

Reaching the lower *levada* from near the coast could be tricky, therefore I recommend to head, first to Santa Quiteria, and from there to climb down to the lower *levada*. This way, you should reach it shortly before the bend where I spotted the first specimens of *Sedum fusiforme*.

Lowe (1868: 325) reports that he saw *Sedum fusiforme* “W. of Funchal, on the Pico do Rancho above Camera de Lobos, and at the further or W. end of the top of the Cabo Girao; also E. of Funchal a little on the Funchal side of the Brazen Head [= Ponta do Garajau]”. Following this information, I explored Ponta do Garajau, which hosts another observation point, called Miradouro do Cristo Rei because there is a statue of Christ similar to (but much smaller than) that of Rio de Janeiro. I searched carefully on both the ridge itself and the Funchal side of the peninsula, which is crossed by a road leading to a

beach, but I only found *Aeonium glutinosum*, together with a host of invasive succulents including opuntias, aloes, carapobrotus and *Kalanchoe ×houghtonii*. I cannot rule out that *S. fusiforme* still survives on some inaccessible cliffs in this area, yet checking may prove challenging for succulentophiles or botanists who are not skilled mountain climbers [I drew a blank in this area too thinking at the time heavy footfall was causing severe erosion - [Ed].

On the whole, I was surprised by how many specimens I saw, especially in the Nuns’ Valley. My overall impression is that *Sedum fusiforme* might be more widespread in southern Madeira than usually thought. Several beaches at the foot of coastal cliffs are now reached by cable-cars, therefore it is possible that other populations will be spotted in the future.

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Bondegården – largest collection of *Sedum* ever?

Andrej Slávik & Ray Stephenson

Was one of the most significant *Sedum* collections at the beginning of the 20th century – perhaps even ever – to be found in a private garden in a small village outside of the provincial capital of

Gothenburg, Sweden? Recent historical scholarship seems to indicate as much.

The garden in question was called Bondegården after a former owner, the author and amateur ethnographer August

Bondeson, but also as a pun on the Swedish word for farmstead (*bondgård*). In 1909, it was acquired by Erik L. Magnus (1884–1969), a young industrialist from Gothenburg whose name betrayed his Jewish ancestry: Magnus is indeed an ordinary Swedish name, but not as a surname. The Magnus family had originally been called Monasch but adapted their name to the linguistic circumstances, either when they still resided in northern Germany or when they first arrived in Sweden in the late 18th century. Among the first Jews to settle in the country after king Gustav III had loosened restrictions on immigration to encourage trade and industry, they came to play a pivotal role in Gothenburg's substantial Jewish community as well as in the city's cultural and economic life more generally. For example, Göthilda Magnus (1837–1901), Erik's first cousin once removed, and her husband Pontus Fürstenberg (1827–1902) were among the most important patrons of a new generation of local artists, including such quintessentially "Swedish" painters as Carl Larsson and Anders Zorn. As a child, Erik and his family lived next door to the Fürstenbergs in their sumptuous residence – known colloquially as simply "the Palace" – in the very centre of Gothenburg's old town; at the age of seven, he had his portrait painted by Carl Larsson in feathery pastels.

As a young adult, Magnus pursued a degree in engineering and tried his luck in the nascent Swedish automobile industry before taking up a position as first general manager and eventually managing director of a local specialty chemicals company producing various hygiene and household

products. Around the same time, he purchased the small cottage at Bondegården as a summer residence, but also – perhaps especially – as a rural getaway for his wife Märta, *née* Liljencrants (1884–1986). Born into nobility yet of no large means, Liljencrants had studied both fine and applied arts and was just embarking on an independent career in graphic design when she fell in love with Magnus; although their marriage was not unhappy, she apparently felt restricted in her role as wife and mother as well as increasingly alienated from the polite society kept by her urbane husband. A great lover of nature, Bondegården became her veritable paradise – one that she would have to forsake after the couple divorced and Magnus remarried. Nevertheless, the four years that she spent there must have made a lasting impression: not only did Liljencrants eventually find a vocation in horticulture, she also made herself more than one new garden during her remarkably long life.

