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## What's in a name: an update on epithets used in *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae)

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**Summary:** This paper updates the previously published list (Figueiredo & Smith, 2010) of 876 epithets used in the genus *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae). A further 32 epithets are added to the list. Some epithets for which derivations could not be traced at the time are relisted here with their meaning. This addition brings to 908 the total number of unique epithets used in the genus at specific, subspecific and varietal ranks. The list of epithets provided here includes their dates of application, meaning and derivation.

**Zusammenfassung:** Dieser Beitrag ergänzt die früher publizierte Liste (Figueiredo & Smith, 2010) von 876 in der Gattung *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae) benutzten Epitheta. Diese Liste wird mit 32 weiteren Epitheta ergänzt. Für einige Epitheta, für welche seinerzeit die Ableitung nicht in Erfahrung gebracht werden konnte, wird hier ein ergänzter Eintrag mit ihrer Bedeutung gegeben. Mit diesen Zusätzen zählt die Liste nun 908 in der Gattung einmalig auf den Rangstufen der Art, Unterart oder Varietät verwendeten Epitheta. Die hier vorgelegte Liste von Epitheta enthält das Datum der Verwendung, die Bedeutung, und die Ableitung.

### Introduction

Figueiredo & Smith (2010) provided a list of 876 epithets published in the genus *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae) for species, subspecies and varieties. That list included the vast majority of epithets used in the genus up to a loosely applied cut off

date of 2008, with only a few cases left unsolved. In a later publication (Grace *et al.*, 2011) some epithets were corrected. Here we provide further corrections to, and an update of, the known epithets established in *Aloe* up to mid-2011. A total of a further 32 epithets are added to the list of Figueiredo & Smith (2010). These additions bring to 908 the total number of unique epithets used in the genus at specific, subspecific and varietal ranks.

### Corrections to the Figueiredo & Smith (2010) catalogue of epithets in *Aloe*

A derivation is now provided for the epithet *montemartini* (Catalano, 1931). In contrast, the name *nowotnyi* remains obscure in terms of the person commemorated by this specific epithet. For a third epithet commemorating an undetermined person by the name of Marshall (*marshallii*) we now suggest the possibility that the epithet refers to Guy Anstruther Knox Marshall (1871–1959), an entomologist who collected plants in South Africa in 1896 (Gunn & Codd, 1981), even though Marshall did not, apparently, collect the specimen on which this new species was based, nor is he mentioned in the text accompanying the protologue (Wood, 1897). In a very few cases Figueiredo & Smith (2010) inadvertently included incorrect information in their initial list, for example in the endings of some epithets (*bernadet-teeae*, *fleurentiniorum* and *tweedieae*). These endings were corrected by Carter *et al.* (2011) and are included in Appendix 1.

## Recently published epithets in *Aloe*

Malagasy geographical names (with 10 new epithets) continue to predominate in the formation of epithets in *Aloe*, adding yet further to potential future typographical errors. The varietal name *A. fievetii* var. *ambatofinandrahanensis* J.-B. Castillon (Castillon, 2010) tops the chart as the longest epithet published to date in *Aloe* with 22 letters – how often is this going to be spelled incorrectly?! Another very recent source of possible future confusion and error is likely to arise from the simultaneous publication of the species *A. welmelensis* Sebsebe & Nordal and *A. weloensis* Sebsebe (Sebsebe *et al.*, 2011). These species occur in the same country, Ethiopia, so surely more different names could have been chosen? A plea to future authors is, therefore, to consider issues of correct orthography and apply simple, distinctive, easily remembered and spelt names, as in *Adansonia za* Baill., the scientific name of a majestic Madagascan baobab. Incidentally, the shortest epithet in *Aloe* is currently the three-lettered *eru* (Figueiredo & Smith, 2010), which represents a significant contrast to the exceptionally long and unwieldy *ambatofinandrahanensis*!

