

## What's in a name: epithets in *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae) and what to call the next new species

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**Summary:** As part of a recent international collaboration to electronically disseminate information on *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae), a genus with over 500 accepted species, a comprehensive database of epithets used in the genus was compiled. *Aloe* is a truly flagship African, Madagascan and Arabian plant genus, but has been studied mostly by non-native botanists. A total of 915 names of species, subspecies and varieties, published over a period of 255 years was analysed to determine trends in the selection of epithets and rate of description of new taxa. The 876 epithets used in these names were classified into categories, and the naming of taxa in *Aloe* was analysed taking into account the prevalent historical and geographical context. Names derived from plant morphology are the most commonly used in the naming of aloes, but in recent years naming after people or geography are the preferred options. Interestingly, the decades preceding WWI (1901 to 1910) and WWII (1931 to 1940), and the past eight years (2001 to 2008), have been the ones during which the largest number of new taxa were described. A list of epithets with their dates of application, meaning and derivation is given in an appendix.

**Zusammenfassung:** Im Rahmen einer internationalen Zusammenarbeit zur elektronischen Verteilung von Informationen über *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae; eine Gattung mit über 500 akzeptierten Arten) wurde eine umfassende Datenbank der in der Gattung verwendeten Epitheta zusammengestellt. *Aloe* ist eine besonders wichtige Gattung in Afrika, Madagaskar

und Arabien, wurde aber vorwiegend von Botanikern aus anderen Ländern studiert. Insgesamt wurde ein Total von 915 Namen von Arten, Unterarten und Varietäten, die über einen Zeitraum von 255 Jahren publiziert wurden, analysiert, um Trends bei der Wahl neuer Namen sowie der Zahl neuer Taxa zu finden. Die 876 verschiedenen verwendeten Epitheta wurden in Kategorien gegliedert, und die Benennung von *Aloe*-Taxa wurde auf der Basis der vorherrschenden historischen und geographischen Rahmenbedingungen analysiert. Aus der Pflanzenmorphologie abgeleitete Namen wurden bei der Benennung von Aloen am häufigsten verwendet, aber in den letzten Jahren wurden nach Personen oder geographischen Herkünften gebildete Namen bevorzugt. Interessanterweise waren die Jahrzehnte unmittelbar vor den beiden Weltkriegen (d.h. 1901 bis 1910 und 1931 bis 1940) sowie die letzten acht Jahre (2001 bis 2008) diejenigen Zeiträume, in welchen die grösste Zahl neuer Taxa beschrieben wurden. In einem Anhang wird eine Liste aller Epitheta mit ihren Verwendungsjahren, ihrer Bedeutung und ihrer Ableitung gegeben.

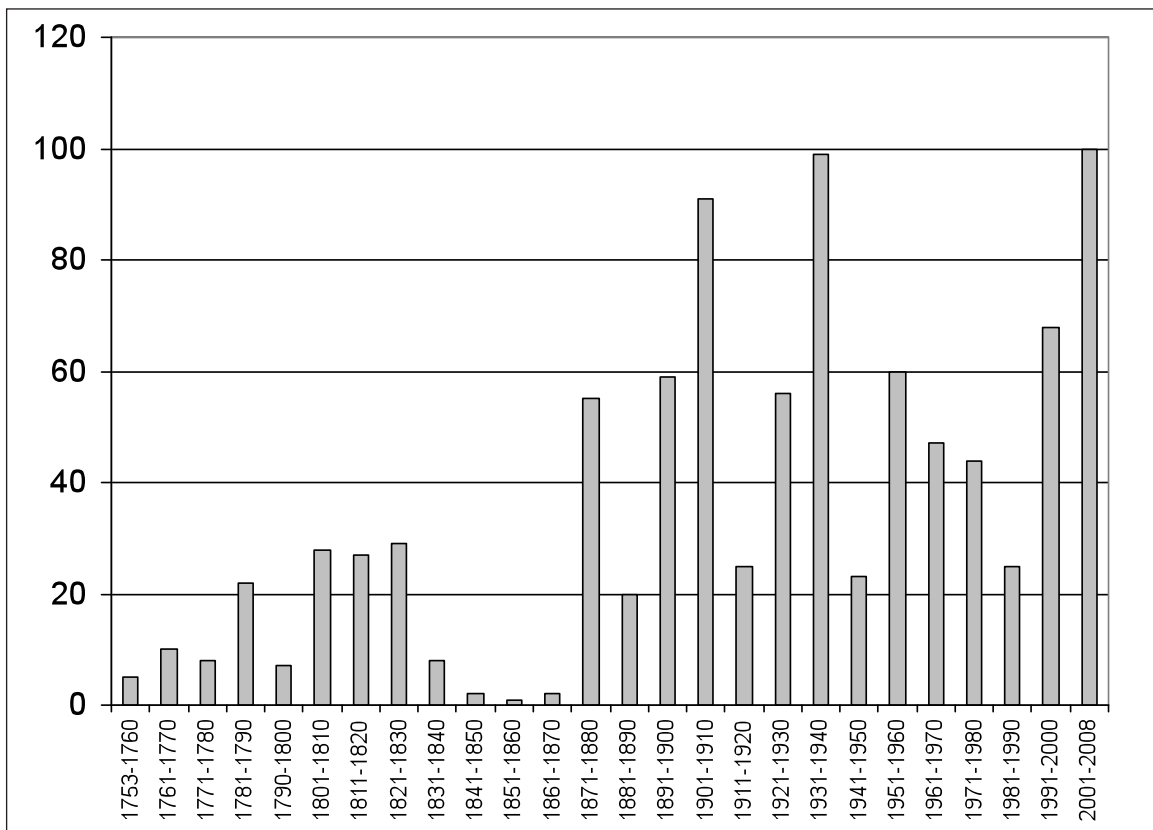
### Introduction

Diverse information is associated with the scientific names of plants. For example they reflect both the past and present classification of the plant, as well as the author of its description. Often further information (such as morphological or geographical characteristics) is also obtainable from a name. Of course, scientific names are not always suitable for the plants they

are given to. As unsuitability does not qualify for discarding a name, (International Code of Botanical Nomenclature [ICBN]: McNeill *et al.*, 2006), these names have to be maintained. A classical example of where a name can cause and perpetuate taxonomic confusion and even confusion in geographical origin is *Aloe succotrina* Weston. The name has a confused and complex history, and had erroneous synonymy for over 200 years (see Reynolds, 1950 and Smith & Van Wyk, 1996, for a history of its taxonomy and name and Guglielmone *et al.*, 2009, for clarity on the author citation). It was thought that ‘succotrina’ referred to a plant that occurred on the island of Socotra, when in fact it refers to an aloe that is endemic to and grows wild only in the southwestern Cape in South Africa. The epithet ‘succotrina’ or ‘socotrina’ is based either on the plant originally being thought to be the source of the drug ‘socotrine aloes’ which is a product prepared from the juice of the leaves of the Socotran endemic *Aloe perryi* Baker (The Pharmaceutical Codex, 1979), or to a compound word established from combining ‘succus’ (sap)

and ‘citrinus’ (lemon-yellow) referring to the juice turning yellow when it dries (Reynolds, 1950). Regardless, several authors linked the name to the wrong species.

The *Aloes of the World* project was initiated recently with the support of nearly 40 international experts on this well-known Old World genus (Smith *et al.*, 2008a, 2008b). One of the inevitable first phases of any such project aimed at compiling exhaustive datasets for electronic dissemination is to provide a comprehensive nomenclatural backbone. Constructing such a dataset for *Aloe* L. enabled for the first time a near-complete analysis of the use of epithets in the genus and the identification of trends in its scientific naming. The analysis presented here took 915 epithets into account, including those of accepted names and synonyms, as well as subspecies and varieties, published over a period of 255 years (1753–2008). This compilation presented a unique opportunity to analyse the use of epithets in a large genus and to identify trends in naming taxa.



**Figure 1.** Rate of publication of new epithets in *Aloe* from 1753–2008.

## Material and methods

The origin and meaning of all the epithets used in *Aloe* was analysed, using several bibliographic references for etymology, such as Eggi & Newton (2004), Glen & Hardy (2000), Gunn & Codd (1981), Reynolds (1950, 1966) and Stearn (1985), and also the protologues of many taxa. Names originally published in *Aloe* for taxa that are currently referred to other genera (e.g. *Aloe herbacea* Mill., which is a synonym of *Haworthia herbacea* (Mill.) Stearn) were not included in the analysis.

The primary dataset consisted of 1,023 epithets proposed in *Aloe* for plants that are presently referred to this genus. Ninety of these names were combinations under another species or at another taxonomic rank based on a basionym that was already included in the database, and therefore these duplicated epithets were not considered in the analysis. For example, we recorded the epithet *barberae* for *A. barberae* Dyer, but not for *A. bainesii* var. *barberae* (Dyer) Baker, which is a combination at another rank for the same entity. Excluding these 90 cases, the epithets of the remaining 933 combinations were analysed. Twenty-one of these remain unresolved, either because no information could be traced in the literature on the meaning of the epithets, or due to the unavailability of the protologues in which they were established. In spite of the recommendation 60H.1 in the *ICBN* (McNeill *et al.*, 2006) ('The etymology of new names or of epithets in new names should be given, especially when their meaning is not obvious') that epithets should be explained when names are published, cases are still found, even in recent literature, where such information is lacking; one of these cases dates from 2008.

We classified these epithets in the following categories (listed alphabetically): (1) *Beauty/Elegance*, when the name is a subjective appreciation of the appearance of the plant; (2) *Common/Vernacular names*; (3) *Geography*, when the name refers to a locality, area or country of occurrence; (4) *Habitat/Phenology*, referring to the habitat of the plant or season of flowering; (5) *Morphology*, referring to a morphological aspect of the plant; (6) *Other plant attributes*, such as uses and taste; (7) *People*, when it was named after a person's name; (8) *Relationship/resemblance* to other taxa/status; (9) *Various*, e.g. events. Frequency trends in publishing names of aloes were analysed by plotting the number of epithets in these categories per decade, dating back to 1753.

## Results and discussion

The list of epithets with their dates of application, meaning and derivation is given in Appendix 1. The 933 names for which epithets were analysed, were published over a period of 255 years (Figure 1). The period 1851–1860 was the least productive for *Aloe*, with a single name published (*A. microstigma* Salm-Dyck), while the most recent period (2001–2008) and the decades preceding WWI (1901–1910) and WWII (1931–1940) were the most prolific, with the publication of nearly 300 names, or about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the names available in the genus. The 915 names for which epithet meanings and derivation was compiled comprised 876 unique epithets. The epithet used most often was *major* (used in seven taxon names). Thirty-three epithets were used more than once. With regard to derivation, 338 epithets derive from Latin, 78 from Greek and 6 have a mixed Greek-Latin origin. The remaining epithets are latinised derivations from the names of places or people, and only a few are rooted in other languages.

