
FROM THE EDITOR

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It is my pleasure to introduce the latest issue of *Haseltonia*. Volume 12 continues in the fine tradition of its predecessors by having a variety of remarkably high quality research papers on a wide variety of topics—from molecular evolution to physiology to morphology to classical taxonomy—on a wide variety of succulent plants. This issue contains nine full-length papers, one nomenclatural note and an excerpt of new combinations recently published in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. The three longest papers are on succulent Crassulaceae in South America and Turkey. They remind us how little we still know about biodiversity and evolution of such conspicuous plants, despite their horticultural interest. There are two papers on cacti, one of which beautifully falsifies my hypotheses about evolution of *Blossfeldia*. A paper on morphology of ocotillo warns us that it is not simple determining the age of these prominent desert plants. The remaining papers introduce new taxa in several different succulent plant families.

The following new taxa and combinations are published in this volume:

- Agave attenuata* SALM-DYCK ssp. *dentata* (ROEHL) ULLRICH, comb. & stat. nov. (Agavaceae)
- Agave galvaniae* (A. CASTAÑEDA, S. FRANCO & GARCÍA-MENDOZA) ETTER & KRISTEN, comb. nov. (Agavaceae)
- Aloe jibisana* L. E. NEWTON, sp. nov. (Asphodelaceae, Aloaceae)
- Blossfeldieae C. A. BUTTERWORTH, tribus nov. (Cactaceae)
- Euphorbia gilbertiana* BISSERET & SPECKS, sp. nov. (Euphorbiaceae)
- Sedum incarum* (BALL) PINO, comb. nov. (Crassulaceae)
- Sedum renzopalmae* PINO, sp. nov. (Crassulaceae)
- Tunilla picardoi* J. MARNIER-LAPOSTOLLE EX A. GUIGGI & G. DELANOY, sp. nov. (Cactaceae)

We are indebted to the panoply of experts who selflessly contributed their time and energies to reviewing the papers herein. Each article has passed the scrutiny of at least two experts. Some mentioned here reviewed manuscripts not accepted for publication, and some agreed to review more than one paper. Thanks again to K Alpiner, John Lavranos, Sherwin Carlquist, James Low, Urs Eggli, Marlon Machado, Abdul Nasser Al-Gifri, Gordon McPherson, Mike Gilbert, John Miller, Sara Good-Avila, Roy Mottram, Patrick Griffith, Jafet Nasser, Jim Henrickson, J Mark Porter, Mats Hjertson, John Pascarella, Wendy Hodgson, Susan Pell, Susan Carter Holmes, Guillermo Pino, Brian Kemble, Chris Quinn, Roberto Kiesling, Dominique Thépot, Myron Kinnach and Jeanette Whitton.

I would like to extend a hearty thanks to several others for seeing this issue to fruition. Russell Wagner has patiently taught me the day-to-day operations of editing. In addition to his extraordinary work as editor of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, he manages this publication and has also composed the bulk of the layout for this issue. The Cactus and Succulent Society of America, through its Board, has provided unending moral and financial support for *Haseltonia*. They have truly believed in the importance of this venue for publishing high quality, peer-reviewed research on cacti and succulents. In particular, I wish to highlight (albeit certainly not to the exclusion of others) the leadership of Leo Martin, Dan Mahr and Dick Wiedhopf. I am indebted to the pioneering work of Myron Kinnach and our last editor, Michael Hawkes, who shepherded *Haseltonia* along for many fine issues. Both of them have provided me with sound advice since I became editor in February 2006.