

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars noticed that in some western US states the grass of lawns, road sides and front gardens was replaced by succulents, due to water shortage. He speculates that global warming could cause a similar situation in Europe.

In his series on the 'Verkade' handbooks of the 1930s, Theo Heijnsdijk now focuses on *Crassula arborescens*, a well-known leaf succulent from the Little Karoo, South Africa. Already in 1720, the Dutch scientist Herman Boerhaave mentioned this plant (as a cotyledon) in a catalogue of the Leiden botanic garden. In 1768 the plant was first-described by the Englishman Philip Miller as *Cotyledon arborescens*. In 1798 the plant was placed in the genus *Crassula* as *Crassula arborescens* by the German botanist Carl Willdenow. In 1975 the subspecies *undulatifolia* was introduced, formerly known as *Crassula portulacea* cv. 'Blauwe Vogel' (blue bird), with less succulent, undulate leaves. The number of petals may be 4, 5 or even 6. Subsp. *arborescens* is easy to cultivate but flowers do not readily appear. However, subsp. *undulatifolia* blooms much easier, mostly in winter.

Bertus Spee presents part 124 of his series 'In the spotlight'. This time *Echinocereus reichenbachii* subsp. *fitchii*, *Edithcolea grandis*, *Oroya peruviana* and *Peniocereus serpentinus* are depicted and briefly described.

Henk Ruinaard reports about his visit to the Big Bend National Park, a 3242 square km nature reserve in southern Texas, USA. The vegetation consists mainly of succulents, among which many cacti. There are several roads and trails built for tourists. This 12 page article is nicely illustrated with 22 photos, 3 of them showing animals.

In the Netherlands the trade of cacti is controlled by the NVWA (food and consumer product safety authority). The NVWA follows the rules of CITES, a treaty introduced in 1979, in order to protect endangered species. It contains 3 appendices, with the most

threatened (plant and animal) species on appendix 1 and all other cacti on appendix 2. Seeds of Mexican cacti are also subjected to CITES rules. For import and export of cacti a permit is required. Import of appendix 1 cacti is almost always prohibited.

In our column 'On my window-sill', Jan Statema deals with *Dorstenia foetida* (Moraceae, fig family). His specimen was sown in 1990. The inflorescence is quite remarkable, with many flowers united on a flat receptacle.

Ruud Tropper presents some *Schlumbergera* cultivars with multi-petal flowers: S. 'Branca Dobrada' (white), S. 'Olivia Sofia' (red), S. 'Double Surprise' (pink, white throat), S. 'Pole Star' (white and pink) and S. 'Yellow Dwarf' with rounded stem segments and yellow flowers.

In Arizona, USA, Roelof Salters found *Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *acunensis*, a rare and threatened cactus. During the last 3 decades about 80% of the plants have disappeared. They suffer severely from drought, which is obvious from pictures of a single plant photographed in 2019 and 2022.

The contribution of Cok Grootscholten about the history of *Sedum hernandezii* is an improved version of his article in our October issue. It was dr. Hernandez himself who gave him the unknown *Sedum* leaves!

In our column 'Memories', Henk Viscaal remembers the beginning of his cactus hobby. A busy family life with young kids combined with too much water killed most of his plants. Nevertheless, he did not give up!

As usual, all authors, plant names and article titles are listed alphabetically.

Tom Twijnstra missed the very old *Mammillaria spinosissima* he used to admire in the Rotterdam Arboretum Trompenburg. After renovation of the greenhouse it was gone.

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