The overall results (Table 1) show that *Morphology* is the most used category in the naming of aloes. Nevertheless, over recent years, there has been a decrease in the use of morphological characters to name these plants (Figure 2). This can be the result of either the vanishing knowledge of Botanical Latin (making authors choose easier ways to construct epithets, based on geographical or people names) or to the fact that as the number of taxa in the genus increases, the obvious epithets that refer to easily observable characters become unavailable as they are already in use.

Naming plants after *People* is the second most popular way of naming of aloes. A further analysis reveals that 87% of these (278 names)

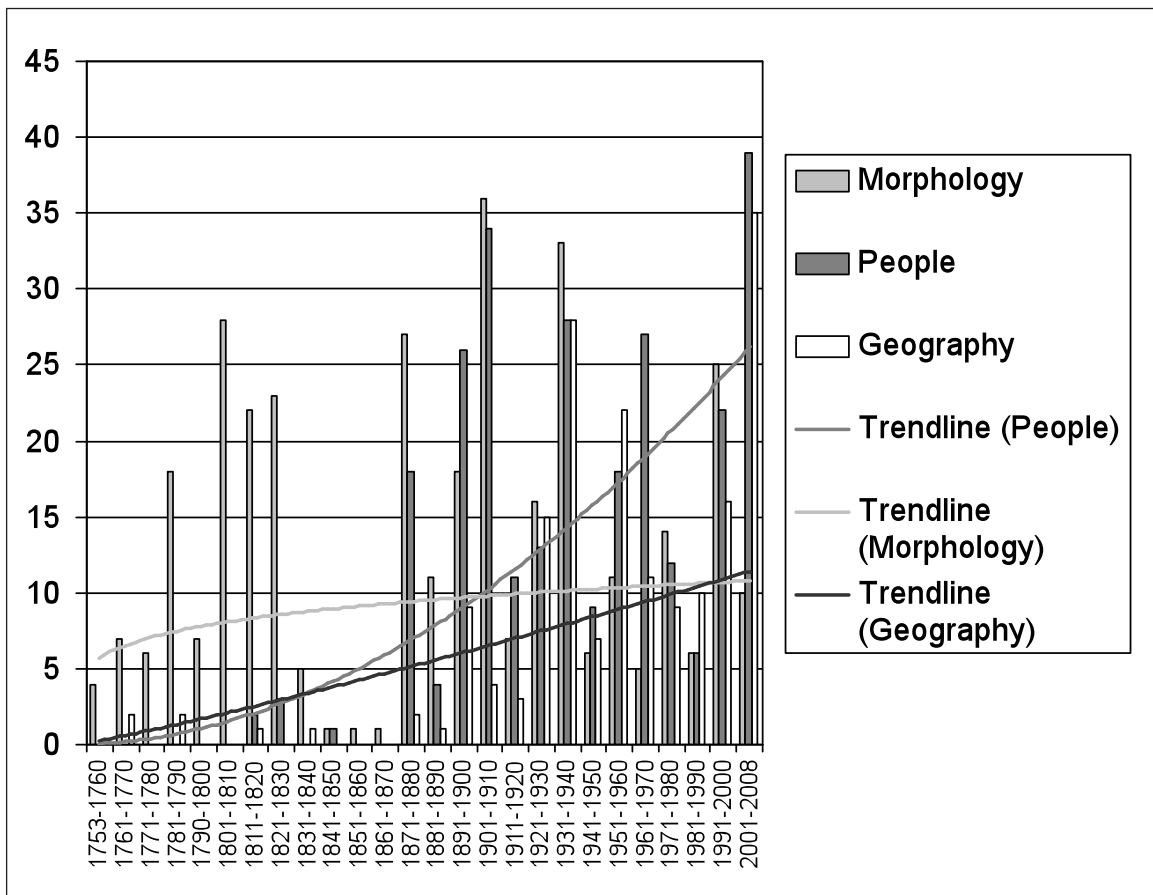
**Table 1.** *Aloe* epithets by category

Category	No. of epithets	%
Morphology	353	38.6
People	278	30.4
Geography	179	19.5
Habitat/phenology	37	4.0
Relationships/resemblance to other taxa/status	34	3.7
Beauty/elegance	16	1.7
Various	6	0.7
Common/vernacular names	6	0.7
Other plant attributes	6	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100</b>

are for males. Female names amount to a poor 13%. Furthermore, of the 38 women for which aloe names are named, 12 are commemorated as the wife of someone, and a further six as relatives of the author. Two women are commemorated twice. Excluding these cases, this leaves us with 18 women commemorated in aloe names for their contributions to knowledge of the plants. On the other hand, out of the total of 242 male names given in aloes, four are relatives of the authors but not one was commemorated as someone's husband. Four men – Joseph Salm-Dyck [1773–1861] (Rowley, 1999), John Lavranos [1926–] (Hannon, 2006), Thomas Hanbury [1832–1907] (Moore, 2004) and Werner Rauh [1913–2000] (Barthlott & Smith, 2000) – are commemorated in more than one valid name, Lavranos and Hanbury in three names each. Excluding relatives and repeated names, there were 233 men commemorated in the names of aloes. As the analysis covered a period of 255

years, these figures might not reflect the actual trend, so to assess the situation in recent times, we analysed a dataset restricted to the past 28 years (1980–2008). In this period a total of 200 names were published in *Aloe*. Sixty-nine of these were given for people, therefore 34.5%, a higher percentage when compared to the overall trend and showing an increase in this type of plant naming (see Figure 2). Of these names, 55 (80%) were for men and 17 (25%) for women (three names being dedicated to couples). Seven of these women are described as wives and four are relatives, which leaves six women's names, of which two refer to the same person, viz. Iris Sheila Collette [1927–]. Of the 55 men's names, four are for relatives of the authors and one is for a politician that results in a male: female ratio of 10:1, a figure differing little from the overall 13:1 ratio.

Eleven people commemorated in aloe names appear to be relatives of the authors. This seems



**Figure 2.** Trends in naming aloes for morphological characters, geography, and after people.

**Table 2.** The recommendations in ICBN (McNeill *et al.*, 2006)

<p><b>Recommendation 23A</b></p> <p>23A.1. Names of persons and also of countries and localities used in specific epithets should take the form of nouns in the genitive (<i>clusii</i>, <i>porsildiorum</i>, <i>saharae</i>) or of adjectives (<i>clusianus</i>, <i>dahuricus</i>) (see also Art. 60, Rec. 60C and 60D).</p> <p>23A.2. The use of the genitive and the adjectival form of the same word to designate two different species of the same genus should be avoided (e.g. <i>Lysimachia hemsleyana</i> Oliv. and <i>L. hemsleyi</i> Franch.).</p> <p>23A.3. In forming specific epithets, authors should comply also with the following suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To use Latin terminations insofar as possible.</li><li>2. To avoid epithets which are very long and difficult to pronounce in Latin.</li><li>3. Not to make epithets by combining words from different languages.</li><li>4. To avoid those formed of two or more hyphenated words.</li><li>5. To avoid those which have the same meaning as the generic name (pleonasm).</li><li>6. To avoid those which express a character common to all or nearly all the species of a genus.</li><li>7. To avoid in the same genus those which are very much alike, especially those which differ only in their last letters or in the arrangement of two letters.</li><li>8. To avoid those which have been used before in any closely allied genus.</li><li>9. Not to adopt epithets from unpublished names found in correspondence, travellers' notes, herbarium labels, or similar sources, attributing them to their authors, unless these authors have approved publication (see Rec. 34A).</li><li>10. To avoid using the names of little-known or very restricted localities unless the species is quite local.</li></ol>
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to be a recent trend, with eight of these names dating from recent years, after 2005. On the other hand, some people who contributed to the knowledge of the genus have not been commemorated in any name. For South Africa, two absences are noteworthy: Barend H. Groenewald who published a partial regional revision of the genus, particularly the maculates (Groenewald, 1941), and is the author of 16 names, and Barbara Jeppe (1921–1999) (Smith & Steyn, 2000), botanical artist and author of the well-known book *South African Aloes* (Jeppe, 1969). Six people commemorated in *Aloe* names are known only by the name and no further information on them could be found. Two of these are known only by surname, and one is an unnamed friend of the author.

*Geographical* references are the third preferred choice for *Aloe* epithets and this category also shows an increase over the past few years. When the first *aloe* descriptions were made, these were mostly based on material sent to Europe for study. Often the specimens lacked information on locality or area of occurrence. Predictably therefore the first geographical epithets that were used in the genus in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (names for geographical variants of the widely cultivated *A. vera* (L.) Burm.f. excluded) were the rather vague *africana*, *abyssinica* and *arabica*. Over the last 10 years, 45% of the geographical epithets refer to Madagascar.

Names based on *habitat* or *phenology* were

also not common in early days. The first of these names attributed to an *aloe* was *littoralis* in 1878, for a plant that was found in a coastal area near Luanda, Angola, but, in fact, it does not have that habitat preference.

The next category, where we included names referring to *relationship* or *resemblance* to other taxa, or to the status of the taxon, is almost as frequent as basing names on *habitat/phenology* and has been used consistently over the years. The first epithet to appear in this category is *vera*, published in 1753, meaning 'the true *aloe*' (i.e. the true *aloe* of commerce).

Sixteen *aloes* have been named for their beauty or elegance. It is remarkable that 15 epithets (one was given twice) could be found in Botanical Latin to describe a pleasant and appealing appearance. These are: *amoena*, *bella*, *bellatula*, *concinna*, *decora*, *elegans*, *elegantissima*, *grata*, *insignis*, *jucunda*, *lepida*, *pulcherrima*, *pulchra*, *speciosa* and *spectabilis*. As available epithets for this category may now be scarce, this may explain why over the last 10 years only one species was named under this category (*A. elegantissima* T.A.McCoy & Lavranos, in 2008).

Even though the generic name of *Aloe* originated from a common name (see Smith, 1993), the use of *common names* as the source of epithets for *aloes* has not been frequent. In spite of the richness in the common names of *aloes*, particularly in southern Africa, only six names are based on the vernacular, and of these, only

one is from continental Africa (*A. eru* A.Berger, based on an Ethiopian common name).

Plant attributes other than morphology have also been found in aloe epithets. These are seldom used and none was recorded for the past 30 years. They refer to the taste of the plants (e.g. *inamara*, meaning not bitter), their medicinal (*officinalis*), edible (*edulis*, *esculenta*) or poisonous (*venenosa*) qualities, and soap-making (*saponaria*) capacity.

Lastly, under the category *Various*, we classified names that did not fit into any of the other categories. These include names after events leading to the discovery of the plant, or connected to its study and naming. The first name to appear in this category is the interesting epithet *paedogona* (*A. paedogona* A.Berger), for a plant that is believed to be a fertility charm, from Greek *paedo-* (pertaining to children), *-gonos* (seed). Also in this category we find the rather thoughtful *rendilliorum*, for a local African tribe (*A. rendilliorum* L.E.Newton). Although self-commemorating naming is allowed by the *Code*, it is not widely accepted by the botanical scientific community. There are no names of this type in *Aloe*, but the name *kwasimbana* [constructed from combining the Swahili *kwa* (place of) and *simba* (lion)] coined to commemorate the feat of killing a lion by one of its authors (*A. kwasimbana* T.A.McCoy & Lavranos) peripherally falls in that category.

