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## ECHEVERIA x 'VANBREEN' cv. nov.

by J. C. van Keppel

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

An old crossing reconstructed—or rediscovered? A crossing between *Echeveria derenbergii* and *E. carnicolor*, recently made by a Dutch *Echeveria* fancier, prompts me to return to an old subject discussed in a preceding article. In *Nat. Cact. and Succ. J.* 21/2, 56 (1966), I mentioned and figured (figs. 3 and 4b) a plant known in cultivation as *E. x kircheriana*. I pointed out that this name was listed by Graessner (about 1930) as a hybrid of *E. derenbergii* x *E. carnicolor*. Further data were absent. Von Poellnitz (1936) mentioned this hybrid in his list of named hybrids as *E. carnicolor* x *derenbergii* or *E. derenbergii* x *E. pilosa*. Jacobsen, following Von Poellnitz, stated the same. As far as we know *E. x kircheriana* has never been described, so we don't know if the plant now known in culture is the same as that listed by Graessner. Why Von Poellnitz has given two possibilities as parentage we don't know, because he did not explain that. I supposed in the above-mentioned

article that the plant known in culture as *E. x kircheriana* belongs to the *E. x graessneri*-complex. In the future I hope by further experiments to be able to give more exact data on the origin of this plant. In any case, this plant is not a hybrid of *E. derenbergii* x *E. carnicolor*! In 1964 Mr. van Breen at Nieuw Vennep pollinated *E. derenbergii* with pollen of *E. carnicolor* and got viable seeds. He sowed the seeds in Spring of 1965, and raised many healthy growing plants. In part they were identical to the mother plant, caused by self-fertilization. The other seedlings showed an intermediate character between both parents. The first flowers were borne in 1966. Because I was very interested in this hybrid, the originator kindly presented me almost his whole stock—about 25 plants. I have observed them during the last two years and knowing many *Echeveria* hybrids which have little value, I think this is one with very good properties both for the fancier and the trade. It forms a

dense, acaulescent rosette of blue-green leaves in shape and size resembling *E. carnicolor* but the hybrid is stronger and the leaves do not fracture so quickly as those of *E. carnicolor*. But whilst both parents flower once a year, the flowering period of the hybrid is practically throughout the whole year. In this characteristic it resembles *E. x graessneri*. Further, it differs distinctly from the former in its stemless rosette, and in its smaller flowers. The F1 Generation is so very uniform, both in leaf and flower size and in colour, that it is impossible to select one clone from the population with better qualities, based on these features. Although the name *kircheriana* was used first for the cross *E. derenbergii* x *carnicolor*, by the lack of any description and the occurrence of a plant under this name which is not a hybrid of these species, there will be confusion if we use this old name for the new hybrid. I think it is better to give this new hybrid another name, and to honour its originator I name it *Echeveria* x 'Vanbreen'. This hybrid is easily increased by offshoots and leaf cuttings and grows very well under various treatments.

***Echeveria* x 'Vanbreen' nov. cv.**

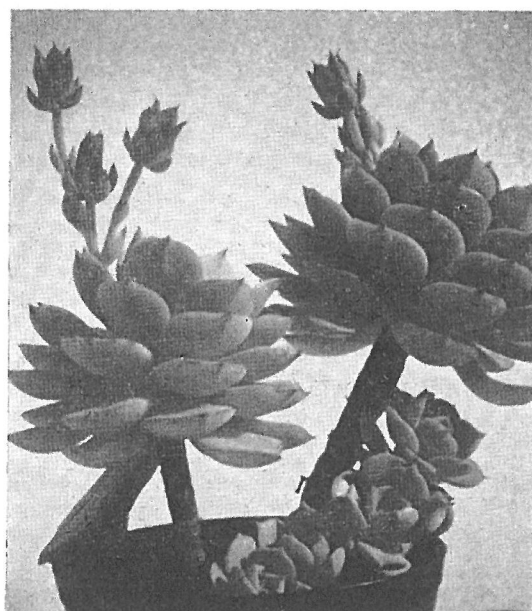
*Echeveria derenbergii* J. A. Purpus ♀ x *Echeveria carnicolor* (Bak.) Moran. ♂ ORIGINATOR: J. A. van Breen, Nieuw Vennep, Netherlands, 1964.

TYPE: van Keppel no. 6643, sent to the Herbarium of I.O.S., Zürich.

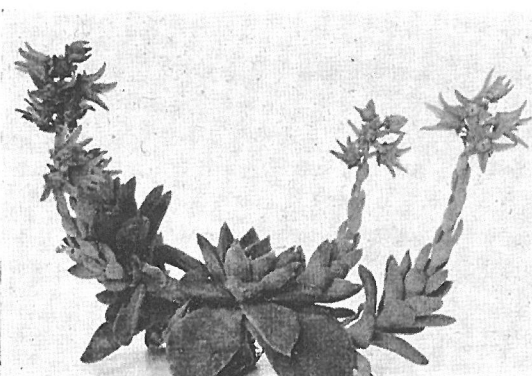
**DESCRIPTION:**

Rosette acaulescent, 9-12 cm. in diam., branching from the base; leaves crowded, numerous, turgid spatulate obovate-oblong, 4-6 cm. long, 2-3 cm. broad at the widest point, with a long thin mucro; colour glaucous-green, flat or convex on both sides, scarcely keeled, upper part of leaf edges and mucro sometimes reddish. Inflorescence 1-3 racemes, sometimes paniculate; flowerstalks erect, 5-15 cm. long; flowers 6-9 solitary or 2-3 together on 0.5-3 cm. long pedicels, each with 2 bracteoles 0.5-1.5 cm. long, obovate-oblong, fleshy, sometimes smaller and soon withering; flowers 1-1.5 cm. long, reddish outside, later salmon-orange; orange-yellow inside, upper part of the petal-edges red; petals keeled on the back, somewhat spreading at the top; sepals unequal, thick, blue-green, 0.5-1 cm. long, ascending, wide-spreading when flowering; carpels yellowish, stigma red, stamens yellow. Flowering almost the whole year.

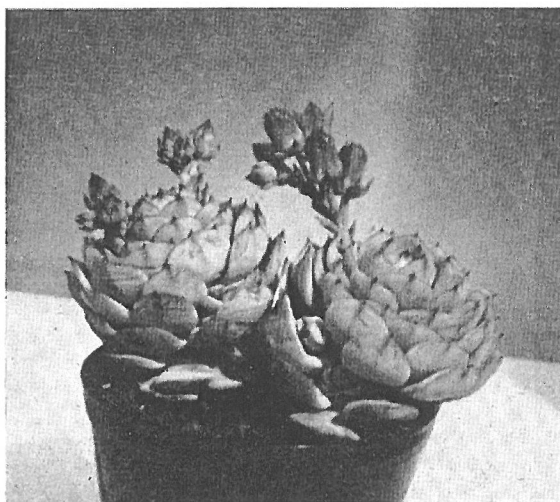
REMARKS: This hybrid, already distributed in England under its parental formula seems to be sterile within its own population. Backcrossings have not yet been made.



*ECHEVERIA* x *Kircheriana* (hort.) Angl. A plant of unknown origin but no cross of *E. DERENBERGII* x *E. CARNICOLOR*.



*E. CARNICOLOR*, (Bak.) Moran.



*E. DERENBERGII*, J. A. Purpus.



*ECHEVERIA* x 'Vanbreen', (*E. derenbergii* x *E. carnicolor*).