

by J.C. Van Keppel.

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As one sees the picture of this exceedingly beautiful *Echeveria* it is hard to believe that this genus is so unpopular at this present day. It was different a hundred years ago, when the British plant enthusiast Mr Peacock exhibited this plant in an exhibition, it attracted much interest from enthusiastic growers and botanists.

It was discovered several years ago by the Czech horticulturalist and traveller BENEDIKT RÖSZL during an expedition to Mexico, and verbally named *Echeveria peacockii* by J. CROUCHER, an *Echeveria* specialist, who had taken care of the important collection of W.W. Saunders.

The authors name Croucher, which is in common use is thus untrue. Dr J.G. Baker author of one the best writings about the species *Echeveria*, gave a clear description, but due to the fact that he did not regard *Echeveria* as a distinct ~~species~~^{genus} called it *Cotyledon (Echeveria) peacockii*.

In the year 1871 the plant was cultivated by the well known Belgian horticulturalists De Smet under the name *E. desmetiana*, while *E. subsessilis* and *E. tenuis* about which Dr Rose has ~~written~~^{described} must be regarded as synonymous.

E. peacockii is rather variable in the shape of leaf, as well as in the flower (colour, size and position) so that it is not strange that in cultivation the plant has appeared under other faulty names. With its broad stiff and white powdered fixed leaves it is similar to a *Dudleya*, the rosette formed leaves are elongated and oval 3-7cm long 2-3cm broad, pointed, blueish in colour the upper part bordered with red. The colour of flowers vary from orange to light red and form a double row (cincinnus) with flowers clustered together on a very short stem. The stamens, flower cup and petals are very often a splendid blue when ripe.

Together with other varieties to be discussed later it belongs to the group PRUINOSAE VAN WALTHER, *E. peacockii* can both be grown from seed or by the planting of the few side shoots, cultivation by means of leaf cuttings is almost impossible. Through contact, the superb wax like surface of the leaf can be damaged thus it is advisable to water from below, plenty of sun, air and moderate watering are essential to produce beautiful specimens of this variety.