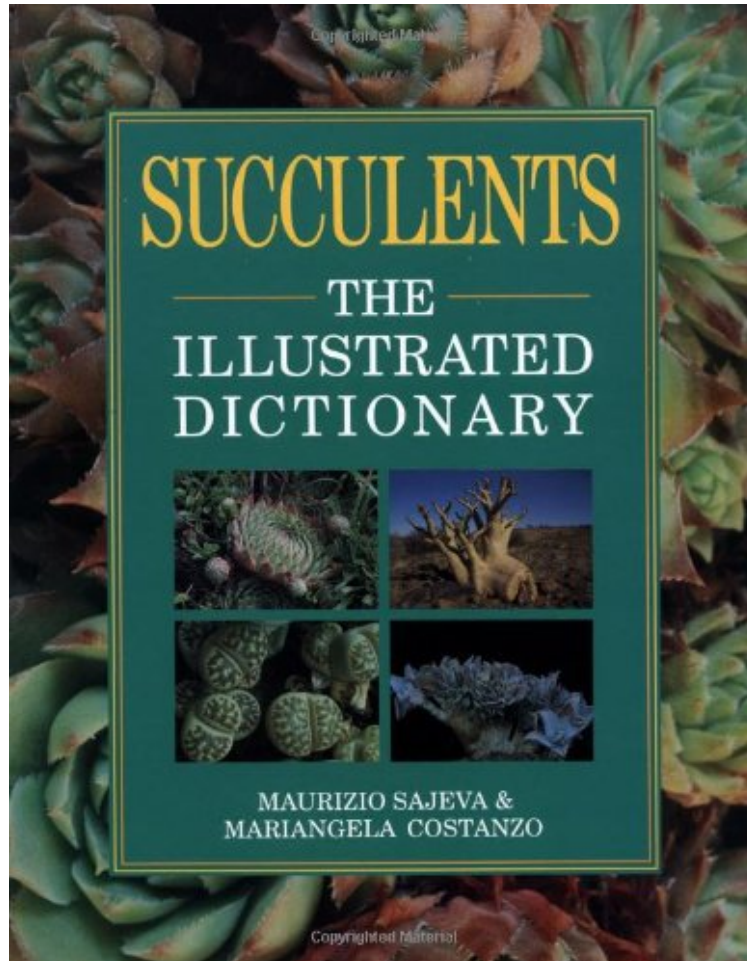


## Succulents: The Illustrated Dictionary

*Maurizio Sajeve, Mariangela Costanzo*  
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**Maurizio Sajeve, Mariangela Costanzo : Succulents: The Illustrated Dictionary** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Succulents: The Illustrated Dictionary:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Of little practical value. By M. Yeh 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. 3 Stars - It's okay. 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. 41 of 43 people found the following review helpful. No cultivation information By gamekat I am a beginner with succulent plants and rock gardening. This is a very pretty book with information photos for identifying plants. I find the pictures a bit small (about 2"x3.25"). For me, differentiating some of the *Sempervivum* species (or *Jovibarba*) would be difficult with the description and photos provided (someone more expert may find the descriptions quite sufficient). I really NEED more information on habitat and cultivation. For me, sun exposure, soil water requirements, pest problems and such are what I want right now. Also of interest, how variation in sun exposure and water will effect color habit, cold and heat tolerance, winter protection. Once again, for a more experienced gardener, or someone wanting to move into more exotic succulents (I am working with *Sedum*, and "hens chicks" (common name)) this may rate five stars. I did learn that what I know as "hens chicks" could be *Sempervivum*, *Jovibarba*, or *Graptopetalum*. This is an example of why it would be nice to have a common name cross reference, as mentioned by another reviewer. Initially, I thought I would return the book, but have decided to keep it. I have learned about some species that I would like to grow, if I can get information on their culture habit. This reference will allow me to get new species to experiment with. (This may mean special orders, as local nurseries have limited supplies of common plants.) So far, the *Crassulaceae* family is where my interest lies - See, I have learned something of value! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic resource! By Curtis Gomez Unfortunately so many nurseries don't properly identify their plants or use made up or incorrect common names. This book helped me identify so many plants that were in my collection. Some of the photos are a little dark but at least with a name I can do more follow up over the internet. The book contains many *Euphorbia*, *Agave*, *Aloe* and *Lithops* to name a few. As the title says it is an illustrated dictionary, so no growing tips, but a great pictorial succulent reference nonetheless.

A time-tested reference, this first volume includes some of the best-known and most cultivated genera such as *Agave*, *Haworthia*, *Kalanchoe*, and *Yucca*.

From Library Journal This illustrated dictionary of succulents, excluding cacti, covers species from 35 plant families and 195 genera worldwide in distribution. Alphabetically arranged species entries include a brief description and place of origin. This work by Sajeve (Univ. of Palermo, Italy) and Constanzo, both active members in the Italian Cactus and Succulent Society, is unique in its use of 1200 high-quality color 31/8" x 21/8" photographs arranged six to a page to accompany each entry. Although up-to-date and better illustrated than other botanical dictionaries that include succulents, this specialized work is for libraries with comprehensive botanical and horticultural collections. Teresa Elberson, Lafayette P.L., La. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Succulents are plants that are able to withstand drought because of their ability to store water. This book is essentially a catalog illustrating varieties from 195 genera. Designed as an identification tool, it should fill the needs of growers and collectors. The core of the work is the "Illustrated A-Z of Species," which consists of 1,200 sharp, close-up color photographs. Six two-by-three-inch photos per page enable accurate identification and easy searching. The photo captions include descriptions of growth and flowering habits, size, place of origin, alternate name, and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) status. A brief overview of succulent families and genera opens the work. Appendixes include a bibliography, CITES codes, and the code of conduct for the International Organization for Succulent Plants Study. The checklist of alternate plant names does not include popular names. The elephant foot palm/ponytail palm will need to be located by browsing the photos, as will jade trees and living rocks. Also not included are lists of societies, journals, or suppliers. Succulents is descriptive only; it does not provide growing information. As an identification tool, it is superb. For collectors who have encountered dealer's lists that consist primarily of species and varietal names, this catalog will be invaluable in making selections. The collector can leaf through, for example, lithops (16 species), aloe (25 species), or crassula (14 species). There is no comparable work. The Wonderful World of Succulents by Werner Rauh (Smithsonian, 1984, o.p.) describes many species, but most are not pictured. Gordon Rowley's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents (Crown, 1978, o.p.) has fine photographs but does not approach this illustrated dictionary in scope. Succulents are a widely collected, diverse group of plants. The appearance of this work will be welcomed by houseplant gardeners and succulent specialists. "As an identification tool, it is superb. There is no comparable work." Booklist, November 1, 1994 (Booklist) "As identification tools or pre-buyer shopping lists, the [dictionary is] superb ... As inspiration for buying plants for your planter, rock garden, greenhouse or coffee table, [this] illustrated [dictionary offers] years of information and enjoyment." Coni Tarquini,

Hardy Plant, April 2003 (Hardy Plant)"A first of its kind, this unique book features an impressively wide range with varieties from 195 different succulent genera." Lynette Walther, Palatka Daily News, October 4, 2000 (Palatka Daily News)