

ECHEVERIA HAAGEANA

A critical contribution on its history and nomenclature

by J. C Van Keppel

A question about the parentage of *E. haageana*, asked me in a letter from an American reader of the Cactus Journal, was a motive to me to inquire into this matter. Since I answered this letter, more data were found, and it seems to be better to record the results of my investigation in this journal.

His question runs: "I notice you mention that *E. x haageana* is a hybrid of *E. pulvinata* x *E. derenbergii*. I have this as *E. agavoides* x *E. pulchella*. I wonder now who is right, or could there be two hybrids of a similar name but with different backgrounds?"

Yes indeed, there are two and possibly more plants under this name on the market, but it is clear that only one plant may bear the name. To explain why *E. haageana* is described with more than two parents, we will follow its history from the beginning till now.

The first mention I have found of this plant is in the catalogue of the world-famous firm F. A. Haage Jr. at Erfurt, Germany. In his catalogue 106: 34,35 (1928), he offered this plant as "novelty (literally new-grown or new breeding), in growth similar to *E. agavoides*, but much more rich flowering. The fine inflorescence brings large red-yellow flowers of longer duration." He didn't mention the other parent. We assume this to be a new hybrid but Haage doesn't actually call it a hybrid. At the same time he pictured *E. haageana*. (Fig. 1).

In a catalogue of R. Graessner, Perleberg, Germany, dated 1931, *E. haageana* was stated as a hybrid of *E. agavoides* x *E. derenbergii*, without description.

W. von Roeder, in his book Sukkulente (2nd. ed. 1931) mentioned: "*E. haageana* hort. should be a hybrid of *E. agavoides* x *E. pulchella*, with a fine equal inflorescence."

Dr. K. von Poellnitz, in Fedde Rep. 39: 265 (1936), mentioned: *E. x haageana* hort.—*E. fulgens* Haage Jr. Catal. 1931 = *E. agavoides* x *E. pulchella* or *E. pulvinata*.

H. Jacobsen, in Handbuch 1:473 (1954), mentions the same as von Poellnitz. The synonymy to *E. fulgens* Haage Jr. is, in my opinion, an error.

Haage Jr. in Catalogue 111:37 (1933)—not in 1931 as mentioned by von Poellnitz—described and pictured *E. fulgens* and renamed it in his Catalogue 1935 as *E. x splendens* Haage Jr.

Both hybrids: *E. haageana* and *E. splendens* (earlier *E. fulgens*) were offered by Haage Jr. just as by R. Graessner as two different plants. *E. x fulgens* Haage Jr., possibly a hybrid of *E. elegans*, should not be confused with *E. fulgens* Lem. (syn. *E. retusa* Lindley), a plant of the Gibbiflora group. In Cact. and Succ. Journal (U.S.) 9:19-21 (1937), Eric Walther, the celebrated Echeveria specialist, described *E. x haageana* hort. as a hybrid of *E. derenbergii* x *E. pulvinata*. (Notice that the captions for the two photographs are transposed. See correction in l.c. 82, Dec. 1937).

It is evident now that Haage Jr. has not given a complete explanation of the parentage of *E. haageana*. He only stated that this plant resembled *E. agavoides*, but further data about the parentage were not mentioned by him; possibly because he was a businessman!

Summarizing the statements of parentage mentioned by the above cited authors we see the following combinations:

E. agavoides x *E. derenbergii* (Graessner)
E. agavoides x *E. pulchella* (von Roeder, von Poellnitz)
E. agavoides x *E. pulvinata* (von Poellnitz)
E. derenbergii x *E. pulvinata* (Walther)

So you can see that the opinions of the various authors are divided. When we observe Haage's picture we see a plant resembling *E. agavoides*, both in foliage and rosette form as well as in inflorescence. The bracts are small, just like *E. agavoides*, but *E. haageana* forms many lateral offshoots, in contrast to *E. agavoides*, but *E.*

haageana forms many lateral off-shoots, in contrast to *E. agavoides* which grows mostly solitary.

Going by the picture and description *E. haageana* is, in my opinion, in all probability a hybrid of *E. agavoides* and *E. elegans*. Secondly there is the possibility of a cross between *E. agavoides* and *E. derenbergii*. The large flowers and forming offshoots on undeveloped flower-stalks support this.

I don't believe that *E. pulchella* or *E. pulvinata* have had any part in this cross. Among the many unnamed *Echeverias* in my collection, I have a plant resembling Haage's picture. After further observations of the floral characteristics I hope to be able to claim that I have re-discovered the old *E. haageana* of Haage Jr.

When we look at the hybrid of Walther's description we observe a quite different plant. Although Walther mentioned that this plant was received in 1932 from Graessner as *E. x haageana* with parentage *E. agavoides* and *E. derenbergii*, it is clear that this cannot be the same as Haage's plant. I agree with Walther's supposition that his plant is a hybrid between *E. derenbergii* and *E. pulvinata*. We see some transmitted characters of both plants, as the colour of the leaves and corolla of *E. derenbergii*; the faintly papillate leaves (when young) and bracteoles of *E. pulvinata*.

