

×*Pachyveria* 'Muelleri'

By Margrit Bischofberger

In his *Handbook of Succulent Plants*, first published in German in 1954-55, Hermann Jacobsen gives a description of ×*Pachyveria* mülleri Jacobs (×*Pachyveria* hybrida a hort. Pfitzer) – a hybrid, grown by W. Müller in the Garden of Pfitzer at Stuttgart: *Pachyphytum oviferum* J. A. Purp. × *Echeveria derenbergii* J. A. Purp. – "Rosettes not very densely leafy, about 10 cm dia.; L. 4.5 cm. long, in the upper part 15-17 mm. broad, 1 cm. thick, at the end with a little mucro, upper surface flat to somewhat concave, back surface very convex, blue-green, somewhat pruinose. – valued as rosette-plant for commercial purposes.

In 1962 J. van Keppel published in *Succulenta*, a list of all ×*Pachyveria* he knew at that time – without mentioning ×*P.* 'Muelleri'. It seems that he had not been aware of Jacobsen's naming and describing of that hybrid in his Handbook and he himself obviously didn't have it in his collection.

In the same year (1962) Van Keppel received a plant named 'Friede' from Dipl. Ing. Gerhardt Maly, Vienna, – breeder and parents unknown. 12 years later, in 1974, he published an article on this plant describing it as a *Pachyphytum* hybrid.

Translation of Van Keppel's article in *Succulenta* 1974, Nr. 10:

Pachyphytum 'Friede' van Keppel nov. cv.

Summary:

The plant has a regularly formed dense rosette with bluish-pruinose leaves, form of the leaves similar to *Pachyphytum oviferum* but less thick. Bracts of inflorescence fairly large and like roofing tiles in two rows – as to be found with plants in section *Pachyphytum* like *P. bracteosum*, *P. oviferum* etc.

Flowers resemble rather those of section *Diotostemon* (*P. hookeri*, *P. compactum* etc.) where petals are longer than sepals - and they have petal appendages.

Though many ×*Pachyveria* also have petal appendages, for Van Keppel there was no sign in *Pachyphytum* 'Friede' that it could be a ×*Pachyveria*. Van Keppel thought the parents of 'Friede' to be *P. oviferum* and *P. hookeri* but he had not (at that time) been able to prove it.

Short description:

“Plant: acaulescent or with only a short stem. Regularly formed rosette, squat, ca. 10 cm in diameter.

Leaves: spatulate, 3 - 5 cm long, 1 - 2 cm wide, 0.5 - 1 cm thick. Blue green, somehow pruinose, sometimes with two lighter coloured lines which unite on the

uppermost part of the upper side of the leaf.

Inflorescence: 20 cm long, whitish, slightly pruinose, simple raceme, 11 flowers, petals pink, near the top yellowish, inside yellow, 1 cm long and wide, sepals adpressed, green, sometimes slightly pruinose, unequal in length, the longest remarkably shorter than the petals, tips recurved.

Carpel: yellow, later greenish, stamens yellow, pedicel 6 mm long, bracts 6 - 10 mm long, soon withering and falling off; between the flowers mostly two bracts, sometimes only one.”

Though he admits that the existence of petal appendages is not a final proof for a *Pachyphytum* hybrid, Van Keppel strongly argues for 'Friede' as an interspecific and not an intergeneric hybrid.

Last year I got both \times *Pachyveria* 'Muelleri' and *Pachyphytum* 'Friede'; in late January they began to grow inflorescences. When the flowers opened it was obvious that Van Keppel's 'Friede' was not a *Pachyphytum* hybrid but identical with \times *Pachyveria* 'Muelleri' Jacobsen!

So not having previously known Jacobsen's \times *P.* 'Muelleri', Van Keppel took 'Friede' for a new and not yet described hybrid and described it again!

Because Jacobsen was the first to describe this hybrid as \times *Pachyveria* 'Muelleri', this name has priority and we have to discard the name 'Friede'.





