For many years we have been on the road documenting North American Crassulaceae in the wild. This is not always an easy undertaking, because these plants most often occur in only small and localized populations that can be hard to find. They prefer shadier places and often grow hidden under or amongst bigger plants, such as *Agaves* and *Opuntias*, or in mosses, ferns and *Selaginella*, which become big and green after a downpour, hiding our quarry. Another challenge is that most species grow inaccessibly high on cliffs and rock faces. Risky climbing can be involved just to take pictures.

Mexico, where most of the species of North American Crassulaceae occur, is an extremely mountainous country. Three big mountain chains, the Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Occidental and Sierra Madre del Sur, enclose a central highland harboring desert-like areas. In most places the climate is temperate to subtropical, ideal conditions for plants that love neither extreme heat nor cold. Members of a few genera in this family are particularly suited to hanging basket culture, notably from *Cremnophila*, *Graptopetalum* and *Pachyphytum*. The cliffs where these plants thrive are mostly north, northwest and west facing. Only in places...