It is noteworthy that I have found some specimens of the same cross but belonging to other clones.

Summarizing the above-mentioned we conclude: *E. haageana* Haage Jr. is not the same plant as *E. x haageana* hort. ex Walther.

E. x haageana Haage Jr. is validly described according to the rules of Int. Code of Nomenclature. (Botanical Code).

In the botanical sense Walther's name is illegitimate, as it is a later homonym of *E. x haageana* Haage Jr. and by the lack of a latin diagnosis, because he described his plant after 1935, it could be argued that in the modern sense Walther was publishing a cultivar name, not a botanical one. But even if one accepted Walther's name as a cultivar, it would be inconvenient and confusing to

have both an *E. x haageana* and an *E. cv. 'Haageana'*. Because there is, as far as I know, no valid published synonym, I think it is better to rename the latter.

I propose to name this plant *E. x graessneri*, in honour of Richard Graessner, Perleberg, Germany, a famous succulent plant grower in his time who sent this plant to Walther in 1932.

ECHEVERIA GRAESSNERI hybr. nov.

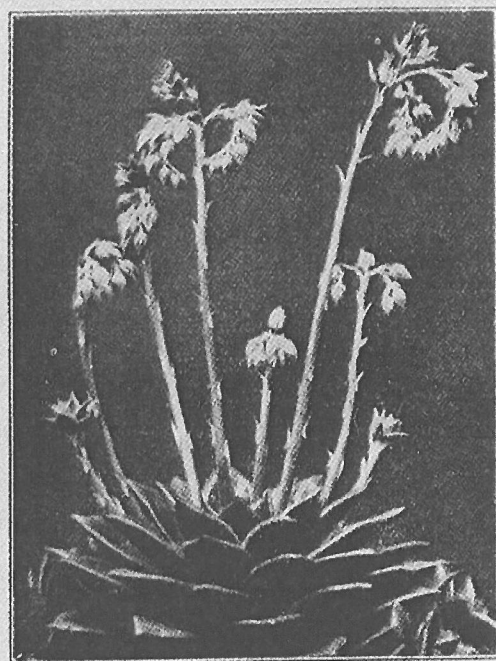
Echeveria derenbergii J. A. Purpus x *Echeveria pulvinata* Rose.

Type collected in 1954 in a Dutch succulent nursery, Holotypus, van Keppel no. 5432, sent to Herbarium of the I.O.S., Zurich.

Echeveria hybrida inter E. derenbergii Purp. et pulvinata Rose generata, proprietatis ambo parentorum conjunctis. Rosula aequalis aut inaequalis, ut in E. derenbergii sed majora, caule longiore; foliis minus glaucis, longioribus; racemo multiplex ramoso, uni-tri-floro; floribus amplioribus, laetioribus; segmentibus abrupte quinqueangulis; sepalis appressis gerentibus. Ab E. pulvinata caulibus glabratis; foliis pleribus, densioribus, subpapillois, glabrescentis differt.

Synonym *E. x haageana* hort. ex Walth. nom. illeg.

Stem evident, 10-15 cm. long, erect, somewhat branching from base; stems of off-shoots lateral decumbent, later ascending; leaves crowded in dense rosettes, covering each other unequally; erect to spreading, flat above but somewhat upcurved, rounded beneath and indistinctly keeled; apex rounded, mucronate; leaf-form obovate-spathulate, to 6 cm. long and 3 cm. broad, turgid, narrowed at base to 1 cm.; leaf-colour greenish-glaucous, older leaves yellowish-green; edges and sometimes the upper part on the backside of the leaves reddish; surface granular-roughened by conspicuous epidermal cells. Inflorescences 1-2, ascending or decumbent, to 12 cm. long, equilaterally paniculate to racemose; bracts many, slightly spreading, ovate, acute, to 18 mm. long, coloured as the leaves; branches 1-15, short, each with 1-2 flowers, each



Echeveria Haageana, Neuzüchtung

Fig. 1. *ECHEVERIA HAAGEANA*, hybrid nov. Reproduction of the original picture in catalogue F. A. Haage Jnr. 106: (1928)



Fig. 2. *E. x GRAESSNERI* cv. 'Eric Walther'. Young plant photographed in January. Normally the flower stalks are less elongated.

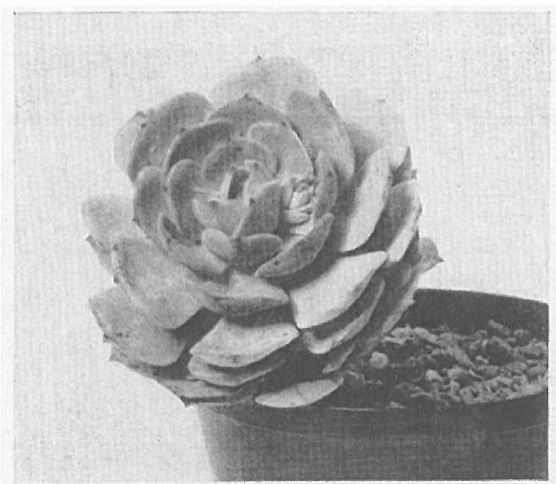


Fig. 3. *E. x GRAESSNERI*. Rosette of another clone, most resembling *E. DERENBERGII*.

inflorescence with 2-13 flowers; pedicels 1-3 cm. long, each with 2 bract-
coles; pearl-grey; bracts 2-20, the lower 2 cm. long, tipped red; corolla
to 2 cm. long, sharply pentagonal, salmon-orange, scarlet on the upper
part and keel of segments, later fading to yellow; segments deeply holl-
owed at base, yellow-coloured inside; sepals unequal, appressed.