In *Aloe* there are no names based on anagrams. Malagasy names (either geographical or personal) appear to be the ones that may cause more trouble to be memorised (that is, for non-Malagasy) but the epithet *roeoesslii* (*A. roeoesslii* Lavranos & T.A.McCoy), after the collector Walter Rössli, is probably the one that will give rise to a more than average number of orthographic variants.

All names have a historical context and reflect a particular time and place. In *Aloe*, nomenclature shows a long history, from the name of the genus dating from biblical times, to the species epithets revealing the colonial past of the areas where they occur. Since the first binomial names published by Linnaeus in 1753, and for many decades, even centuries, thereafter the genus was mostly studied in Europe by specialists who often never saw the plants in their natural habitat. For instance, John G. Baker (1834–1920), British botanist at Kew, who published c.90 names, never visited the places where the plants occur. Alwin Berger (1871–1931), the curator of Sir Thomas

Hanbury's famous La Mortola Gardens near Ventimiglia in Italy and a contemporary of Baker, published c.60 names in *Aloe*, and is also known for never having seen the plants he studied in their natural habitat. Nevertheless, he created the interesting epithets *paedogona* and *eru* that are mentioned above. These authors' lack of knowledge of the area of occurrence, habitat and people associated with the plants is often reflected in the choice of epithets, with the shortage of names deriving from common names or habitat preference being an example. It is noteworthy though that Berger's (1905, 1908) proposed infrageneric classification for *Aloe* has survived in amended form to the present day, mostly because Reynolds (1950) adopted it.

Has the situation now changed? Our data show that in the period 2001–2008 one hundred names were published in *Aloe* (Figure 1), making the decade 2001–2010 the most productive ever, in terms of the description of new aloes. Four persons published c.80% of these names (when only the first author of a multi-authored name is considered). Excluding the author from La Réunion (which is a French, Eurozone territory), of the remaining three, only one is native to the country where the plants occur. The genus is, therefore, still studied predominantly by non-native students. This is a reflection of the colonial past, indicating where Old World Floras were compiled. In fact, even in South Africa (the richest area in present-day aloe diversity), the vast majority of the indigenous species was described by students of the genus who were not born in the country. However, it is expected that the number of aloes described may well decrease over the next decade due to increasing difficulties both in obtaining permits for collecting material for study in many countries where these plants occur, and in sending specimens to be studied by botanists in other countries (Crouch *et al.*, 2008).

To some extent plant naming reveals the research history of a genus and also the social and cultural context of its natural distribution and occurrence. It has been suggested that names should follow specific rules, to avoid the coining of inappropriate or ridiculous names. Also, the naming of plants after people has often been criticised. Although there are recommendations in the *ICBN* (McNeill *et al.*, 2006) (see Table 2), the *Code* wisely does not dictate specific rules on this subject. In fact it states that 'a legitimate name must not be rejected merely because it, or its epithet, is inappropriate or disagreeable'

(McNeill *et al.*, 2006, Art. 51.1).

We all agree that in plant nomenclature history, there are many names that are actually disagreeable and it is regrettable that they were ever coined. There are names that acquired a derogatory or negative meaning, such as the epithet *caffra* that was frequently used for African plants, for example, in *Acacia caffra* (Thunb.) Willd. (from the old name Caffraria, for a region in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, from an arab word meaning 'infidel' which acquired a racial meaning). Other names who commemorate once respected politicians that later fell into disgrace. Examples of these are *Kalanchoe salazarii* Raym.-Hamet for the Portuguese dictator, or *K. presidentis-malanii* Raym.-Hamet and *K. presidentis-verwoerdii* Raym.-Hamet, for two South African apartheid architects. Although the latter two names are fortunately considered invalid under the *ICBN*, the former is valid and apparently constitutes a good species. Therefore, even though Salazar's name could be removed from street names, bridges and other geographical features in Portugal, it will be impossible to delete it in the plant nomenclature world. These three names were coined by Raymond-Hamet (1890–1972), a French physician and botanist known for his eccentricity. It is also to Raymond-Hamet that one of the most idiosyncratic names for a succulent plant can be attributed, that being *Kalanchoe mitejea*, a name published in co-authorship with Alice Leblanc, and which is an anagram of the French *je t'aime*. Leblanc, an intimate acquaintance of Raymond-Hamet, was also commemorated in the epithets *leblancae* and *celiae* (an anagram of the first name) by the same author. These examples support our view that although freedom in naming plants will occasionally result in less appropriate names, it will also produce others that will be interesting or surprising.

Nomenclature is often perceived by the layperson as a drab discipline. Webb (2008) reports that "nomenclature is increasingly being standardised by flint-faced committees with little taste for whimsy" and asks whether "the colourful side of science itself [is] softly vanishing away". We did not come across any examples of quirky naming in *Aloe*, with the possible exception of *A. dominella*, which is of unresolved meaning that could originate from Latin 'domina' (lady, mistress), and be a corruption of the diminutive 'dominilla', oddly after the lady of the farm where the plant was collected. We hope this

colourful side of nomenclature will survive but we think it is unlikely that we will see many playful names in the future. Unlike zoologists, plant taxonomists seem to be a rather solemn type (see Yanega, 2005, for an extensive list of interesting names, of which only a handful are plants).

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#### Appendix 1. Epithets, dates when used and meaning.

**aageodonta** – 1993 – With hard teeth, from Greek ‘aages’ (hard), ‘odous, odontus’ (teeth).

**abyssicola** – 1971 – Living in abysses, from Latin ‘abyssus’ (abyss), ‘-cola’ (-dwelling).

**abyssinica** – 1783 – For the occurrence in Abyssinia.

**aculeata** – 1915 – For the spiny leaf surface, from Latin ‘aculeatus’ (prickly, pointed).

**acuminata** – 1804 – For the leaves, from Latin ‘acuminatus’ (pointed).

**acutissima** – 1926 – For the leaves, from Latin ‘acutus’ (acute), superlative.

**adigratana** – 1957 – For the occurrence at Adigrat, in Ethiopia.

**aethiopica** – 1894 – For the occurrence in Ethiopia.

**affinis** – 1908 – For the relationship to *Aloe zebrina*, although it is not closer to that species than to any other maculate aloe (Glen & Hardy, 2000; Smith *et al.*, 2005), from Latin ‘affinis’ (allied to).



- africana** – 1768 – For the occurrence in Africa.
- agavefolia** – 1875 – For the leaves resembling those of an *Agave*, from Latin ‘-folia’ (leaved).
- agrophila** – 1936 – For the preferred habitat in grass, from Greek ‘agros’ (countryside, farm), ‘philos’ (friend).
- ahmarensis** – 1999 – For the occurrence at Al Ahmar, in Yemen.
- albida** – 1933 – For the flower colour, whitish, from Latin ‘albus’ (white).
- albiflora** – 1940 – White-flowered, from Latin ‘albus’ (white), ‘florus’ (flowered).
- albispina** – 1804 – For the white spines, from Latin ‘albus’ (white), ‘spina’ (spine).
- albicincta** – 1819 – For the white-edged leaves, from Latin ‘albus’ (white), ‘cinctus’ (encircled).
- albopicta** – 1894, 1908 – For the white spots on the leaves, from Latin ‘albus’ (white), ‘pictus’ (painted).
- albostrata** – 2008 – With white stripes, from Latin ‘albus’ (white), ‘striatus’ (striped).
- albovestita** – 1983 – For the heavy bloom on the tepals, from Latin ‘albus’ (white), ‘vestitus’ (clothed).
- aldabrensis** – 1975 – For the occurrence on Aldabra Island.
- alexandrei** – 2006 – For Mr Alexandre Viossat, who discovered the plant.
- alfredii** – 1990 – For Alfred Razafindratsira (fl.1941–1987), Madagascar plant collector and owner of a plant nursery.
- alcooides** – 1881 – For resembling an aloe, from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling). It was first described and named in the genus *Urginia*.
- alticola** – 1997 – For the occurrence at higher altitude, from Latin ‘altus’ (high), ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- altimatsiatrae** – 2008 – For the occurrence in the High Matsiatra province, in Madagascar, from Latin ‘altus’ (high).
- amanensis** – 1905 – For the occurrence at Amani, Usambara Mountains, in Tanzania.
- ambigens** – 1928 – Of obscure application, from Latin ‘ambigere’ (to doubt).
- ambositrae** – 2008 – For the occurrence at Ambositra, in Madagascar.
- ambrensis** – 2007 – For the type locality, at Cap d’Ambre, in Madagascar.
- amicorum** – 1991 – For the friends of the Mountain Club of Kenya expedition, when the taxon was discovered, from Latin ‘amicus’ (friend).
- ammophila** – 1936 – For the preferred sandy habitat, from Greek ‘ammos’ (sand), ‘-philos’ (friend).
- amoena** – 1933 – For the beauty of the plant, from Latin ‘amoena’ (beautiful).
- ampefyana** – 2007 – For the occurrence at Ampefy, in Madagascar.
- amudatensis** – 1956 – For the occurrence at Amudat, in Uganda.
- andohahelensis** – 2002 – For the occurrence on the Massif of Andohahela, in Madagascar.
- andongensis** – 1878 – For the occurrence at Pungo Andongo, in Angola.
- andringitrensis** – 1926 – For the occurrence on the Andringitra Mountains, in Madagascar.
- angelica** – 1934 – For Mrs (Angelique) R.C. Wallace, whose husband was a former chief engineer of the South African Railways and Harbours (SARAH), and who brought the plant to the attention of Dr I.B. Pole-Evans.
- angiensis** – 1921 – For the occurrence at Hangi (Angi), Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- angolensis** – 1878 – For the occurrence in Angola.
- angusta** – 1829 – For the narrow leaves, from Latin ‘angustus’ (narrow).
- angustifolia** – 1819, 1894 – For the narrow leaves, from Latin ‘angustus’ (narrow), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- angustior** – 1784, 1819 – For the narrower leaves, from Latin ‘angustus’ (narrow), comparative.
- anivoranoensis** – 1998 – For the occurrence near Anivorano, in Madagascar.
- ankaranensis** – 2000 – For the occurrence in the Falaise d’Ankarana, in Madagascar.
- ankoberensis** – 1997 – For the occurrence at Ankober, in Ethiopia.
- antandroi** – 1921 – For the occurrence at Antandroi in Madagascar or on the territory of the Antandroi tribe.
- antanimorensis** – 1956 – For the occurrence at Antanimora, in Madagascar.
- antonii** – 2006 – For Antoine Castillon, grandson of the author.
- antsingyensis** – 1935 – For the occurrence at Antsingy, in Madagascar.
- arabica** – 1783 – For the occurrence in Arabia.
- arborea** – 1784 – For being tree-like, from Latin ‘arbor’ (tree).
- arborescens** – 1768 – For becoming tree-like, from Latin ‘arbor’ (tree), even though the plant becomes a large much branched shrub, instead of a tree (Glen & Hardy, 2000).
- archeri** – 1977 – For Philip G. Archer (1922–), British accountant and succulent plant enthusiast resident in Kenya in 1950–1974.
- arenicola** – 1938 – For the preferred sandy habitat, from Latin ‘arena’ (sand), ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- argenticauda** – 1974 – For the peduncle covered with large, silvery bracts, from Latin ‘argenteus’ (silvery), ‘cauda’ (tail).
- argyrostachys** – 2007 – For the silvery aspect of the flowers, from Greek ‘argyros’ (silver), ‘stachys’ (spike).
- aristata** – 1825 – For the awn-like leaf tips, from Latin ‘aristatus’ (awned).
- armatissima** – 2000 – For the prominent marginal teeth of the leaves, from Latin ‘armatus’ (armed), superlative.
- asperifolia** – 1905 – For the rough leaves, from Latin ‘asper’ (rough), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- atherstonei** – 1880 – For Dr William G. Atherstone (1814–1898), English medical practitioner and naturalist in South Africa.
- audhalica** – 1965 – For the occurrence on the Audhali Plateau, in Yemen.
- aufensis** – 2007 – For Mount Jebel Auf in Saudi Arabia, where it was discovered.
- augustina** – 1995 – For the occurrence near St Augustin, in Madagascar.
- aurantiaca** – 1892, 1926 – For the colour of the flower, from Latin ‘aurantiacus’ (orange).
- aurelienii** – 2008 – For Aurélien Castillon, grandson of the author.
- ausana** – 1928 – For the occurrence at Aus, in Namibia.
- austroarabica** – 2003 – For the occurrence in southern Saudi Arabia, from Latin ‘auster’ (south), ‘arabicus’ (Arabian).
- babatiensis** – 1954 – For the presumed occurrence at Babati, in Tanzania.
- bainesii** – 1874 – For John Thomas Baines (1820–1875), English artist and explorer, mainly in South Africa.
- bakeri** – 1891 – For John G. Baker (1834–1920), British