Despite his rather mundane line of work – or, indeed, just because of it – Magnus was equally engrossed by horticulture, but his interest took a different and quite particular direction. From the very beginning, he seems to have been drawn to collecting in general and showy exotics in particular; among the plants depicted in a set of charming watercolours painted by Louise Stiernstedt (1878–1940), a relative and close friend of Liljencrants, during a stay at Bondegården in the summer of 1910 is a specimen of *Gymnocalycium paraguayense* in flower. With time, the same impulse extended to other species among the *Cactaceae* – among them the old man's cactus

(*Cephalocereus senilis*) and the fabled queen of the night (*Selenicereus grandiflorus*) – as well as to entirely other provinces within the vastness of the plant kingdom. That he eventually came to concentrate his efforts on *Sedum*, admittedly not the showiest of genera, was probably more of a coincidence: in a retrospective account published in *Lustgården*, the journal of the Swedish Society for Dendrology and Park Culture, he laconically observed that this particular genus simply seemed to thrive in the garden's light, sandy soil.

Now then, which particular species of *Sedum* were grown at Bondegården? We do not know how the plantings started out, nor how they developed over time: while Magnus owned the property for over four decades, our main source of information about the collection pertains to no more than two consecutive years in the mid-1920s. At that time, however, the following species were reportedly in cultivation:

Name received by garden (as written)	Current name
<i>S. acre</i> L.	<i>Sedum acre</i>
<i>S. acre</i> L. var. <i>majus</i> Mast.	<i>Sedum acre</i> diploid
<i>S. adenotrichum</i> Wall.	<i>Rosularia adenotricha</i>
<i>S. Adolphi</i> Hamet	<i>Sedum adolphi</i>
<i>S. Aizoon</i> L.	<i>Phedimus aizoon</i>
<i>S. Aizoon</i> × <i>kamtschaticum</i> Praeger	<i>Phedimus aizoon</i> × <i>P. kamtschaticus</i>
<i>S. alboroseum</i> Bak.	<i>Hylotelephium erthyrostictum</i>
<i>S. album</i> L.	<i>Sedum album</i>
<i>S. allantoides</i> Rose	<i>Sedum allantoides</i>
<i>S. alsinefolium</i> All.	<i>Sedum alsinefolium</i> (more likely <i>S. fragrans</i>)
<i>S. altissimum</i> Poir.	<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>
<i>S. amecamecanum</i> Praeger	<i>Sedum</i> × <i>amecamecanum</i>
<i>S. amplexicaule</i> DC.	<i>Petrosedum amplexicaule</i>
<i>S. Anacampseros</i> L.	<i>Hylotelephium anacampseros</i>
<i>S. anglicum</i> Huds.	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>
<i>S. annuum</i> L.	<i>Sedum annuum</i>
<i>S. anopetalum</i> DC.	<i>Petrosedum ochroleucum</i>
<i>S. Aoikon</i> Ulbrich	<i>Sedum aoikon</i> *
<i>S. balticum</i> Hartman	<i>Sedum album</i> (<i>micranthum</i>)
<i>S. bellum</i> Rose	<i>Sedum bellum</i>
<i>S. Bourgaei</i> Hemsl.	<i>Sedum bourgaei</i>
<i>S. brevifolium</i> DC.	<i>Sedum brevifolium</i>
<i>S. bupleroides</i> Wall.	<i>Rhodiola bupleuroides</i>
<i>S. caucicolum</i> Praeger	<i>Hylotelephium caucicola</i>
<i>S. Cepaea</i> L.	<i>Sedum cepaea</i>
<i>S. Chaneti</i> Lévêillé	<i>Orostachys chanetii</i>
<i>S. Chauveaudi</i> Hamet	<i>Sedum chauveaudii</i>
<i>S. coeruleum</i> Vahl	<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>
<i>S. compactum</i> Rose	<i>Sedum compactum</i>
<i>S. compressum</i> Rose	<i>Sedum palmeri</i>