The above mentioned clone, probably not the same as described by Walther, l.c., I name cv. 'Eric Walther' in honour of this celebrated Echeveria specialist. (Fig. 2.)

Remarks: *Echeveria x graessneri* is a common trade-plant, both in Holland and the U.S.A. The rosette, by forming leaves of different size, is somewhat asymmetric. in age it forms a leafless, short stem and flowers 3 times in a year, the first flowering being in January to February. The rich flowering makes it an ideal pot plant for tradesmen and fanciers. This *Echeveria* is easily propagated by offsets and leaf-cuttings put in sandy soil.

Among the clones of *E. x graessneri* cultivated by me, one is very distinct from cv. 'Eric Walther', by forming more symmetric, equal, compact rosettes, 10 cm. diameter, resembling *E. derenbergii*, but in all parts larger of limb (Fig. 3).

The leaves are arranged in 11 clear rows round a strong brownish-green stem, well-marked with blue rhomboid lines round the sides of the leaf-bases just as in *E. derenbergii*. The apex of the leaves is cordate; the leaves are more blue and stronger red tinged than cv. 'Eric

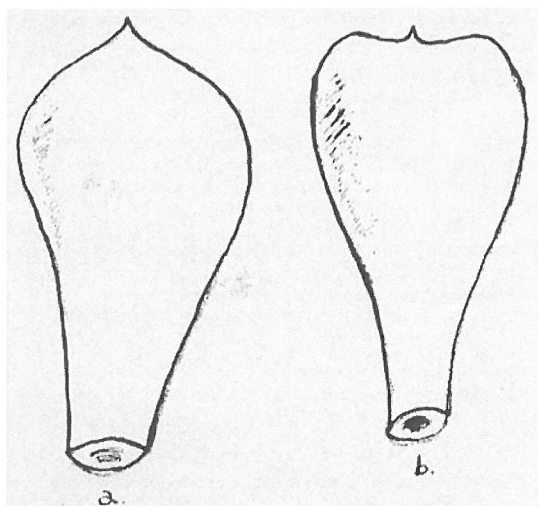


Fig. 4. Leaf-forms of *E. x GRAESSNERI*, natural size. (a) cv. 'Eric Walther' (b) plant shown in Fig. 3.

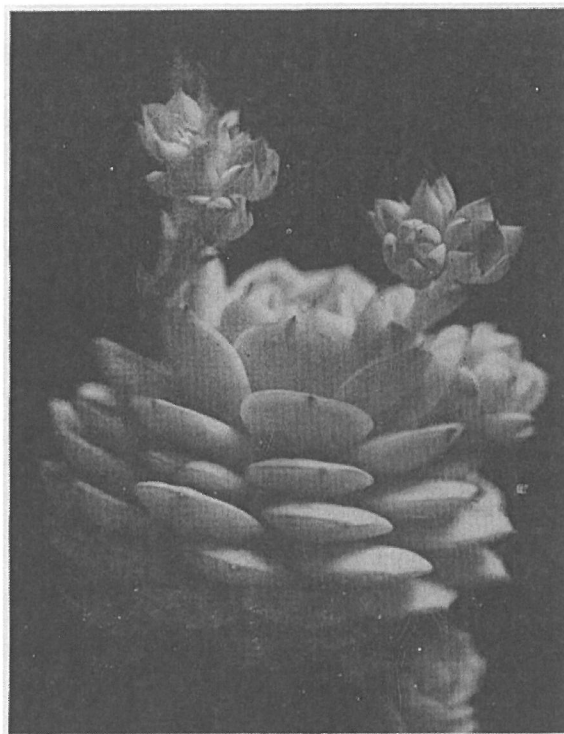


Fig. 5. *ECHEVERIA DERENBERGII*

Walther'. Unfortunately the flowering of this hybrid is less profuse. I received this clone as well as another form as *E. x kircheriana*. This name was listed by Graessner as a hybrid of *E. derenbergii* and *E. carnicolor*; by von Poellnitz and Jacobsen, l.c. as the same or *E. derenbergii x E. pilosa*. Further data are absent. In my opinion, the above-mentioned clones of *E. x graessneri* have no features of *E. pilosa* or *E. carnicolor*. If anyone knows more information of *E. kircheriana*, the author should be pleased to receive comments. Not least I thank Mr. Gordon D. Rowley for his much appreciated suggestions and help.

Most important references:

F. A. Haage Jr. Catalogue 106:34, 35 (1928), 1 fig.

Eric Walther, "Echeveria Hybrids" in Cact. Succ. J. Am. 9:19-21, 82 (1937), 3 fig.