- botanist at Kew.
- ballii** – 1964 – For John S. Ball (fl. 1954–1974), Zimbabwean forestry officer.
- ballyi** – 1953 – For Dr Peter R.O. Bally (1895–1980), Swiss botanist at the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, who travelled widely in East Africa and was resident in Kenya from the 1930s.
- bamangwatensis** – 1904 – For the occurrence in the country of the Bamangwato, in Griqualand, South Africa.
- barbadensis** – 1768 – For the occurrence in Barbados, West Indies.
- barberae** – 1874 – For Mary E. Barber (née Bowker), (1818–1899), English writer, painter and naturalist whose parents emigrated to South Africa in 1820. She was one of the pioneer plant collectors in South Africa and introduced the plant to British horticulture (Smith *et al.*, 1994).
- barbertoniae** – 1917 – For the occurrence at Barberton, in South Africa.
- bargalensis** – 1973 – For the occurrence at Bargal, in Somalia.
- barteri** – 1880 – For Charles Barter (fl. 1857–1859) British gardener, foreman of the Regent's Park gardens of the Royal Botanic Society, London who joined the second Niger Expedition of W. Baikie and collected the type specimen.
- baumii** – 1903 – For Hugo Baum (1867–1950), collector in the Cunene-Zambesi expedition to Angola in 1899–1900, who collected the type specimen.
- beckeri** – 1903 – For Hermann F. Becker (1838–1917), plant collector from Grahamstown, in South Africa.
- belavenokensis** – 1994 – For the occurrence near Belavenoka, in Madagascar.
- bella** – 1974 – For its beauty, from Latin 'bellus' (beautiful).
- bellatula** – 1956 – For its beauty, from Latin 'bellus' (beautiful), diminutive.
- beniensis** – 1921 – For the occurrence near Beni, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- bequaertii** – 1921 – For Joseph Bequaert (1886–1982), Belgian plant collector, mostly in Congo, who collected the type specimen.
- berevoana** – 1998 – For the occurrence near Berevo, in Madagascar.
- berhana** – 1957 – For the occurrence at Debre Berhan, in Ethiopia.
- bernadettae** – 2000 – For Bernardette Castillon, expert cultivator of Madagascan succulents.
- bertmariae** – 2000 – For Berte Marie Ulvester, wife of Dr Maurizio Dioli, Italian veterinary officer in Ethiopia.
- betsileensis** – 1926 – For the occurrence at Betsileo, in Madagascar.
- bicolor** – 1908, 1936 – (1) For the colours of the flower; (2) for the change of the the colours of the flower from red in bud to greenish-white. From Latin 'bi-' (two), 'color' (colour).
- bicomitum** – 1977 – For G.W. Reynolds (1895–1967) and Neil R. Smuts (1898–1963) who travelled together in search of plants, from Latin 'bi-' (two), 'comitor' (accompany).
- blyderivierensis** – 1938 – For the occurrence near Blyde River, in Mpumalanga, South Africa.
- boastii** – 1934 – For Mr H.W. Boast, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Pigg's Peak, in Swaziland, who collected it.
- boehmii** – 1895 – For Boehm, plant collector in Africa, who collected the type in 1882.
- boiteau** – 1942 – For Pierre L. Boiteau (1911–1980), French botanist in Madagascar and curator of the Botanical Garden in Antananarivo.
- bolusii** – 1880 – For Harry Bolus (1834–1911), English-born South African banker and botanist, who collected the type specimen.
- bondana** – 1966 – For the occurrence near Bonda Mission, in Zimbabwe.
- boranensis** – 1939 – For the occurrence in the country of the Borana, in southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya.
- borziana** – 1897 – For Prof. Antonino Borzi (1852–1921), Italian botanist, director of the Botanical Garden of Palermo, in Italy.
- boscawenii** – 1942 – For Lieut.-Col. Mildmay Thomas Boscawen (1892–1958), English military officer, became a sisal (*Agave sisalana*) grower in Tanzania after WWI, where he developed a fine garden of succulent plants.
- bosseri** – 2000 – For Jean-M. Bosser (1922–), French botanist and agronomical engineer, director of ORSTOM at Antananarivo, in Madagascar.
- bowiea** – 1829 – For James Bowie (1789–1869), English horticulturalist and botanical collector in South Africa, who collected it (Smith & Van Wyk, 1989).
- boylei** – 1892 – For Mr F. Boyle who collected the first material in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal), in 1891, with Mr Allison, who sent it to England, where the plant was described.
- brachyphylla** – 1880 – For the short leaves, from Greek 'brachys' (short), 'phyllon' (leaf).
- brachystachys** – 1895 – For the short inflorescence, from Greek 'brachys' (short), 'stachys' (spike).
- branddraaiensis** – 1940 – For the occurrence at Branddraai, Mpumalanga Province, in South Africa.
- brandhamii** – 1994 – For Dr Peter E. Brandham (1937–), British plant geneticist at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, England, with a strong interest in *Aloe*.
- breviflora** – 1977 – For the shorter flowers, from Latin 'brevis' (short), '-florus' (flowered).
- brevifolia** – 1768, 1789, 1926 – For the short leaves, from Latin 'brevis' (short), '-folius' (leaved).
- brevioribus** – 1768 – For the short leaves, from Latin 'brevis' (short).
- breviscapa** – 1958 – For the short inflorescence, from Latin 'brevis' (short), 'scapus' (scape).
- broomii** – 1907 – For Dr Robert Broom (1866–1951), Scottish physician and palaeo-anthropologist who emigrated to South Africa in 1896 and was the first to collect the plant in 1905.
- brownii** – 1889 – For Dr Nicholas E. Brown (1849–1934), English botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, specialising in African succulents, especially the Mesembryanthemaceae.
- brunneodentata** – 2000 – For the brown marginal teeth of the leaves, from Latin 'brunneus' (brown), 'dentatus' (toothed).
- brunneo-punctata** – 1903 – For the spots on the leaf surface, from Latin 'brunneus' (brown), 'punctatus' (dotted).
- brunneostriata** – 1992 – For the striate leaves, from Latin 'brunneus' (brown), 'striatus' (striate).
- brunnthaleri** – 1933 – For Joseph Brunthaler (1871–1914), Austrian botanist who collected in South Africa.
- bruynsii** – 2003 – For Dr Peter V. Bruyns (1957–), South African mathematician and succulent plant specialist.
- buchananii** – 1895 – For John Buchanan (1821–1903), Scottish clergyman, resident in South Africa from

