

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars answers Andre van Zuijlen's call to our readers to write something about their special memories. His choice was the Namibian *Welwitschia mirabilis*, but that plant had just been discussed by Peter Knippels. Instead, Ben's second best memories are a bunch of bugs on a welwitschia and the finding of a South African drosera (*D. cistiflora*) growing on a previously unknown location.

In Theo Heijnsdijk's series on the old 'Verkade' handbooks from the 1930s, this time focus is put on *Cleistocactus strausii*. This well-known snowy-whitely spined cereoid cactus was first described as *Pilocereus Strausii*, after material that was collected in Bolivia by the German naturalist August Fiebrig in 1903/04. In 1934 Curt Backeberg transferred the plant to the genus *Cleistocactus*. In cultivation, several hybrids exist, not only with related genera such as *Oreocereus* but also with *Espostoa* and *Echinopsis*. Some additional general information about the genus *Cleistocactus* is given; the number of accepted species declined from 52 (Backeberg, 1966) to 17 (Hunt, 2006). In 2016 the Englishman Martin Lowry recognized 24 species. Cultivation of *C. strausii* is easy; the plant is self-fertile and survives temperatures down to minus 10°C. The plants are not threatened in nature, probably because of the inaccessibility of many of their habitats.

In part 126 of his series 'In the spotlight', Bertus Spee brings short descriptions of *Copiapoa gigantea*, *Crassula montana*, *Escobaria vivipara* var. *deserti* and *Melocactus harlowii* subsp. *borhidii*.

In our new series of articles entitled 'memories', Riet Maessen looks back at her trip to Madagascar in 2019. She visited the nature reserve Reniala, where many endemic plant and animal species can be admired. 6 species of baobabs (genus *Adansonia*) are endemic to Madagascar. One of those (*A. rubrostipa*) is called 'the tea-pot' and is shown on the cover.

Peter Knippels visited 3 botanic gardens in the UK. The Oxford garden, from 1621, is the oldest English botanic garden. Kew Gardens, in Richmond, London, is much larger. Founded in 1759, Kew has become a center of plant systematics with a herbarium, a library and even a notable magazine (Curtis's Botanical magazine). The third garden Peter visited was Wisley Gardens in Surrey. Top-attraction is its 12 meter tall greenhouse divided into 3 sections with a tropical, subtropical and desert climate regime.

Henk Ruinaard reports about the cacti alongside the Apache trail, a road used by Indian tribes near Phoenix, Arizona. While following the 64 km dirt road, you can see many succulent and xerophytic plants, museums, viewpoints and other interesting historical places. Special attention is given to *Echinocereus apachensis*, a plant discovered here in 1929. Now it is considered a subspecies of *E. bonkeræ*. Good news is Henk's discovery of many young saguaros (*Carnegiea gigantea*).

Lothar Diers and Hansjörg Jucker publish the first description of *Parodia acchillensis*, a new species from the Bolivian province of Nor Cinti. According to the authors, this taxon is related to *P. subterranea* and differs in some root, flower, spine and seed characters. An English and German summary are included.

Wolter ten Hove brings his usual selection of the most important articles recently published in other journals on succulent plants.

Tom Twijnstra observed the increasing resourcefulness of flower shops and supermarkets to decorate small cacti and other succulents. This commercialisation began with plastic flowers but now all kinds of other decorations can be met with.

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