

The *Kalanchoe*-collection of the Botanical Garden Darmstadt – a brief illustration

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The genus *Kalanchoe* (Crassulaceae) comprises 173 taxa (Descoings in Eggli, Sukkulenten-Lexikon 4: 147–188. 2003), with their natural distribution in three large regions; Africa (including the Arabian Peninsula), Madagascar and Asia (from India over the Indochina Peninsula to Japan). By human influence, single taxa can be found in many tropical regions of the world, partly weedy. In the 1990s Prof. M. Kluge assembled in the Botanic Garden Darmstadt a *Kalanchoe*-collection for research on CAM. In autumn 2004, based on this collection, the garden decided to establish the genus *Kalanchoe* as a collection focus and to build a special-collection on “one central point” to render these plants accessible for future research. As a first step, all accessible Indices Seminum were scanned for *Kalanchoe*. In the course of time, a wide range of new accessions became obtainable by visiting many Botanic Gardens in Germany.

Table 1. Development of collection and percentage of available taxa

Reference	Accessions	Taxa total	Africa	Madagascar	Asia
Descoings in Eggli (2003)		173	74	80	19
Date					
1 January 2004	56	45	8	35	2
1 January 2008	466	114 (66%)	48 (65%)	60 (75%)	6 (32%)

Table 2. Composition of the collection

Accessions total	466 (100%)
“Gartenmaterial”: Garden-accessions: mostly without data	298 (64%)
“Wildmaterial”: accessions of wild origin, but without precise locality, collector or number	62 (13%)
“Standortmaterial”: accessions of wild origin with precise locality, collector, number date, etc.	106 (23%)

While the collection was being assembled it became obvious that in most gardens only a standard assortment was cultivated and only a few other taxa were available. Consequently it is likely that only very few additional taxa are in cultivation in other Botanic Gardens. The African and Malagasy species are well represented in cultivation, but not the Asian species, and this group is also poorly known.

Because of a change of the staff-member responsible for the collection in summer 2008, the continuation of collecting came to an end. The Botanic Garden and the Curator are trying to preserve the collection and to make it available for future research and contribution of living plant material.