- 1861–1877.
- buchlohii** – 1966 – For Prof. Günther Buchloh (1923–), German botanist in Stuttgart, who collected with Prof. Rauh in Madagascar in 1961.
- büttneri** – 1905 – For Prof. Oscar. A. R. Büttner (1858–1927), German botanist, head of a research station in Togo from 1890–1891, later professor in Berlin, who collected it.
- buhrii** – 1971 – For Elias A. Buhr, a farmer near Nieuwoudtville, South Africa, who first collected the species.
- bukobana** – 1954 – For the occurrence near Buboka, in Tanzania.
- bulbicaulis** – 1936 – For the bulbous base of the plant, from Latin ‘bulbus’ (bulb), ‘caulis’ (stem).
- bulbillifera** – 1926 – For the small bulbils that develop on the inflorescence, from Latin ‘bulbilla’ (small bulb), ‘-fer’ (bearing).
- bullockii** – 1961 – For Arthur A. Bullock (1906–1980), British botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and specialist in Asclepiadaceae.
- burgersfortensis** – 1936 – For the occurrence near Burgersfort, South Africa.
- bussei** – 1908 – For Dr W. Busse, German agricultural officer in Tanzania.
- caesia** – 1817, 1936 – (1) For the blue-grey colour of the leaves; (2) for the blue-grey colour of the leaves, perhaps erroneously as in the diagnosis the author states ‘foliis caesio-viridulis’, but the explanation reads ‘milky-green leaves’. From Latin ‘caesius’ (light blue).
- calcairophila** – 1960 – For its ecological preference for lime, from the French ‘calcaire’ (lime), and Greek ‘philos’ (friend).
- calidophila** – 1954 – For the preference for hot sites, from Latin ‘calidus’ (hot), from Greek ‘philos’ (friend).
- cameronii** – 1903 – For Kenneth J. Cameron, Scottish planter in Malawi for the African Lakes Corporation in 1890–1903.
- camperi** – 1894 – For Manfredo Camperi, resident in Eritrea.
- campylosiphon** – 1904 – For the shape of the corolla tube, from Greek ‘campylos’ (bent), ‘siphon’ (tube).
- canarina** – 1994 – For the canary-yellow colour of the flowers, from Latin.
- candelabrum** – 1876, 1906 – For the appearance of the inflorescence, which resembles a candlestick, from Latin.
- candicans** – 1926 – For the bract colour, from Latin ‘candicans’ (becoming white).
- candollei** – 1880 – For Prof. Augustin P. De Candolle (1778–1841), Swiss botanist.
- canis** – 2003 – For Theo Campbell-Barker, who discovered the taxon, from Latin ‘canis’ (dog) in allusion to dog’s barking (Barker) (see Lane *et al.*, 2003).
- cannellii** – 1971 – For Ian C. Cannell (fl. 1967–2003), Zimbabwean civil engineer who travelled and collected with L.C. Leach.
- capitata** – 1883 – For the head-like inflorescence, from Latin ‘capitatus’ (capitate).
- capmanambatoensis** – 2000 – For the occurrence at Cap Manambato, in Madagascar.
- caricina** – 1905 – Unresolved application.
- carnea** – 1996 – For the flesh colour of the flower, from Latin ‘carneus’ (meat).
- carolineae** – 2002 – For Caroline Wheeler (1960–2000), wife of Charlie Wheeler, Kenya, both active in the conservation of Kenya’s environment.
- carowii** – 1938 – For Mr R. Carow, who discovered it in Nauchas, Namibia.
- cascadensis** – 1898 – For occurring at a small waterfall near East London, in South Africa.
- castanea** – 1907 – For the chestnut brown colour of the nectar (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996) or of the flowers (Glen & Hardy, 2000), from Latin ‘castanea’ (chestnut).
- castellorum** – 1983 – For the occurrence on historic fortress mountains, from Latin ‘castellum’ (castle).
- castilloniae** – 2006 – For Bernardette Castillon, horticulturist at La Réunion, grower of Madagascan succulents.
- catractarum** – 2007 – For the occurrence near waterfalls, from Latin ‘catracta’ (waterfall).
- catengiana** – 1961 – For the occurrence near Catengue, in Angola.
- cephalophora** – 2000 – For the capitate inflorescences, from Greek ‘kephale’ (head), ‘-phoros’ (carrying).
- cernua** – 1890 – For the drooping flowers, from Latin ‘cernuus’ (slightly drooping).
- chabaudii** – 1905 – For John A. Chabaud, plant grower in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in whose garden the original specimens flowered.
- challisii** – 2006 – For Mr Chris Challis, an aloe and succulent enthusiast, who first collected it while exploring a hiking trail in Verlorenkloof, in South Africa.
- charlotteae** – 2006 – For Charlotte Castillon, granddaughter of the author.
- cheranganiensis** – 1979 – For the occurrence on the Cherangani Hills, in Kenya.
- chimanimaniensis** – 1936 – For the occurrence on Chimanimani Mountains, in eastern Zimbabwe.
- chinensis** – 1819 – For the occurrence in China.
- chlorantha** – 1973 – For the green flower, from Greek ‘chloros’ (green), ‘anthos’ (flower).
- chloroleuca** – 1877 – Probably referring to the flower, which however, is described as yellowish-white not greenish-white, from Greek ‘chloros’ (green), ‘leucos’ (white).
- chortolirioides** – 1908 – For resembling the genus *Chortolirion*, particularly *C. angolense*, from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- christianii** – 1936 – For H. Basil Christian (1871–1950) South African agriculturalist and amateur botanist who emigrated to Zimbabwe in 1911 and established a large private garden in 1914 that became the Ewanrigg National Park.
- chrysostachys** – 1976 – For the yellow inflorescences, from Greek ‘chrysos’ (gold), ‘stachys’ (spike).
- ciliaris** – 1825 – For the fringe of cilia on the stem-clasping/amplexicaul leaf bases, from Latin ‘ciliaris’ (ciliate).
- cinnabarina** – 1905 – For the red colour of the flower, from Latin ‘cinnabarinus’ (cinnabar red).
- cipolinicola** – 1926 – For the occurrence on Cipolin limestone in Madagascar, from Latin ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- citrea** – 1944 – For the lemon yellow flower colour, from Latin ‘citreus’ (lemon like).
- citrina** – 1983 – For the flower colour, from Latin ‘citrinus’ (lemon-yellow).
- clarkei** – 2003 – For Paul Clarke, English management consultant resident in Kenya 1985–2001 who discovered the plants on a remote mountain.
- classenii** – 1965 – For George A. Classen (1915–1982), Russian-born geologist resident in Kenya from 1948, who collected plants while travelling professionally as a hydrologist.

- claviflora** – 1822 – For the club-shaped flowers, from Latin ‘clava’ (club), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- collegetae** – 1995 – For Iris Sheila Collette (1927–), English amateur botanist, well-known collector and researcher of Arabian succulents.
- collina** – 1996 – For the preferred hilly habitat, from Latin ‘collinus’ (hill).
- commelinii** – 1811 – For either Jan or Caspar Commelin, probably Jan Commelin (1629–1692), who first studied the plants that were sent from the Cape Colony (now part of South Africa) to Amsterdam.
- commixta** – 1908 – From Latin ‘commixtus’ (mixed up) perhaps because it was previously known under an illegitimate name (Eggle & Newton, 2004), or because of its occurrence in dense thickets of intermingled stems (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996) or because it was first confused with *Aloe gracilis* or considered a variant of *A. striatula* (Glen & Hardy, 2000).
- commutata** – 1876 – Obscure application, from Latin ‘commutatus’ (changed, changing).
- comosa** – 1905 – For being brush-like, referring to the leaves (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996), or to the inflorescences (Glen & Hardy, 2000), from Latin ‘coma’ (hair, mane, tuft).
- comosibracteata** – 1936 – For the fleshy bracts in an imbricate tuft at the top of the raceme, from Latin ‘coma’ (hair, mane, tuft), ‘bracteatus’ (with bracts).
- compacta** – 1961 – For the exceptionally compactly branched inflorescence, from Latin ‘compactus’ (compact).
- compressa** – 1926 – For the distichous (laterally compressed) leaf arrangements, from Latin ‘compressus’ (compressed).
- comptonii** – 1950 – For Prof. Robert H. Compton (1886–1979), British botanist in South Africa, Professor at the University of Cape Town and second director of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, at Kirstenbosch.
- concinna** – 1895 – For the appearance, from Latin ‘concinus’ (neat, pretty, elegant).
- confusa** – 1895 – For being confused, as the taxon was previously unknown, from Latin.
- congdonii** – 1994 – For Colin Congdon, British manager of a tea estate in Tanzania and amateur naturalist.
- congolensis** – 1899 – For the occurrence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- conifera** – 1926 – For the cone-like appearance of young inflorescences, from Latin ‘conus’ (cone), ‘-fer’ (carrying).
- consobrina** – 1863 – Probably for the relationship to other species, from Latin ‘consobrinus’ (cousin).
- constricta** – 1880 – For the constricted perianth, from Latin ‘constrictus’ (constricted).
- contigua** – 1926 – Probably for the relationship to other taxa, from Latin ‘contiguus’ (adjoining, neighbouring).
- cooperi** – 1874 – For Thomas Cooper (1815–1913), English plant collector working for W.W.Saunders and collecting in South Africa from 1859–1862, who rediscovered the species in 1860 (it was first discovered by William J. Burchell).
- corallina** – 1979 – For the flower colour, from Latin ‘corallinus’ (coral red, coral-like).
- corbisieri** – 1921 – For A. Corbisier-Baland (1881–?), who collected the type specimen.
- corderoyi** – 1904 – For Justus Corderoy (1832–1911), English succulent plant cultivator.
- corifolia** – 1934 – For the leathery cuticle of the leaves, from Latin ‘corium’ (skin), ‘-folia’ (leaved).
- cornuta** – 1908 – For the marginal leaf teeth, from Latin ‘cornutus’ (horned).
- craibii** – 2003 – For Charles Craib (fl. 1997–2003), enthusiastic amateur botanist from Johannesburg, South Africa (Smith, 2005).
- crassipes** – 1880 – Application obscure, from Latin ‘crassus’ (thick), ‘pes’ (foot).
- cremersii** – 1974 – For George A. Cremers (1936–), French botanist.
- cremnophila** – 1961 – For the habitat, from Greek ‘kremnos’ (cliff, slope), ‘philos’ (friend).
- cryptoflora** – 1965 – For the flowers which are hidden by the bracts, from Greek ‘kryptos’ (hidden, covered) and Latin ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- cryptopoda** – 1884 – Because the flower bases are covered by the large bracts that hide the flower pedicels, from Greek ‘kryptos’ (hidden, covered), ‘podos’ (foot).
- curta** – 1825 – Probably for the plants having a stunted appearance, from Latin ‘curtus’ (short).
- cyrillei** – 2004 – For Cyrille Rakotonanahary, primary school teacher who made many trips looking for new species of succulents.
- cyrtophylla** – 1998 – For the distal halves of the leaves that are rolled back, from Greek ‘kyrtos’ (curved), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
- dabenorisana** – 1982 – For the occurrence on the Dabenoris Mountain range, in South Africa.
- davyana** – 1903 – For Dr Joseph Burt Davy (1870–1940), British botanist working in South Africa in 1903–1919, chief of the Division of Botany, Dept of Agriculture.
- dawei** – 1906 – For Morley T. Dawe (1880–1943), British forester in Uganda and curator of the Entebbe Botanical Garden.
- debrana** – 1947 – For the occurrence at Debre Berhan, in Ethiopia.
- decaryi** – 1941 – For Raymond Decary (1891–1973), French financial administrator, botanist and plant collector in Madagascar from 1916–1944.
- decidua** – 1936 – For the deciduous leaves, from Latin ‘deciduus’ (deciduous).
- decora** – 1905 – For the appearance, from Latin ‘decorus’ (graceful).
- decorsei** – 1926 – For Dr Gaston-J. Decorse (1873–1907), French botanist and entomologist, collector in Madagascar from 1898–1900.
- decumbens** – 1950 – For the decumbent habit, from Latin.
- decurva** – 1957 – For the orientation of the inflorescences, from Latin ‘decurvus’ (decurved).
- decurvidens** – 1937 – For the decurved leaf marginal teeth, from Latin ‘curvus’ (curved), ‘dens’ (tooth).
- dedzana** – 1965 – For the occurrence on the Dedza Mountain, in Malawi.
- defalcata** – 1932 – For the curved, deflexed leaves, from Latin ‘falcatus’ (falcate, sickle-shaped).
- deflexidens** – 1935 – For the deflexed teeth, from Latin ‘deflexus’ (deflexed), ‘dens’ (tooth).
- deinacantha** – 2008 – For the strong spines on the leaf margins, from Greek ‘deinos’ (dreadful, terrible), ‘akantha’ (thorn, spine).
- delphinensis** – 1990 – For the occurrence near Fort Dauphin, in Madagascar (from Latin, of the dolphin; French ‘dauphin’).
- deltodeodonta** – 1883 – For the leaf marginal teeth, from Greek ‘deltoides’ (delta-shaped), ‘odontos’ (tooth).

