

Pierre Gossot's hybrids

In the 1930ies Pierre Gossot from Corbeil, France, published descriptions of 17 hybrids he had obtained in the small French Journal „Notre Vallée“. 10 of them were deliberate crossings, 7 were chance hybrids. The parents were *Echeveria* species or hybrids and *Graptopetalum* and *Pachyphytum* species. In total there are 10 *Echeveria* hybrids, 4 x *Graptoveria*, 3 x *Pachyveria* and 1 x *Cremeria*.

In 1933 Gossot created

- x*Pachyveria* '*Albomucronata*' - (Gossot called it "x *Urbiphytum albo-mucronatum*") - , a hybrid between *E. purpusorum* and *P. hookeri*, which – not surprisingly – showed no sign of the *Echeveria* parent but was almost identical with *P. hookeri*. Whether this hybrid is still alive or not is uncertain as it might be mistaken for *P. hookeri* or another hybrid with the latter.
- *Echeveria* '*Bombycina*', the result of the crossing of *E. setosa* and *E. pulvinata*, a very nice plant which still exists in collections and often is confused with *E. 'Doris Taylor'* – another clone of the same parentage, obtained in the US.
- *Echeveria* '*Crinita*' whose parents are *E. pilosa* and *E. setosa*. Gossot's *E. 'Crinita*' is not identical with the plant in European collections under the name '*Crinita*' – the former is an absolutely acaulescent plant while the latter is slowly but steadily growing a stem up to more than 20 cm. (In order to avoid further confusion we have renamed the latter as *E. 'Silvergreen*' in Subtropica N° 25.)

For 1934 Gossot indicates 10 hybrids:

- *Echeveria* '*Acaulis*', a chance hybrid with possibly *E. amoena* as one parent. It is a small acaulescent plant with lovely flowers. It should not be confused with x *Graptoveria* '*Acaulis*' described by Van Keppel in *Succulenta* 44, 1965, as a hybrid of *Graptopetalum paraguayense* and *E. amoena* and - contradictory to its name - a caulescent plant. It's true Van Keppel mentions Gossot's *E. 'Acaulis*' as basionym for his x *Graptoveria* '*Acaulis*' but this indicates only that he has not studied carefully Gossot's description. Whether *Echeveria* '*Acaulis*' still exists is uncertain – there is no illustration which could help to identify it.
- *Echeveria* '*Fallax*', hybrid of *E. derenbergii* x *E. elegans*, the only one of Gossot's hybrids with certainty still grown in today collections.
- x *Pachyveria* '*Glossoides*' - (Gossot wrote: "x *Pachyveria* ? *glossoides*") - , a chance hybrid, resembling x *P. 'Glauca*' and x *P. 'Clavifolia*', could also be a *Pachyphytum* hybrid. It possibly still exists but has not yet been identified with certainty.
- x *Graptoveria* '*Haworthioides*' whose parents were *E. agavoides* and *Graptopetalum paraguayense*. When Van Keppel began to publish his research in x *Graptoveria* hybrids in 1964, this plant already had disappeared.