The majority of the remaining names commemorate people (males), which confirm our observations on recent trends in naming aloes (Figueiredo & Smith, 2010). One of the new names (*A. johannis-philippeii* J.-B. Castillon) is the second used to commemorate J.-P. Castillon (the first was *A. philippeii* J.-B. Castillon, published in 2005). Another name (*A. bernardii* J.-P. Castillon) commemorates J.-B. Castillon, making this the 11<sup>th</sup> aloe named after a member of the Castillon family, by another member of the family, a situation that is probably unique in plant nomenclature. The epithet of one new combination, *A. sharoniae* N.R.Crouch & Gideon F.Sm. (Crouch & Smith, 2011), commemorates a female conservationist, Sharon Louw, from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, the only female commemorated in the new names.

To give an overview of the total number of epithets published for *Aloe*, the most recent survey of the whole genus is that of Carter *et al.* (2011), in which 580 unique epithets are adopted for species, subspecies and varieties (24 of which are included in the Addenda of post-2008 names). So, 328 of the total of 908 epithets compiled by Figueiredo & Smith (2010) and here, have become redundant, which for a genus as large as *Aloe* is probably not excessive, and undoubtedly more will follow suit into synonymy as taxonomic activity in this group shows no sign of slowing down.

## Acknowledgements

Roy Mottram is thanked for supplying literature and advanced notification of publications in *CactusWorld* and David Simpson, editor of *Kew Bulletin*, assisted in supplying information on the publication of Sebsebe *et al.* (2011). An anonymous referee is also thanked for constructive comments on a draft of this paper.

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**Appendix 1.** Epithets, dates when used and meaning (\* = new since Figueiredo & Smith, 2010).