- densiflora** – 1950 – For the dense inflorescences, from Latin ‘densus’ (dense), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- densifolia** – 1880 – For the dense leaves, from Latin ‘densus’ (dense), ‘-folia’ (leaved).
- dependens** – 1821 – For the hanging growth form, from Latin ‘pendens’ (hanging).
- depressa** – 1789, 1804 – (1) Possibly because the rosette appears vertically flattened; (2) because the rosette appears vertically flattened, but it has also been suggested that leaves are less thick (flattened adaxially) than those of the typical variety, flattened (Glen & Hardy, 2000). From Latin ‘depressus’ (depressed).
- descoingsii** – 1958 – For Dr Bernard M. Descoings (1931–), French botanist and specialist on Madagascan plant diversity.
- desertii** – 1905 – For the occurrence in the desert, from Latin.
- desmetiana** – 1896 – Unresolved, possibly for Louis De Smet (1813–1887), Belgian horticulturalist and nurseryman.
- dewetii** – 1937 – For J.F. de Wet, Headmaster of Vryheid Junior School, South Africa, who brought the species to the attention of the author.
- dewinteri** – 1973 – For Dr Bernard de Winter (1924–), botanist and later director at the then Botanical Research Institute [now SANBI], Pretoria, South Africa, who collected one of the first plants from which the description was made.
- dhalensis** – 1965 – For the occurrence at Dhala, in Yemen.
- dhufarensis** – 1967 – For the occurrence in the Dhufar Province, in Oman.
- dichotoma** – 1776 – For the branching of the stems, from Latin ‘dichotomus’ (dichotomous, division in pairs, forked).
- dinteri** – 1914 – For Prof. Moritz Kurt Dinter (1868–1945), German botanist famous for his explorations in Namibia, who discovered the plants in 1912.
- diolii** – 1995 – For Dr Maurizio Dioli, Italian veterinary officer resident in Kenya, later in Ethiopia.
- dispar** – 1906 – Probably for the differences with other species of *Aloe*, from Latin ‘dispar’ (different, unequal).
- distans** – 1812 – For the long internodes (distant), from Latin.
- disticha** – 1768 – Probably for the leaf arrangement, from Latin ‘distichus’ (distichous, two ranked).
- divaricata** – 1905 – For the branching of the inflorescence, spreading, divaricate, from Latin.
- djiboutiensis** – 2007 – For the occurrence in Djibouti.
- doddisorum** – 2007 – For Anthony and Maria Dodds who conducted fieldwork, and made many discoveries, in Kenya.
- doei** – 1965 – For Brian Doe, director of Dept of Antiquities in Aden, Yemen, who found the plant during an excursion with the author.
- dolomitica** – 1950 – For the occurrence on dolomite outcrops, from Latin.
- dominella** – 1938 – Application obscure. Could refer to the fact that the species is locally dominant in small areas (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996), from Latin ‘dominus’ (lord, master). According to Glen & Hardy (2000) it is a corruption of ‘dominilla’ (the lady of the house) and because the type was collected on a farm owned by a Miss Qusted, from Latin ‘domina’ (lady, mistress), diminutive.
- dorotheae** – 1907 – For Miss Dorothy Westhead, London.
- dorsalis** – 1804 – For the spines on the dorsal side of the leaf, ‘keel-spined’, from Latin.
- downsiana** – 2007 – For Dr Philip E. Downs (1938–), British dentist formerly of South Africa, now based in New Zealand, for his interest in aloes and efforts to further their conservation.
- dracenaformis** – 1908 – For having the shape of a *Dracaena*, from Latin ‘-formis’ (shaped).
- drepanophylla** – 1875 – For the leaf shape, from Greek ‘drepane’ (sickle), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
- droseroides** – 2003 – For resembling the genus *Drosera*, with rosettes with narrow leaves covered with fine white hairs, from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- duckeri** – 1940 – For H.C. Ducker, in charge of the Cotton Experiment Station, Malawi.
- dumetorum** – 1977 – For the preferred habitat in thickets, from Latin ‘dumetum’ (thicket).
- dumoulinii** – 1973 – For Jan Dumoulin (fl. 1970s), then curator of the Hester Malan Nature Reserve (now the Goegap Nature Reserve, Northern Cape Province, South Africa).
- dyeri** – 1905 – For Sir William T. Thiselton-Dyer (1843–1928), British botanist, director of Kew 1885–1905, who sent the plant from Kew to Grahamstown in 1902, where it flowered and was described by Schönland.
- echinata** – 1809 – For the leaf prickles, from Latin ‘echinatus’ (prickly).
- ecklonis** – 1849 – For Christian Frederick Ecklon (1795–1868), Danish chemist and botanical explorer settling at the Cape, who first sent seeds of this plant to Europe.
- edentata** – 2000 – For the unarmed leaf margin, from Latin ‘e’ (without), ‘dentatus’ (toothed).
- edouardii** – 2008 – For Mr Edouard Andriamboavonjy, driver who accompanied the author to the field and saw the plant first.
- edulis** – 1936 – For being edible, from Latin ‘edulis’ (edible).
- elata** – 1994 – For the tall stems, from Latin ‘elatus’ (tall).
- elatior** – 1804, 1817 – (1) For the taller stems; (2) for the height. From Latin ‘elatus’ (tall), comparative.
- elegans** – 1880 – For the elegant appearance, from Latin.
- elegantissima** – 2008 – For the elegant appearance, from Latin, superlative.
- elgonica** – 1932 – For the occurrence on Mount Elgon, on the Kenya-Uganda border.
- elizae** – 1910 – For Eliza Berger, the wife of the author.
- elkerriana** – 2007 – For the occurrence at El Kerre, in Ethiopia.
- ellenbeckii** – 1905 – For Dr Hans Ellenbeck (fl. 1899–1901), German physician who collected material for Berlin on Baron Von Erlanger’s expedition to East Africa.
- ellenbergeri** – 1934 – For R. Ellenberger who collected the plant in 1920.
- elongata** – 1789, 1908 – (1) Probably for the inflorescence; (2) for the elongated inflorescence. From Latin ‘elongatus’ (elongate).
- eminens** – 1958 – For the conspicuousness in nature, standing out, from Latin.
- engleri** – 1905 – For Prof. Dr. Heinrich Gustav Adolf Engler (1844–1930), German botanist and plant collector, who collected it in 1902.
- enotata** – 1972 – For the unspotted leaves, from Latin ‘enotatus’ (unmarked).
- ensifolia** – 1996 – For the ensiform leaves, from Latin ‘ensis’ (sword), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- eremophila** – 1965 – For the habitat preference in desert, from Greek ‘eremos’ (solitary, deserted), ‘philos’ (friend).

- erenii** – 1940 – For Jan Erens (1911–1982), Dutch horticulturalist and collector, who emigrated to South Africa in 1914, and also collected in East Africa.
- ericahenriettae** – 2007 – For Erica Henrietta McCoy, daughter of the author.
- ericetorum** – 1968 – For the habitat preference, in moors, from Latin ‘ericetum’ (heath, moor).
- erinacea** – 1972 – For the prickly appearance of the leaf rosettes, hedgehog-like, from Latin ‘erinaceus’ (hedgehog).
- eru** – 1908 – For the common name of the plant ‘eru’, in Ethiopia.
- erythrocarpa** – 1896, 1908 – For the red fruit, from Greek ‘erythros’ (red), ‘karpos’ (fruit).
- erythrophylla** – 1968 – For the red colour of the leaf, from Greek ‘erythros’ (red), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
- esculenta** – 1971 – Because there are reports that the flowers are edible (see Leffers, 2003: under *Aloe angolensis*), from Latin ‘esculentus’ (edible).
- estevei** – 2008 – Dedicated to an unnamed friend who accompanied the author on his expeditions to Madagascar.
- cumassawana** – 1996 – For *Aloe massawana* with which the taxon was previously confused and which, despite the name, does not come from Massawa, from Greek ‘eu’ (truly).
- excelsa** – 1906 – For the growth habit, from Latin ‘excelsus’ (tall, high).
- eximia** – 2006 – For the remarkable tall habit of growth, from Latin ‘eximius’ (distinguished).
- eylesii** – 1936 – For Frederick S. Eyles (1864–1937), English botanist and plant collector, who collected the type specimen in Zimbabwe, in 1935.
- falcata** – 1880 – Meaning curved like a sickle, referring to the leaf shape (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996; Egli & Newton, 2004) or to the curvature of the peduncle (Glen & Hardy, 2000), from Latin ‘falcatus’ (falcate).
- fallax** – 2006 – Because it was thought to be another species, from Latin ‘fallax’ (deceptive).
- ferox** – 1768 – For the prickly leaves, from Latin ‘ferox’ (fierce).
- fianarantsoae** – 2007 – For the occurrence in the Fianarantsoa Province of Madagascar.
- fibrosa** – 1976 – For the presence of fibres in the leaves, from Latin ‘fibrosus’ (fibrous).
- ficksburgensis** – 1937 – For the occurrence near Ficksburg in the Free State Province, South Africa.
- fievettii** – 1965 – For Gerard Fievett, French wine-grower and succulent plant enthusiast in Madagascar.
- fiherenensis** – 2007 – For the occurrence along Fiherenana, in Madagascar.
- fimbrialis** – 1996 – For the fimbriate leaf margin, from Latin.
- flabelliformis** – 1796 – For the fan shape, from Latin ‘flabellum’ (fan), ‘-formis’ (shaped).
- flanagani** – 1903 – For Henri G. Flanagan (1861–1919), South African farmer interested in botany.
- flava** – 1805 – For the colour of the flowers, from Latin ‘flavus’ (yellow).
- flavescens** – 1908 – For the yellow perianth, from Latin ‘flavus’ (yellow), ‘-escens’ (becoming).
- flavispina** – 1804 – For the yellow spines, from Latin ‘flavus’ (yellow), ‘-spinus’ (spined).
- fleurentinorum** – 1977 – For Jacky and Martine Fleurentin, French medical technician and his wife, resident in Yemen.
- fleuretteana** – 2000 – For Mrs Fleurette Andriantsilavo, Head of the Direction de la Planification des Eaux et des Forêts, Madagascar.
- flexilifolia** – 1942 – For the flexible leaves, from Latin ‘flexilis’ (flexible), ‘folius’ (leaved).
- floramaculata** – 1940 – For the spotted flowers, from Latin ‘flos’ (flower), ‘maculatus’ (spotted).
- florenceae** – 2004 – For Mrs Florence Razafindratsira, the wife of the discoverer, Alfred Razafindratsira.
- forbesii** – 1903 – For Dr Henry O. Forbes (1851–1932), Scottish naturalist and collector.
- fosteri** – 1933 – For Cyril Foster, an *Aloe* enthusiast from Krugersdorp, South Africa, who collected the plant.
- fouriei** – 1987 – For Stephanus P. Fourie of the then Transvaal Nature Conservation Division, South Africa, who first discovered it.
- fragilis** – 1994 – For the rosettes that are easily damaged, from Latin ‘fragilis’ (fragile).
- framesii** – 1933 – For Percival (‘Percy’) Ross Frames (1863–1947), South African solicitor, collector and grower of succulents, who first collected the plants in Namaqualand.
- francoabei** – 1994 – For Colin Francombe, ranch manager in Kenya.
- friisii** – 2000 – For Ib Friis (1945–), Danish botanist at the University of Copenhagen.
- frutescens** – 1817 – For becoming shrubby, from Latin ‘frutex’ (shrub).
- fruticosa** – 1783 – For being shrubby, from Latin ‘frutex’ (shrub).
- fulgens** – 1889 – Probably for the flowers, from Latin ‘fulgens’ (shining, bright-coloured).
- fulleri** – 1967 – For Major Andrew B.I. Fuller, plant collector in southwestern Arabia.
- galpinii** – 1901 – For Ernest Edward Galpin (1858–1941), South African botanist and plant collector who discovered the plant at Queenstown, South Africa.
- gariepensis** – 1933 – For the distribution, from the Khoi name Gariep, for the Gariep River (also known as the Orange River), in South Africa, meaning ‘large, huge’.
- gariusana** – 1933 – For the occurrence near Garius (Garies?) in Namibia.
- gasterioides** – 1880 – For resembling representatives of the related asphodeloid genus *Gasteria*, from greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- gerstneri** – 1937 – For Father Jacob Gerstner (1888–1948), Bavarian Roman Catholic Missionary and botanist, first collector of this species in Zululand (now KwaZulu-Natal) in 1931, from 1928 to 1942 he was Superior of Mission Farms in Zululand.
- gilbertii** – 1992 – For Mike G. Gilbert (1943–), English botanist resident in Ethiopia and Kenya 1968–1982, who collected the type.
- gillettii** – 1994 – For Jan B. Gillett (1911–1995), English botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, resident in Kenya from 1963–1984.
- gillilandii** – 1962 – For Prof. H.B. Gilliland (fl. 1952), University of Malay, Singapore, who first discovered the plants, in Arabia.
- glabrescens** – 1958 – For the perianth surface becoming glabrous, from Latin.
- glauca** – 1768 – For the grey-green leaf colour, from Latin ‘glaucus’ (glaucous).
- glaucescens** – 1812, 1900 – For the blue-green colour, from Latin ‘glaucus’ (glaucous), ‘-escens’ (becoming).
- globulifera** – 1937 – Unresolved application, from Latin