- *Echeveria* 'Indecorata', a chance hybrid. Gossot does not make any suggestion concerning the possible parentage he only says that it resembles somewhat *E. 'Lancifolia'*, hybrid by Rollison of *E. rosea* x *E. glauca*.
- *Echeveria* 'Lanceolata', parents are *E. 'Lancifolia'* and *E. agavoides*. As *E. 'Lancifolia'* is already a hybrid (*E. rosea* x *E. glauca*) there are 3 *Echeveria* species involved in *E. 'Lanceolata'*. Gossot mentions that it resembles *E. 'Lancifolia'*. Gordon Rowley later has renamed it as *E. x gossotii* because the name lanceolata belongs to the genus *Dudleya*.
- *x Graptoveria 'Longicaulis'*, a chance hybrid with – according to Gossot – perhaps *G. amethystinum* as one parent as the flowers inside show the blotches typical for *Graptopetalum* flowers. “The plant looks weedy and depraved and is totally uninteresting” – so Gossot’s comment.
- *x Pachyveria 'Paradoxa'* - (Gossot called it “*x Echephytum paradoxum*”) - , hybrid of *E. setosa* x *Pachyphytum oviferum*. Gossot speaks of a “daring crossing” and an almost unique “heterogenous constitution” of this most beautiful plant. The shape of the rosette shows *E. setosa* but the leaves are entirely glabrous! Whether this very special *x Pachyveria* is still alive is not known.
- *Echeveria 'Pseudolancifolia'* is the cross of *E. agavoides* x *E. 'Lancifolia'* – the same parentage as with *E. 'Lanceolata'* but this time with *E. agavoides* as mother plant. It resembles *E. 'Lancifolia'* even more than *E. 'Lanceolata'* which means that *E. agavoides* had almost no influence. Gossot says that “such a similitude with the father plant is a rare case”.
- *x Cremneria 'Sempervivoides'* - (Gossot called it “*x Echephytum sempervivoides*”) - is the cross of *E. elegans* and *Cremnophila linguifolia*. As the name indicates it resembles a *Sempervivum* and has a rather small rosette.

For 1935 Gossot mentions again 3 hybrids:

- *x Graptoveria 'Caerulescens'*, a chance hybrid with most probably *Graptopetalum paraguayense* as one parent. The plant has a rather large, nice rosette of bluish green pruinose leaves and an elongating stem. It may be still in collections today but has not yet been identified with certainty by now.
- *Echeveria 'Corymbosa'*, also a chance hybrid, doubtless with *E. agavoides* as one parent as it looks very much like this species. Gossot discusses the possibility of *E. derenbergii* being the other parent. In an article on *E. 'Haageana'* (NCSJ June 1967) Van Keppel compares *E. 'Corymbosa'* with *E. 'Haageana'*, a cross of *E. agavoides* x *E. derenbergii*, and indicates that the differences “are so striking that I cannot consider them as two clones of the same cross”. That means that the second parent of *E. 'Corymbosa'* is unknown. It is a very pleasing plant and possibly still in cultivation.

- *Echeveria 'Pseudo-agavoides'*, again a chance hybrid with *E. agavoides* as one parent. Gossot says that the rosette “strongly resembles *E. agavoides* but that some of the characteristics of the flowers are completely contrary”.

For 1936 Gossot lists only 1 hybrid:

- *x Graptoveria 'Calva'* whose parents are *G. paraguayense* and *E. pulvinata*. This is a branching plant, growing long stems and a rosette of up to 15 cm in diameter. While *G. paraguayense* is most dominant in this cross, the influence of *E. pulvinata* is only faint. Interestingly Gossot describes two different types of inflorescences – one with only few, small, misshapen bracts, withering and falling off soon, and another with big life-like bracts which remain on the peduncle after flowering.

J.C. van Keppel has re-described this hybrid in *Succulenta* 43, 1964, and he states that the flowers are “red-spotted” – a feature not mentioned by Gossot. Van Keppel also speaks of the existence of several clones of this cross, so perhaps he has not re-described Gossot’s clone.

x Graptoveria 'Calva' is likely to be still alive today but has not yet been identified with certainty – plants labelled as ‘Calva’ usually are *x Graptoveria 'Acaulis'* which is a much smaller plant.

These 17 descriptions were published from January 1936 until July 1939. Pierre Gossot wrote “to be continued” what means that he still had some more undescribed hybrids. But there was no continuation because the outbreak of the Second World War stopped the publication of “Notre Vallée”. What happened to Pierre Gossot and his plants is not known. His name is mentioned in the “Liste des Plantes Grasses sauf Cactées du Jardin Botanique des Cèdres”, St. Jean-Cap-Ferrat, but whether Gossot ever worked with Julien Marnier-Lapostolle as a curator - as Van Keppel suggests - we do not know either.