S. confusum Hemsl.
S. crassipes Wall.
S. crassipes Wall. var. *cholaense* Praeger
S. cupressoides Hemsl.
S. dasyphyllum L.
S. dasyphyllum L. var. *glanduliferum* Moris
S. dasyphyllum L. var. *macrophyllum* Rouy & Cam.
S. dendroideum Moc. & Sess.
S. divergens S. Wats.
S. diversifolium Rose
S. Douglasii Hook.
S. drymarioides Hance
S. drymarioides Hance var. *stellariifolium*
S. dumulosum Franch.
S. ebracteatum Moc. & Sessé
S. Ellacombianum Praeger
S. Ewersii Ledeb.
S. Ewersii var. *homophyllum* Praeger
S. Fabaria Koch
S. Fabaria Koch var. *Borderi* Rouy & Camus
S. floriferum Praeger
S. fusiforme Lowe
S. gracile C. A. Meyer
S. griseum Praeger
S. gypsicolum Boiss. & Reut.
S. hirsutum All.
S. hirsutum All. var. *baeticum* Rouy
S. hispanicum L.
S. humifusum Rose
S. hybridum L.
S. indicum Hamet
S. indicum Hamet var. *yunnanense* Hamet
S. kamtschaticum Fish. & Mey.
S. Kirilowii Regel
S. Kirilowii Regel var. *Rubrum* Praeger
S. lancerottense R. P. Murray
S. Leblancae Hamet
S. leucocarpum Franch.
S. Liebmannianum Hemsl.
S. lineare Thunb.
S. lineare Thunb. fol. *variegatum*
S. lineare Thunb. var. *robustum* Praeger
S. longipes Rose
S. Lydium Boiss.
S. magellense Ten.
S. maximum Suter
S. maximum Suter var. *atropurpureum* hort.
S. melananthrum DC.
S. mexicanum Britton

Sedum confusum (could be *S. kimnachii*)

Rhodiola wallichiana

Rhodiola wallichiana

Likely to be *S. muscoideum*

Sedum dasyphyllum

Sedum dasyphyllum var. *Glanduliferum*

Sedum dasyphyllum var. *macrophyllum*

Sedum dendroideum

Sedum divergens

Sedum greggii

Sedum stenopetalum subsp. *stenopetalum*

Sedum drymarioides

Sedum stellariifolium

Rhodiola dumulosa

Sedum ebracteatum

Phedimus ellacombeanus

Hylotelephium ewersii

Hylotelephium ewersii var. *homophyllum*

Hylotelephium telephium subsp. *telephium*

Hylotelephium telephium subsp. *telephium*

Phedimus florifer

Sedum fusiforme

Sedum gracile

Sedum griseum

Sedum gypsicola (*S. album*)

Sedum hirsutum

Sedum hirsutum var. *baeticum*

Sedum hispanicum

Sedum humifusum

Phedimus hybridus

Sinocrassula indica

Sinocrassula yunnanensis

Phedimus kamtschaticus

Rhodiola kirilowii

Rhodiola kirilowii

Sedum lancerottense

Sedum leblanciae

Sedum leucocarpum

Sedum leibmannianum

Sedum lineare

Sedum lineare fa. *variegatum*

Sedum lineare (var. *robustum*)

Sedum longipes

Sedum lydium

Sedum magellense

Hylotelephium telephium subsp. *maximum*

Hylotelephium telephium subsp. *maximum*

Sedum melananthrum

Sedum mexicanum

S. Middendorffianum Maxim
S. Middendorffianum Maxim var. *diffusum* Praeger
S. monregalense Balb.
S. moranense H. B. & K.
S. moranense H. B. & K. var. *arboreum* Praeger
S. multicaule Wall.
S. multiceps Coss. & Dur.
S. Nevii A. Gray
S. Nevii A. Gray var. *Beyrichianum* Praeger
S. nicænse All.

