

Succulents – survival specialists of arid areas



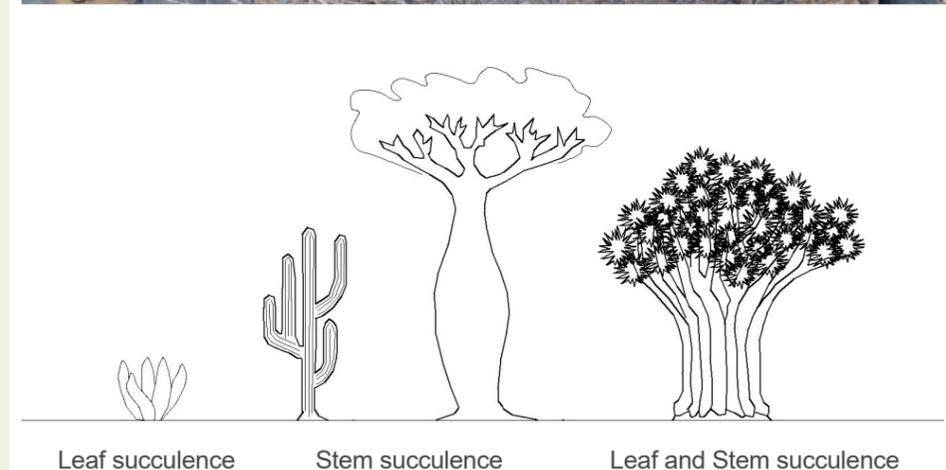
Succulents

Succulents are plants that can store water, making them well-adapted to particularly dry climates and soils. Many succulent species are found in the families of cactuses, spurge and stonecrops.

Photos:

- 1** Succulents are mostly found in areas characterised by high levels of sunlight and long periods with little to no rainfall. These areas include the coastal areas of the island of Tenerife, which supports a particularly diverse community of succulents. Photo: R. Helbig
- 2** Succulents can be categorised depending on which organ of the plant is adapted to store water. The most common types are leaf and stem succulence. In addition, many succulents protect themselves against evaporation from the surface of the plant using a thickened cuticle or epidermis, dense hairs or sunken stomata. Drawing: D. Hertel
- 3** Our succulent bed contains several *Aeonium* species that can be seen in summer. These plants belong to the stonecrop family (*Crassulaceae*) and are typical leaf succulents. They are easily recognisable due to their characteristic leaf rosettes. Many species are endemic to the Canary Islands, meaning they do not occur anywhere else in the world.

Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

