface, *T. macdowellii* does not belong in this group.

Another multipartite series of articles is called 'a special place', written by André van Zuijlen. In part 15, André reports about his 2020 trip to northern Argentina, where he visited the habitat of the sympatrically growing *Oreocereus celsianus* and *O. trollii*. *O. trollii* has smaller, often half-creeping and more densely hirsute stems and shorter flowers than *O. celsianus*, but intermediate forms (probably hybrids) can also be found. Sometimes, even hybridization with *Lobivia ferox* takes place.

Peter Knippels concludes that he has learned a lot but still not enough. He moved his *Hoodia gordonii* from the window-sill to the greenhouse, and it flowered in June. Ants seemed to get attracted by mealy bugs, *Sesamothamnus guerichii* (a caudex plant from Namibia) and *Welwitschia mirabilis* were doing well. The *Stetsonya coryne* seedlings were kept too dry but just survived.

Trudy Welman obtained a *Kalanchoe tubiflora*, travelling as a stowaway with another plant. After potting, it produced abnormally many branches. When placed inside the house, the flower color changed from red to pale salmon. The normally carmine flowers of her oleander even turned almost white indoors.

Wolter ten Hoeve resumes a selection of the most interesting articles in other journals on succulent plants.

rob.bregman@icloud.com