S. nudum Aiton
S. oaxacanum Rose
S. obtusatum Gray
S. oreganum Nutt.
S. oxypetalum H. B. & K.
S. pachyphyllum Rose
S. Palmeri Wats.
S. Palmeri Wats. × *confusum* Hemsl.
S. pilosum M. Bieb.
S. polyrhizum Praeger
S. populifolium Pall.
S. potosinum Rose
S. praealtum DC.
S. Praegerianum W. W. Smith
S. primuloides Franch.
S. pruinatum Brot.
S. pseudospectabile Praeger
S. pulchellum Mich.
S. purpureum Link.
S. reflexum L.
S. retusum Hemsl.
S. rhodanthum A. Gray
S. rhodocarpum Rose
S. roseum Scop.
S. roseum Scop. var. *atropurpureum* Turc.
S. rubens L.
S. rupestre L.
S. sarmentosum Bunge
S. Selskianum Reg. & Maack.
S. Semenovii Mast.
S. sempervivoides Fish.
S. sexangulare L.
S. Sieboldii Sweet.
S. Someni Hamet
S. spathulifolium Hook.
S. spathulifolium Hook. var. *majus* Praeger
S. spathulifolium Hook. var. *purpureum* Praeger
S. spectabile Boreau. (fl. rose., purp.)

Phedimus middendorffianus
Phedimus middendorffianus

Sedum monregalense
Sedum moranense
Sedum moranense fm.
Sedum multicaule
Sedum multiceps
Sedum nevii but more likely = *S. glaucophyllum*
Sedum nevii but more likely = *S. glaucophyllum*
 × *Petrosedum luteolum* (more likely = *P. sediforme*)
Sedum nudum
Sedum oaxacanum (or possibly = *S. australe*)
Sedum obtusatum
Sedum oreganum
Sedum oxypetalum
Sedum pachyphyllum
Sedum palmeri
Sedum palmeri
Prometheum pilosum
Sedum oaxacanum
Hylotelephium populifolium
Sedum potosinum
Sedum praealtum
Rhodiola hobsonii
Rhodiola primuloides
Petrosedum pruinatum
Hylotelephium spectabile
Sedum pulchellum
Hylotelephium pallescens
Petrosedum rupestre
Sedum retusum
Rhodiola rhodantha
Sedum rhodocarpum
Rhodiola rosea
Rhodiola integrifolia Subsp. *integrifolia*
Sedum rubens
Petrosedum forsterianum
Sedum sarmentosum
Phedimus selkskianus
Rhodiola semenovii
Prometheum sempervivoides
Sedum sexangulare
Hylotelephium sieboldii
Sedum somenii
Sedum spathulifolium
Sedum spathulifolium subsp. *yosemitense*
Sedum spathulifolium var. *purpureum*
Hylotelephium spectabile

S. spurium M. Bieb. (fl. alb., rose., purp.)
S. Stahlia Solms.
S. stellatum L.
S. stenopetalum Pursh.
S. Stephani Cham.
S. stoloniferum S. T. Gmel.
S. Stribnyi Velen.
S. Tatarinowii Maxim.
S. Taquetii Praeger
S. Telephium L.
S. telephioides Michx.
S. ternatum Mich.
S. Treleasei Rose
S. trifidum Wall.