- 'globulus' (little ball), '-fera' (carrying).
- globuligemma** – 1915 – For the globular flower buds, from Latin 'globulus' (little ball), 'gemma' (bud).
- gloveri** – 1958 – For Major P.E. Glover who discovered it on Gaan Libah, in Somalia, in 1944.
- gneissicola** – 1926 – For the occurrence on gneiss rock, from German 'gneiss' and Latin '-cola' (inhabiting).
- gossweileri** – 1962 – For John Gossweiler (1873–1952), Swiss botanist and plant collector in Angola from 1900–1950.
- gracilicaulis** – 1958 – For the delicate stems, from Latin 'gracilis' (slender), 'caulis' (stem).
- graciliflora** – 1936 – For the longer and narrower flowers, as compared to *Aloe davyana*, from Latin 'gracilis' (slender), '-florus' (flowered).
- gracilis** – 1825 – For the slender stems, from Latin 'gracilis' (slender).
- grahamii** – 1903 – For F. Graham who took great interest in natural history pursuits and to whom the author owed receipt of a number of South African succulents.
- graminicola** – 1953 – For the preferred habitat in grasslands, from Latin 'graminis' (grass), '-cola' (inhabiting).
- graminifolia** – 1905 – For the leaf shape, like a grass, from Latin 'gramen' (grass), '-folius' (leaved).
- grandidentata** – 1822 – For the large teeth on the leaf margins, from Latin 'grandis' (large), 'dentatus' (toothed), an inappropriate name as the thorns are not really larger than in other species of maculate aloe (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996; Glen & Hardy, 2000).
- grata** – 1960 – For the pleasing appearance of the plant, from Latin 'gratus' (pleasing).
- greatheadii** – 1904 – For Dr J.B. Greathead who was co-collector with Dr S. Schönland of the type specimen.
- greenii** – 1880 – There appears to be no record of the person by the name of Green commemorated here (Glen & Hardy, 2000), C.G. or G.H. Green have been suggested (Eggle & Newton, 2004).
- greenwayi** – 1964 – For Dr Percy James ('Peter') Greenway (1897–1980), botanist in Amani, Tanzania, and later in charge of the East African Herbarium, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- grisea** – 1983 – For the grey colour of the leaves, from Latin 'griseus' (grey).
- guerrae** – 1960 – For Dr Guilherme Guerra, director of Agriculture and Forests in Angola.
- guillaumetii** – 1976 – For Dr Jean L. Guillaumet (1934–), French plant ecologist at ORSTOM specializing in the vegetation of Madagascar.
- haemanthifolia** – 1905 – For the leaves resembling those of *Haemanthus*, from Latin 'folius' (leaved).
- haggeherensis** – 2007 – For the occurrence on the Haggeger Mountains, Socotra.
- hanburiana** – 1875 – For Sir Thomas Hanbury (1832–1907), who founded the Hanbury Botanic Gardens (La Mortola) near Ventimiglia in Italy, in 1867.
- hanburii** – 1896 (2), 1903 – For Sir Thomas Hanbury (1832–1907), who founded the Hanbury Botanic Gardens (La Mortola) near Ventimiglia in Italy, in 1867.
- hardyi** – 1987 – For David S. Hardy (1931–1998) horticulturalist and former curator of the succulent plant collection at the Pretoria National Botanical Garden of SANBI, South Africa.
- harlana** – 1957 – For the occurrence near Harla, in Ethiopia.
- harmsii** – 1908 – For Hermann A.T. Harms (1870–1942), German botanist.
- haworthii** – 1818, 1908 – For Adrian H. Haworth (1768–1833), English zoologist and botanist, and succulent plant specialist.
- haworthioides** – 1887 – For resembling representatives of the related asphodeloid genus *Haworthia*, from Greek '-oides' (similar to).
- hazeliانا** – 1959 – For Hazel O. Munch (née Elske) (1912–2001) who explored in Chimanimani Mtns in Zimbabwe with spouse Raymond Charles Munch (1901–1985), farmer near Rusape, Zimbabwe. They established a garden of native plants, including aloes and cycads.
- helenae** – 1929 – For Mrs Helen Decary, wife of Raymond Decary, French financial administrator and botanist in Madagascar.
- heliderana** – 1973 – For the occurrence near Helidera, in Somalia.
- hemmingii** – 1964 – For C.F. Hemming, of the Desert Locust Survey.
- hendrickxii** – 1955 – For Fred L. Hendrickx, Belgian agronomist in Central Africa.
- hereroensis** – 1889 – For the occurrence in the region inhabited by the Herero tribe, in Namibia.
- hertrichii** – 1930 – For William Hertrich (1878–1966), curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, in the U.S.A.
- heteracantha** – 1880 – For leaves unarmed when young, and when mature sometimes unarmed, other times toothed, from Greek 'hetero-' (different), 'akanthos' (spine).
- hexapetala** – 1817 – For the six perianth segments, from Greek 'hexa-' (six), 'petalon' (petal).
- heybensii** – 1999 – For the occurrence on Buur Heybe, in Somalia.
- hijazensis** – 2000 – For the occurrence in Hijaz Province, in Saudi Arabia.
- hildebrandtii** – 1888 – For Dr Johann M. Hildebrandt (1847–1881), German naturalist who travelled widely and collected in Africa and Madagascar.
- hlangapies** – 1936 – For the occurrence at Hlangapies (Hlangapiesberg), near Piet Retief, in Mpumalanga, South Africa.
- hoffmannii** – 2002 – For Ralph Hoffmann (fl. 1995–2002), Swiss horticulturalist and succulent plant enthusiast based near Zürich.
- hookeri** – 1908 – For Sir Joseph D. Hooker (1817–1911), British botanist and explorer, and director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.
- horrida** – 1804 – For the numerous spines, from Latin 'horridus' (prickly).
- howmanii** – 1961 – For Roger Howman, who was Native Commissioner at Ndanga and Zaka until 1939, later at Melsetter, in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
- hoyeri** – 1896 – Unresolved, possibly for Thomas Hoy (?–1821), gardener at Syon House, in England.
- humbertii** – 1931 – For Prof. Henri Humbert (1887–1967), French botanist in Madagascar.
- humilior** – 1804, 1811, 1817 – For being smaller, from Latin 'humilis' (low, modest), comparative.
- humilis** – 1753 – For the low-growing habit, from Latin 'humilis' (modest, low).
- ibitiensis** – 1926 – For the occurrence on Mount Ibity, in Madagascar.
- ifanadianae** – 2008 – For the occurrence near Ifanadiana, in Madagascar.
- imalotensis** – 1957 – For the occurrence in the Imaloto Valley, in Madagascar.
- imerinensis** – 1968 – For the occurrence in the region of the

