

FROM THE EDITOR

ROOT GORELICK

Department of Biology, Carleton University
1125 Colonel by Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada
root_gorelick@carleton.ca

Science and natural history can and should be timeless. Volume 13 of *Haseltonia* is no exception. Other than the color photos, at first blush it looks almost as though this volume could have been published a century ago. This not meant in a pejorative sense. The authors in this volume needed little more than a ticket on a plane (vice ship), a backpack, a plant press, a microscope... and yet their work is as relevant today as ever. In fact, it might even be more relevant as we witness the ongoing diminution in classical and non-molecular botany. It is therefore fitting that we begin this issue with the eleventh installment of Charles Uhl's gorgeous work on the cytology of *Echeveria*. Other youngsters, such as John Lavranos, also grace these pages. While we enthusiastically publish molecular studies, one of the goals of *Haseltonia* is to provide a venue for classical botany, at least with regards to cacti and succulents, and thereby foster the next generation of serious enthusiasts, amateur and professional alike. There is still much to learn about the natural world and every reason to disseminate that knowledge while we still can.

The following six new combinations are published in this issue of *Haseltonia*:

Aloe ampefyana CASTILLON sp. nov. (Asphodelaceae, Alooidaeae)

Aloe elkerriana DIOLI & MCCOY sp. nov. (Asphodelaceae, Alooidaeae)

Aloe kahinii MCCOY & LAVRANOS sp. nov. (Asphodelaceae, Alooidaeae)

Aloe rubrodonta MCCOY & LAVRANOS sp. nov. (Asphodelaceae, Alooidaeae)

Aloe wernerii CASTILLON sp. nov. (Asphodelaceae, Alooidaeae)

Echidnopsis uraiqatiana DIOLI sp. nov. (Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae)

Each paper has been reviewed by at least two experts. I am indebted to the panoply of people who selflessly contributed their time and energies to reviewing the papers herein, sometimes reviewing rejected manuscripts and sometimes reviewing multiple manuscripts. Please join me in thanking these reviewers: Peter Bruyns, Antje Burke, Urs Egli, Peter Felker, Carol Furness, Hugh Glen, Michael Greulich, Patrick Griffith, Roberto Kiesling, Héctor M Hernández, Andreas Hofacker, Ernst van Jaarsveld, Brian Kemble, James Mauseth, Tom McCoy, Detlev Metzger, Roy Mottram, Len Newton, Guillermo Pino, Manuel João Pinto, Raul Puente Martinez, Jon Rebman, Richard Spellenberg, and Lara Strittmatter

Several other people contributed greatly to the production of this volume. Russell Wagner has been a wonderful managing editor, who continues the impossible task of keeping me honest. 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. Finally, I would be severely remiss if I did not thank my two compatriots from across the pond, Colin Walker and especially Roy Mottram, editors of *Bradleya* and *Cactus World*, who have generously provided so much valuable feedback.

The next volume of *Haseltonia* is slated to focus on the enigmatic topic of early cactus evolution. At this juncture, we are not certain whether the litany of experts assembled to write on this subject will generate an entire issue or simply a core of papers to which will also be appended our standard assortment of other reports. I encourage your feedback as to whether you are interested in special issues, such as on early cactus evolution. Could you suggest other broad topics and possible contributors to such a future issue? As always, please feel free to contact me about anything regarding *Haseltonia*. Thank you very much.