S. versadense C. H. Thomp.
S. villosum L.
S. Winkleri Wolley-Dod
S. viviparum Maxim.
S. yunnanense Franch. var. *valerianoides* Hamet

*not *S. aoikon* Clausen

Phedimus spurius all forms
Sedum stahlia
Phedimus stellatus
Sedum stenopetalum
Rhodiola stephanii
Phedimus stolonifer
Sedum urvillei
Hylotelephium tatarinowii
Hylotelephium viridescens
Hylotelephium telephium
Hylotelephium telephioides
Sedum ternatum
Sedum treleasei
Rhodiola chrysanthemifolia subsp.
chrysanthemifolia
Sedum versadense
Sedum villosum
Sedum hirsutum subsp. *baeticum*
Hylotelephium viviparum
Rhodiola yunnanensis subsp. *yunnanensis*

Black = native

Blue = probably hardy

Green = successful with protection

Red = likely to be ephemeral (does not take to cultivation)

An impressive list, to put it mildly: in our estimation, there was no more exhaustive collection in the world! Furthermore, by comparing the extant information for the two consecutive years, we can conclude that it was very much in development. From a total of 146 species, 112 were cultivated in 1924; out of these, 7 died at some point during the year while 106 survived into the following season, when 32 additional species were added for a sum of 138 species cultivated in 1925. All of which raises some obvious questions.

First and foremost, why the effort? Did the collection actually come about by sheer coincidence, as the comment cited above would seem to imply, or was there something more to it? Perhaps it really did start out that way, but Magnus seems to have been spurred on by the taxonomic

confusion prevailing at the time. Here, a quote from his own account in *Lustgården* might prove both enlightening and amusing: “I soon realised however, that the nomenclature for this genus was one big jumble. How could I get this straight? I turned to various botanists – professors and others – without result. They all shook their heads and said: ‘We don’t know *Sedum*, because there’s no monograph.’ One day, I came up to Professor Robert Fries in the Bergian Garden [the botanical garden of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences], and he told me that there was a physician in Stockholm who had been to visit him in the same ‘*Sedum*-matter’. ‘Seek him out, join forces with him and make a monograph about the genus.’ I marched up to the well-known psychiatrist, Doctor Harald Fröderström – during his reception hours, mind you. Of

course, he thought that I was a normal, slightly crazy person (maybe I was) who wanted to become his patient. Once I had stated my business, he looked funny to say the least. This was in August 1923. On that day I earned a friend and the collaboration with ‘Phrödum’, as I baptised him, lasted up to his passing in 1944.”

Indeed, Fröderström – one among the “giants of the genus” (see the *Sedum Society Newsletter* 100:40–4 (2012) – partly based his great monograph on research conducted at Bondegården, and Magnus is also said to have supported his scholarship financially. His findings were published in four separate instalments during the first half of the 1930s, and a minute examination of his argument reveals that Magnus’ collection was still in development: Fröderström cites a handful

of species (*Sedum calcicola*, *S. filipes* var. *pseudostapfii*, *S. jaccardianum*, *S. linearifolium* [*Rhodiola kirilowii*], *S. populifolium* × *ewersii* [*Hylotelephium*], *S. Sanctae Monicae* [*Dudleya multicaulis*], *S. telephoides* [*Hylotelephium*], *S. tenuifolium* [*Petrosedum amplexicaule* subsp. *tenuifolium*]) that had not been in cultivation five to ten years before. In his introduction to the last part of his monograph, the author gives his patron due credit: “Since more than 10 years my friend, Mr. E. L. Magnus in Göteborg [i.e., Gothenburg], has put himself at my disposal, supplying many hundreds of living *Crassulaceae* from his garden.” Not only that, “Phrödum” also named a newly described species in his honour: *Sedum erici-magnusii*, still known by the same



Figure 17. View of the *Sedum* plantings at Bondegården in 1927. Photographer: Carl Skottsberg.

epithet, a subalpine to subarctic annual native to eastern Tibet and western Sichuan.

