

BOOK REVIEW

Die Gattung Sulcorebutia compiled by Karlheinz Brinkmann and published as a special edition for the journal of the Deutsche Kakteen Gesellschaft, Kakteen und andere Sukkulente, May 1976, by Steinhart KG, 7820 Titisee Neustadt, West Germany. 160 x 230mm, 80 pages, 11 illustrations, 11 drawings and 3 sketch-maps. Price DM 9-80.

A very reasonably priced book full of all the published data and comment on *Sulcorebutias* culled from the world's succulent plant literature up to the end of 1975. Everything that the *Sulcorebutia* enthusiasts and study-groups require is included plus extensive references, lists of field numbers, maps and botanical drawings.

The treatment is entirely factual, a literal precis and or translation of everything published, good and bad, and completely uncritical. No attempt is made to assess the different Systems of classification proposed by various authorities, Backeberg, Buxbaum, Cardenas, Donald, Rausch, Ritter and by no means least Brederoo, and all get a very fair hearing as the subject matter is faithfully recorded and it is left to the reader to make his own assessment.

It is indeed a very useful and handy book and highly recommended. All the descriptions are included verbatim from the original reference except where regrettably they have been abstracted from Backeberg's Das Kakteen Lexicon as occurs with the Cardenas & Ritter descriptions originally published in English language journals. Backeberg made some mistakes and these same mistakes are repeated in Dr. Brinkmann's survey. Mostly the mistakes are relatively minor ones but the most glaring one is giving the habitat of *Sulcorebutia glomeriseta* as "Hacienda Ressini - Sucre - Dept. Cochabamba" [sic]. Sucre is, of course, in Dept. Chuquisaca, but that is not the error because the true habitat is near Naranjito above the Rio Ayopaya in Ayopaya Province, Dept. Cochabamba. Admittedly Brinkmann covers himself by saying it is transcribed from Backeberg, but by repeating it he compounds the literary error and the less discerning will believe the habitat to be genuinely "Hacienda Ressini". The history of this error starts as a disbelief by Backeberg that *Rebutia glomeriseta* Cardenas transferred to *Sulcorebutia* by Ritter was a genuine *Sulcorebutia*. At the same time Gerhard Frank had brought back from Hacienda Ressini a white spined *Aylostera* that superficially resembled the description given by Cardenas for "*glomeriseta*" and Backeberg took them to be *glomeriseta* and in his customary way modified the habitat accordingly. The plants from Hacienda Ressini were also later distributed by Cardenas - this time as *Rebutia spinosissima* - however, even this name was wrong - the plants are a white spined form of *R. fiebrigii* known as *R. nivosa* Ritt. nom. nud. distantly related to *R. spinosissima* admittedly.

It is interesting to note that a *Sulcorebutia* species does indeed exist on the Hacienda Ressini - first found by Alfred Lau as Lau 989a and tentatively identified as *Sulcorebutia verticillacantha* var. "large flower" and others have since found the plant again giving it the name *Sulcorebutia ressiniana* but so far no valid description. Note also that Lau 974 is *Sulcorebutia muschii*, a form of *S. menesesii* and not *S. haseltoniana* as stated.

John Donald

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