



Vet Brief

April 2018

Next meeting Sunday 8 April 2018
Veld Walk

Save The Date:

April Meeting
8 April 2018
Veldwalk place
Jakkalskop.

May Meeting
13 May 2018
Vegetative
Propagation

June Meeting
10 June 2018
Photography

July Meeting
Member 4 X 4
Outing

22–24 Sept. 2018
Vetplantfees
2018

Message from the Chair

Thanks to all of the hosts for our members garden tour last month. It is always interesting to see the various ways each of us has in interpreting and expressing our love for succulent plants and displaying them.

Vetplantfees 2018 is starting to take shape. We will begin to have organizational meetings in May. I can report that we have commitment from one of the top succulent experts on our planet to speak at the dinner to be held on Saturday night. Ernst van Jaarsveld will be our keynote speaker this year. We also have commitment from Alison James from Simons Town to hold two workshops on growing succulents. We will have more than double the number of plants for sale at this fees. There will be activities on the stoop of the church hall on all three days. We will hold talks, workshops, art and plant exhibitions at Jako's buildings. The Museum will sell books from their own facility. Our Vetplantfees should begin to mature as a real Calitzdorp festival.

Dues are due for the new year. Your Committee decided to leave the dues amount at R 50 per family. We hope that all of our members will continue to enjoy the comradery of the group and learn more about succulent plants.

Our meeting this month will be a walk in the veld at Jakkalskop. It is interesting to see the different plants that are flowering now and in particular since our nice rain last week. We will meet in front of the Naked Lady Pub at 2:00 on Sunday 8 April and proceed from there. One real treat will be to see if we can find some blooming *Haworthia truncata*.

See you at the meeting.

Buck

April Meeting:
Veld Walk Jakkalskop. Meet at 2:00
PM at the Naked Lady Pub.

Leadership Team

Chairman – Buck Hemenway 076-298-7337 **Treasurer – Yvonne Hemenway**
Vice Chairman – Allan Beech **Director – Irma Welman**
Secretary – Jako Voges

Plant of the Month: *Faucaria tigrina*

Faucaria tigrina (Haworth 1789) (Tiger Jaws, Shark Jaws, Tierbekvygie)

The first documented discovery of *Faucaria tigrina* was during an expedition in 1789 by Francis Masson, who was sent to the Cape by the King of England to collect plants for Kew Royal Botanical Gardens. The specimens of *F. tigrina* were sent to Adrian Haworth, a gardener at Kew, who recognised them as a new species. The genus name comes from the Latin word *faux* meaning jaw and *tigrina* for tiger. The genus has 33 species in total, all occurring within the Eastern and Western Cape provinces of South Africa.

Faucaria tigrina is found only within the Albany Thicket of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. This subtropical vegetation type is comprised of thorny, impenetrable thickets, interspersed with small open areas, where *F. tigrina* occurs, growing among rocks in the shade of surrounding vegetation. Temperatures rarely drop below 0°C in winter, and summer and autumn maximum temperatures are between 22 and 32°C with plenty of sunlight hours.



The long, white, sabre-like teeth of *Faucaria tigrina* are actually not used for defense at all. The threadlike structures are special adaptations that help to collect water vapour from the surrounding air and direct it down toward the roots of the plant. Fog blows in from the coast to provide water vapour, a precious water source for plants surviving in the hot, subtropical thickets of the Eastern Cape.

The genus is a popular choice for the novice succulent grower, as it is easy and very satisfying to grow, with *Faucaria tigrina* being hailed as most rewarding of them all. In winter the plants go dormant, therefore only water very occasionally and lightly during this time, mostly just to dust off the leaves and to help keep red spiders away.

Faucaria tigrina has only four remaining subpopulations left in the wild and is facing continued threat due to urban development and over-grazing. It has therefore been listed as Endangered in the [Red List of South African Plants](#).

The flowers are large, yellow and appear from autumn to winter. Seeds are borne in hard fruit capsules, characteristic of the Aizoaceae family.



Many of the species in *Faucaria* grow in the Eastern Cape and so such get 700 mm or more of rainfall in habitat. They appreciate more water than our Klein Karoo plants in cultivation.

Thanks to SANBI, PlantZAfrica.com for the above.

Botanical Term of the Month;

Locule (Locules, pl) A **locule** (meaning "little place" in Latin) is a small cavity^u or compartment within an organ or part of an organism ([animal](#), [plant](#), or [fungus](#)). In angiosperms ([flowering plants](#)), the term *locule* usually refers to a chamber within an [ovary](#) ([gynoecium](#) or [carpel](#)) of the [flower](#) and [fruits](#).

Plants flowering right now



Brunsvigia bosmania (March Lily)
Thanks Hugh Sussens



Protea in the Swartberg Pass



Stomatium suricatinum
Thanks Hugh



Huernia keniensis
Thanks Hugh



Huernia pillansii



Faucaria sp.



Aloe hybrid



Haworthia blackburnea