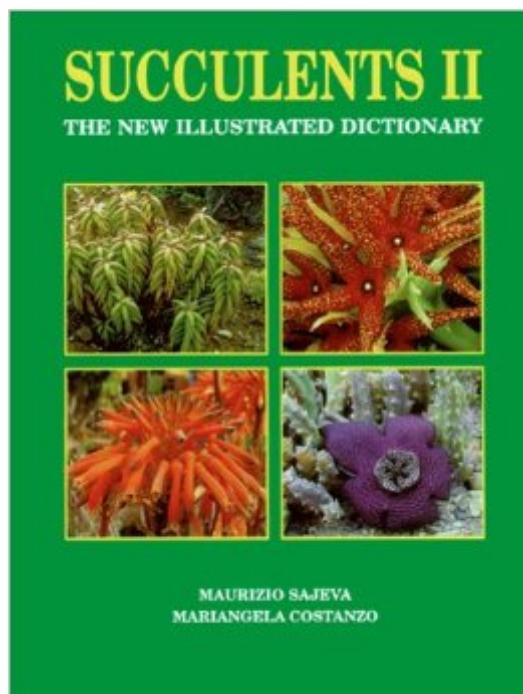


The book was found

Succulents II: The New Illustrated Dictionary



Synopsis

The authors earlier collaborated on our bestselling *Succulents: The Illustrated Dictionary*. This new book does not replace the original, which continues to be available, but rather supplements it in several ways. It includes 900 species that were not covered in the first volume, and although it includes some species that were covered earlier, this second volume supplies new photographs that illustrate other aspects of the plant, whether in its habitat or in cultivation. The format of the two books is similar, with brief descriptions accompanying the excellent color photographs. Real succulent enthusiasts will welcome the additional coverage and improved photographs offered by this new volume, which should take its place on the shelf next to the original.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Documents around 1,200 species of succulent plants in an A to Z format. Entries include a color photograph, species name, family, a brief description of appearance and habit, and details of specimen's origin. Introduction provides a brief overview of succulent families and representative genera. Appendices cover alternative names (scientific, not common) and additional reading materials, broken out by family. Bear in mind when considering this book that it is a survey compilation, not an identification guide. It sets out to catalog the astounding variety of succulents worldwide, and never touches on care or maintenance. Pictures are often of salient features, such as flowers or stem structures, rather than of the entire plant, and many are photographed in their native habitat (by which I mean, they are not always the flawless beauties that we are accustomed

to seeing in plant books --although the settings are often as fascinating as the plants themselves!). I very much enjoy thumbing through this book. Although I personally find it of very little practical value, I would recommend it to any plant enthusiast with an appreciation for diversity or photography.

The authors have begun where the first book left off. Very similar in size, the sequel has some info on CITES status, as well a general overview, of certain genus and species. For easier identification, several species have multiple pictures, ensuring that pertinent information is not lost from a habit shot. Some species are repeated from the initial 1994 release, but many are new. Certainly an invaluable source for species determination, individually and in concert with the original.

If you liked Maurizio Sajeva and Mariangela Costanzo's first book, *Succulents*, then you will really like their second edition titled *Succulents II*. The book's outline is basically the same with some new information provided. The photo's, like their first book are superior and serve as a great means of plant identification. The addition of having the book in hard cover form (the first is paperback), makes this book an excellent reference material without concern on wear and tear when carrying it around the garden. books has the best price on this book and I've shopped around before purchasing it. If you time it right, you can order it with a couple other things and take advantage of free shipping and handling. I think that's pretty good deal.

This book basically follows the same format as the previous one. There are enough photographs to sink a battleship, but very little cultural information for the plants. The book is a boon for identifying that annoying plant that you have never been able to find a name for, but of course it does not cover all species of succulents, a book of that stature would be too heavy to lift. In my own opinion what lets the book down slightly is that some of the photographs are of young plants that bear no resemblance to how they will look when they are mature. Having said all that, the book has very little competition. There are thousands of books on cacti, but very few on the other succulents. It is certainly worth a place in the collection of all those interested in these wonderful plants.

After reading through both *Succulents I* and *II*, I am still confused about what exactly these texts were hoping to accomplish. As another reviewer has already pointed out, these texts are neither useful as identification guides nor are they as cultivation guides; their images are not truly conducive for plant characterization and the text does not touch on plant care in any real capacity. While you

may occasionally be able to identify certain unique succulents simply through the likeness of the images that you see in the text, it is all but impossible to make positive identifications of species with more common forms such as the generic rosette form of many sempervivums; this is especially true of species with highly variable color. Even more frustrating are the woefully brief descriptions which are unfortunately generic and vague. Although, together, both texts cover upwards of 2 000 species of succulents and serve to demonstrate extreme diversity (its most laudable feature), it is by no means a catalog, in the true sense of the word, as it is not complete or exhaustive by any stretch of the imagination. So what is it? The text states that it "constitutes a unique work of reference for succulent enthusiasts and collectors." While I do enjoy the simple fact that these texts are likely to be the most extensive collections of succulents in print, at the end of the day I feel largely unsatisfied; as though I haven't really gained any knowledge having read them. When I look something up in a dictionary, I aim to close the book having newfound insight and clarification. I don't feel these texts accomplish that. This, in addition to its price and datedness, makes these texts disappointing, given its reviews of high praise. 2 Stars - I don't like it. I think most enthusiasts yearn for more than just "Bodies to 4 cm long and 15 mm wide with lighter spots; yellow flowers," a typical description, and a documentary image.

I previously purchased the first volume of this, and it has become my succulent and cactus bible in terms of identifying plants. This second book seems to either repeat some of the listings from the first book, and I haven't found it as easy to use for some reason. I think any of the information that is truly different from the first volume is going to be useful, and there is also a cross-reference list for species that have been given more than one name. If you are a diehard succulent fan as I am, you may still want to get this, but I think the first volume is better & probably sufficient for most hobby gardeners.

I heard about this book from a succulent store owner. All my succulents have nicknames, which are the only names I remember. They were unfamiliar with the nicknames and suggested I get this book. Very detailed and helpful.

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