A second question, no less important: how was Magnus able to gather such a formidable number of species? Judging from the list above, there was a significant overlap between his collection and that of Robert Lloyd Praeger (1865–1953), which was being assembled in Dublin at roughly the same time and readily shared with other enthusiasts (see the *Sedum Society Newsletter* **100**:36-37 (2012)). Magnus may well have been in touch with him, just as he was evidently in contact – either directly or through Fröderström – with similar authorities in the field: a copy of a letter to Fröderström from a young Reid Moran (1916–2010), the American botanist who charted the closely related genus *Dudleya*, which has been preserved by chance in a private archive mentions several shipments of living specimens from California to Bondegården, including *S. radiatum*, *S. pruinatum* [*S. spathulifolium* var. *pruinatum*], *S. anomalum* [*S. spathulifolium*] and *S. niveum*. He would also have obtained parts of the collection from specialist nurseries – on his own account, he bought plants “from all over the place” – as well as through personal connections, whether family or business.

Above all, Magnus was exceptionally well placed in local botanical and horticultural networks: for a full four decades, from its constitution in 1919 and all the way up to 1959, he served on the board of trustees for the Gothenburg Botanical Garden, inaugurated during the city’s Tercentennial Jubilee Exposition in 1923 with the legendary botanist and

adventurer Carl Skottsberg (1880–1963) as its first director. A significant undertaking largely funded by private donations, the plans for the garden had originally been drafted by Sigfrid Ericson (1879–1958), a local architect who was himself something of a horticultural enthusiast, while its main buildings were designed by Arvid Bjerke (1880–1952), another local architect as well as a personal friend of Magnus; together, the duo was also responsible for the architectural conception of the Jubilee Exposition, where Magnus participated with a spectacular display of carnivorous plants. On more than one occasion, both Bjerke and Ericson were also employed by Magnus to refurbish the cottage and gardens at Bondegården.

Over the years, many botanical specimens – whether plants, cuttings, or seeds – must have passed from the Botanical Garden to Bondegården and back again: to mention only the most spectacular example, Skottsberg received his first specimen of the South African orchid *Disa uniflora* as a gift from Magnus. For the garden’s inauguration in 1923, plants from Bondegården were displayed in the newly constructed greenhouses; and when, more than two and a half decades later, Magnus decided to sell his private garden, he donated his most precious plants to the Botanical Garden. Obviously, his *Sedum* collection must have been greatly enriched by way of such connections: thanks to his position on the board of trustees, first as treasurer and later as vice chairman, he could and did benefit not only from contacts with the other botanical gardens in Sweden – his anecdote about Fries and Fröderström being a case in point – but also, no doubt, from occasional exchanges with similar

institutions abroad. It is quite telling that the inventories on which the list above is based were directly adapted from – indeed, virtual carbon copies of – the Botanical Garden’s so-called *Index seminum*.

Last but not least, who should get credit for this botanical and horticultural feat? The answer might seem self-evident: without Magnus’ position, resources, and tenacity – not to say obsession – the *Sedum* collection at Bondegården would never have come about. Still, although he was in no way averse to working in the garden, he even built his first glasshouse with his own two hands, his occupation and a host of other commitments would never have allowed him to provide the care and attention needed to maintain such a high number of plants in cultivation. Here, we must turn the spotlight on the head gardener at Bondegården, “master” Carl

Palmqvist (1883–1975), who came from a vastly different background than his employer: born into a family of tenant farmers in the rural province of Närke, he started working at the age of thirteen with the plantings on the local estate of Körtingsberg and was eventually admitted as an apprentice at the Bergian Gardens in Stockholm before arriving at Bondegården in the spring of 1912.

He could not have known it then, but he had come to stay. Nearly four decades later, in the fall of 1950, he told his employer that he was simply too old to carry on – and Magnus, who was less than a year younger, promptly decided to sell. Today, almost nothing remains of the garden, let alone of its spectacular *Sedum* collection. Except, of course, for a good story.



Figure 18. Bondegården’s head gardener Carl Palmqvist at work, probably in the 1920s. Photographer unknown.