<p><b>*ambatofinandrahanensis</b> – 2010 – For the occurrence near the town of Ambatofinandrahana in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*amboahangyensis</b> – 2009 – For the city of Amboahangy in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*angavoana</b> – 2009 – For the occurrence in the Angavo mountains, near Ankazobe in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*antoetrana</b> – 2011 – For the occurrence in the Antoetrana mountains in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*benishangulana</b> – 2011 – For the occurrence in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia.</p> <p><b>bernadetteae</b> – 2000 – Correction for <i>bernadetteae</i>, named for Bernadette Castillon (Carter <i>et al.</i>, 2011).</p> <p><b>*bernardii</b> – 2011 – For Jean-Bernard Castillon, father of the author, retired French Professor of Mathematics at the University of La Réunion and co-author of a recent book on Madagascan aloes (Castillon &amp; Castillon, 2010).</p> <p><b>*butiabana</b> – 2011 – For the port of Butiabana on Lake Albert, Uganda.</p> <p><b>*buzairiensis</b> – 2010 – For the occurrence on Jabal Buzairi, Socotra.</p> <p><b>*darainensis</b> – 2009 – For the occurrence not far from the town of Daraina in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*esomonyensis</b> – 2009 – For the village of Esomony in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>fleurentiniorum</b> – 1977 – Correction for <i>fleurentiniorum</i>, named for both Jacky and Martine Fleurentin, for which the correct suffix is <i>-iorum</i> (Carter <i>et al.</i>, 2011).</p> <p><b>*fontainei</b> – 2009 – For Pierre Fontaine, an amateur succulent enthusiast who travelled with the author.</p> <p><b>*ghibensis</b> – 2011 – For the occurrence in the Ghibe Gorge, Ethiopia.</p> <p><b>*hahnii</b> – 2009 – For Dr Norbert Hahn, botanist and conservationist from the Limpopo Province, South Africa.</p> <p><b>*itampoloana</b> – 2009 – For the type locality on limestone cliffs near Itampolo in Madagascar. (<i>Note</i>: this is a new, validly published epithet; the name is now a synonym of <i>A. acutissima</i> subsp. <i>itampolensis</i> (Castillon &amp; Castillon, 2010).)</p> <p><b>*johannis-philippe</b> – 2009 – For Jean-Philippe Castillon, son of the author, French Professor of Mathematics at the University of La Réunion and co-author of a recent book on Madagascan aloes (Castillon &amp; Castillon, 2010).</p> <p><b>*kannelii</b> – 2009 – For Mike Kamstra and Philip Nel, keen <i>Aloe</i> students and intrepid explorers from the Western Cape, South Africa.</p> <p><b>*knervslakensis</b> – 2011 – For the occurrence in the Knervslakte region, in the Western Cape Province, in South Africa. (<i>Note</i>: the orthography ‘knervslak’, rather than ‘knervslakte’, is apparently intentionally used for the locality name ‘Knervslakte’, an arid region bounded by the Hardeveld in the west, the Bokkeveld Mountains in the east, the Klipprante in the north, and the Olifants River in the south (Raper, 2004). However, some Afrikaans-speaking people would use ‘Knervslak’ and ‘Knervslakte’ interchangeably. Additionally, the way the name</p>	<p>‘Knervslakte’ is sometimes pronounced, with a silent ‘-te’, is also reflected in the stem of the epithet, ‘knervslak-’.)</p> <p><b>major</b> – 2011 – For the size; latest re-use of the epithet.</p> <p><b>marshallii</b> – 1897 – Possibly for Guy Anstruther Knox Marshall (1871–1959), an entomologist and plant collector in South Africa in 1896.</p> <p><b>*martialii</b> – 2010 – For Henry Martial Castillon, father of Jean-Bernard Castillon and grandfather of Jean-Philippe Castillon, co-authors of a recent book on Madagascan aloes (Castillon &amp; Castillon, 2010).</p> <p><b>montemartini</b> – 1931 – For Luigi Montemartini, Director, Palermo botanical garden (1928–1939).</p> <p><b>*neilcrouchii</b> – 2010 – For Professor Neil R. Crouch, ethnobotanist at the South African National Biodiversity Institute in Durban and Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.</p> <p><b>*newtonii</b> – 2009 – For Professor Len E. Newton, Kenya, specialist in African aloes and other succulents.</p> <p><b>*nicholsii</b> – 2010 – For Mr Geoff Nichols, Durban, South Africa, who first collected the species.</p> <p><b>*rapanarivoi</b> – 2009 – For S.H.J. Rapanarivo, head of the botanical department at the Tsimbazaza botanical and zoological park in Antananarivo, Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*seibanica</b> – 2010 – For the occurrence on Kawr [Khor] Seiban, a mountainous part of the Hadhramaut region in Yemen.</p> <p><b>*sharoniae</b> – 2011 – For Mrs Sharon Louw of Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, whose fieldwork at Babanango helped focus the authors’ attention on this species.</p> <p><b>*spinitriaggregata</b> – 2011 – For the unusual arrangement of teeth (spines) in clusters of three on the leaf margins.</p> <p><b>*springatei-neumannii</b> – 2011 – For the two independent collectors of the species, Lawrie Springate and Michael Neumann.</p> <p><b>*tegetiformis</b> – 2011 – For the dense carpeting or mat-forming growth habit, from Latin ‘teges’ (rug, mat), ‘-formis’ (shaped).</p> <p><b>thompsoniae</b> – 1936 – For Mrs. E.A. Thompson (1895–1991), from Haenertsberg, South Africa, who collected it in c. 1930 (Figueiredo &amp; Smith, 2011).</p> <p><b>*toliarana</b> – 2009 – For the city of Toliara in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>*tongaensis</b> – 2011 – For the occurrence in the Tongaland area, in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, in South Africa.</p> <p><b>tweedieae</b> – 1942 – Correction for <i>tweedieae</i>, named for Mrs Marjorie Tweedie (Carter <i>et al.</i>, 2011).</p> <p><b>*wanalensis</b> – 2011 – For Wanale Ridge, a spur of Mt Elgon close to the town of Mbale, Uganda, where this species was first found.</p> <p><b>*welmelensis</b> – 2011 – For the Welmel River, Ethiopia, along which the species is distributed.</p> <p><b>*weloensis</b> – 2011 – For the occurrence in the Welo floristic region, Ethiopia, with its central town, Dessie, the only known locality for the species.</p>
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