- Imerina tribe, in Madagascar.
- immaculata** – 1934 – For the unspotted leaves, from Latin ‘im-’ (not), ‘maculatus’ (maculate).
- inamara** – 1971 – Because the leaves do not taste bitter, from Latin ‘amarus’ (bitter), ‘in’ (not).
- inconspicua** – 1986 – For the size and morphology of the plant that makes it difficult to find in the field, from Latin ‘inconspicua’ (inconspicuous).
- incurva** – 1804, 1880 – For the leaves curved inwards, from Latin ‘incurvus’ (curved inwards).
- indica** – 1839 – For the occurrence in India.
- inermis** – 1775 – For the entire leaf margin, from Latin ‘inermis’ (unarmed).
- inexpectata** – 2003 – Because it was found unexpectedly while the collector was looking for another species, from Latin, ‘inexpectatus’ (unexpected).
- insignis** – 1885 – For the appearance, from Latin ‘insignis’ (distinguished, remarkable).
- integra** – 1936 – For the leaf margin, which is usually entire, from Latin ‘integer’ (entire). Van Wyk & Smith (1996) however, report small teeth on the margins.
- intermedia** – 1926 – For the relationship to other taxa, from Latin ‘intermedius’ (intermediate).
- inyangensis** – 1936 – For the occurrence on Mount Inyanga, in Zimbabwe.
- irafensis** – 2008 – For the occurrence on Jabal Iraf, in Yemen.
- isaloana** – 2007 – For the occurrence near the Massif de l’Isalo, in Madagascar.
- isaloensis** – 1928 – For the occurrence on the Isalo Mountains, in Madagascar.
- itampolensis** – 2008 – For the occurrence near Itampolo, in Madagascar.
- itremensis** – 1955 – For the occurrence on the Itremo range, in Madagascar.
- jacksonii** – 1955 – For Mr T.H.E.Jackson, Acting Civil Affairs Officer in Ethiopia, who collected the type.
- jawiyon** – 2004 – For its Soqotri common name ‘je’awiyon’.
- jex-blakeae** – 1942 – For Lady Muriel Jex-Blake, who discovered the plant in 1936 in Kenya.
- jibisana** – 2007 – For the occurrence on Mount Jibisa, in Kenya.
- johannis** – 2006 – For John J. Lavranos (1926–) Greek insurance broker, botanist and collector of succulents throughout southern and eastern Africa, Arabia and Madagascar.
- johannis-bernardii** – 2008 – For Prof. J.-B. Castillon, who described many species from Madagascar.
- johnstonii** – 1887 – For Henry H. Johnston (1856–1939), British Army medical doctor and plant collector in Africa, who collected the type specimen on Tavera, in Kenya.
- jucunda** – 1953 – For the attractive appearance, from Latin ‘jucundus’ (nice).
- juddii** – 2008 – For Eric Judd, aloe artist and book author.
- juttae** – 1923 – For Jutta Dinter (fl. 1906–1935), wife of the author.
- juvenna** – 1979 – Misread on the original label of a cultivated plant, labelled as a possible juvenile form, pseudo-Latin, from English ‘juvenile’.
- kahinii** – 2007 – For the President of Somaliland (Somalia), Dahir Rayale Kahin.
- kaokoensis** – 2006 – For the occurrence in the Kaokoveld, in Namibia.
- karasbergensis** – 1928 – For the occurrence on the Great Karasberg, in Namibia.
- keayi** – 1963 – For Dr Ronald W.J. Keay (1920–1998), British botanist and forestry officer in Nigeria.
- kedongensis** – 1953 – For the occurrence in the Kedong Valley, in Kenya.
- kefaensis** – 1997 – For the occurrence in the Kef[fa] region, in Ethiopia.
- keithii** – 1937 – For Capt D.R. Keith, a keen gardener in Swaziland, who brought it to the attention of the author.
- ketabrowniorum** – 1994 – For Ken D.F. Brown (1957–) artist, and his wife Anne E. (née Powys) (1964–), natural history consultant, Kenya explorers and field collectors, from Latin ‘et’ (and).
- khamiesensis** – 1934 – For the occurrence on the Kamiesberg where the plants were first collected, in South Africa.
- kilifiensis** – 1942 – For the occurrence near Kilifi, in Kenya.
- kimberleyana** – 1996 – For Rose and Mike Kimberley who accompanied the author in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- kirkii** – 1894 – For Sir John Kirk (1832–1922), who sent the plant from Zanzibar to Kew where it arrived in 1881.
- kitaliensis** – 1955 – For its occurrence near Kitale, in Kenya.
- kniphofioides** – 1890 – For resembling the genus *Kniphofia*, from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- koenenii** – 2006 – For Manfred Koenen, German horticulturist, who collected the type specimen in Jordan.
- komaggasensis** – 1985 – For the occurrence near Komaggas, in South Africa.
- komatiensis** – 1936 – For the occurrence at Komatipoort, in South Africa.
- kouebokkeveldensis** – 2004 – For the occurrence on the Koue Bokkeveld Mountains, in South Africa.
- krapohlina** – 1910 – For H. J. C. Krapohl, land surveyor in South Africa, who first collected it.
- kraussii** – 1880 – For Dr Ferdinand F. von Krauss (1812–1890), German scientist, director of the Stuttgart Natural History Museum, traveller and collector in South Africa.
- kulalensis** – 1990 – For the occurrence on Mount Kulal, in Kenya.
- kwasiimbana** – 2007 – To commemorate the killing of a lion by the collector, from Swahili ‘kwa’ (place of), ‘simba’ (lion).
- labiaflava** – 1936 – For the yellow perianth segments, from Latin ‘labium’ (lip), ‘flavus’ (yellow).
- labworana** – 1956 – For the occurrence in the Labwor Hills, in Uganda.
- laeta** – 1908 – For the bright crimson flowers, from Latin ‘laetus’ (bright).
- lanata** – 2007 – For the woolly flowers, from Latin ‘lana’ (wool).
- lanuriensis** – 1921 – For the occurrence in Lanuri, Ruwenzori, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- lanzae** – 1891 – For Dr Domenico Lanza, botanist at the Palermo botanical garden.
- lastii** – 1901 – For J.T. Last, who collected it in 1885 and sent it to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew where it flowered.
- latens** – 2007 – In allusion to these plants being hidden in densely vegetated, narrow gullies and long remaining undetected, from Latin ‘latens’ (concealed, hidden).
- lateritia** – 1895 – For the dark brick red flower, from Latin.
- latifolia** – 1804, 1819 – For the wide leaves, from Latin ‘latus’ (broad), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- lavranosii** – 1964, 1970 – For John J. Lavranos (1926–) Greek insurance broker, botanist and collector of succulents throughout southern and eastern Africa, Arabia and



- Madagascar.
- laxiflora** – 1906 – For the lax inflorescence, from Latin ‘laxus’ (lax), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- laxissima** – 1937 – For the laxly-flowered inflorescence, from Latin ‘laxus’ (lax), superlative.
- leachii** – 1965 – For Leslie (Larry) C. Leach (1909–1996), English-born engineer and botanist in Zimbabwe, later in South Africa.
- leandri** – 1968 – For Jacques D. Leandri (1903–1982), French botanist in Madagascar.
- leedalii** – 1994 – For G. Philip Leedal (1927–1982), British geologist and priest, working for the Geological Survey, Tanzania from 1950–1953, and from 1961 as missionary in southern Tanzania, active amateur field botanist and author of handbooks on mountain plants.
- leiophylla** – 1880 – For the smooth leaves, from Greek ‘leios’ (smooth), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
- lensayuensis** – 1976 – For the occurrence on the Lensayu Rocks, in Kenya.
- lepida** – 1974 – For the nice appearance of the plants, from Latin ‘lepidus’ (graceful).
- leptophylla** – 1880 – For the fine leaves, from Greek ‘leptos’ (fine), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
- leptosiphon** – 1905 – For the narrow perianth tube, from Greek ‘leptos’ (fine, delicate), ‘siphon’ (tube).
- lettyae** – 1937 – For Cythna L. Letty (1895–1985), renowned botanical artist for the then Botanical Research Institute (now SANBI), Pretoria, South Africa, and field collector, who collected it.
- leucantha** – 1905 – For the white flowers, from Greek ‘leucos’ (white), ‘anthos’ (flower).
- lindenii** – 1997 – For Dr Seymour Linden (1921–2005), US chemist and succulent plant enthusiast.
- linearifolia** – 1922 – For the long, narrow leaves, from Latin ‘linearis’ (linear), ‘folius’ (-leaved).
- lineata** – 1789 – For the longitudinal markings on the leaves, from Latin ‘lineatus’ (striped).
- lingua** – 1785 – For the shape of the leaves, from Latin ‘lingua’ (tongue).
- linguaeformis** – 1782 – For the shape of the leaves, from Latin ‘lingua’ (tongue), ‘-formis’ (shaped).
- limita** – 1829 – Unresolved application.
- littoralis** – 1878, 1880 – (1) For the coastal occurrence, from the place where it was originally found but not reflecting its actual occurrence; (2) for the coastal occurrence. From Latin ‘littoralis’ (littoral).
- lolwensis** – 2001 – For the occurrence near Lake Victoria, locally called Lolwe in the Luo language.
- lomatoxyloides** – 1877 – For resembling representatives of the genus *Lomatophyllum*, which is now included in the synonymy of *Aloe*; from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- longeracemosa** – 2005 – For the long inflorescences, from Latin ‘longus’ (long), ‘racemus’ (raceme).
- longiaristata** – 1829 – For the awn-like leaf tips, from Latin ‘longus’ (long), ‘aristatus’ (awned).
- longibracteata** – 1915 – For the long floral bracts, from Latin ‘longus’ (long), ‘bracteatus’ (bracteate).
- longiflora** – 1888, 1997 – (1) For the overall flower size; (2) for the longer flowers. From Latin ‘longus’ (long), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- longistyla** – 1880 – For the long styles, from Latin ‘longus’ (long), ‘stylus’ (style).
- luapulana** – 1972 – For the occurrence in the Luapula District, in Zambia.
- lucile-allorgeae** – 1998 – For Dr Lucile Allorge (1937–), Madagascar-born French botanist at the National Museum in Paris, collector in Madagascar, daughter of the French botanist Pierre Boiteau.
- lugardiana** – 1901 – For Charlotte E. Lugard (1859–1939), painter and collector who collected the type near Botletle River, in Bechuanaland (now Botswana).
- luntii** – 1895 – For William Lunt (1871–1904), British gardener at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, who collected in southern Arabia in 1893.
- lusitanica** – 1937 – For occurrence in Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique), from Latin ‘Lusitania’ (Portugal).
- lutea** – 1908, 1913, 1935, 1955 – For the yellow flowers, from Latin ‘luteus’ (yellow).
- lutescens** – 1938 – For the gradual change from scarlet buds to yellow open flowers, from Latin ‘lutescens’ (becoming yellow). In addition, the leaves of this species are a more yellowish green, in contrast to the glaucous leaves of its relatives *Aloe cryptopoda* and *A. wickensii*.
- macilenta** – 1800, 1880 – For being lean, from Latin ‘macilentus’ (lean).
- macleayi** – 1955 – For Prof. K.N.G. MacLeay, botanist at Khartoum University, in Sudan.
- macowanii** – 1880 – For Prof. Peter MacOwan (1830–1909), botanist and curator of the Cape Government Herbarium and Cape Town Botanic Gardens, in South Africa.
- macra** – 1819 – For being lean, from Latin ‘macer’ (lean).
- macracantha** – 1880 – For the prominent spines, from Greek ‘makros’ (large), ‘akanthos’ (spine).
- macrocarpa** – 1875 – For the large fruits, from Greek ‘makros’ (large), ‘karpos’ (fruit).
- macroclada** – 1883 – For the large size of the plants, from Greek ‘makros’ (large), ‘klados’ (shoot).
- macrosiphon** – 1898 – For the large flowers, from Greek ‘makros’ (large), ‘siphon’ (tube).
- maculata** – 1773 – For the spotted leaves, from Latin ‘maculatus’ (spotted).
- maculosa** – 1783 – For the spotted leaves, from Latin ‘maculosus’ (spotted).
- madecassa** – 1926 – Meaning native, or inhabitant of Madagascar, from French ‘madécasse’.
- magnidentata** – 1947 – For the large teeth on the leaf margin, from Latin ‘magnus’ (large), ‘dentatus’ (toothed).
- mahraensis** – 2002 – For the occurrence in Al-Mahra Province, in Yemen.
- major** – 1799, 1812, 1817 (3), 1908, 1985 – For the size, from Latin ‘magnus’ (great), comparative.
- makayana** – 2008 – For the occurrence in Makay Mountains, in Madagascar.
- makurupiniensis** – 1998 – For the occurrence near Makurupini River, in Zimbabwe/Mozambique.
- manandonae** – 2008 – For the occurrence near Manandone, in Madagascar.
- mandotoensis** – 2003 – For the occurrence near Mandoto, in Madagascar.
- maniaensis** – 1926 – For the occurrence near the Mania River, in Madagascar.
- marginalis** – 1800 – For the red edge of the leaves, from Latin ‘marginalis’ (marginal).
- marginata** – 1809 – For the edge of the leaves, from Latin ‘marginatus’ (marginate).
- marlothii** – 1905 – For Prof. H. W. Rudolf Marloth (1855–1931), German botanist, analytical chemist and pharmacist, living in South Africa from 1883, Professor of chemistry at Stellenbosch University from 1889–1892.

- marmorata** – 1964 – For the pattern of leaf markings, giving a marbled effect, from Latin ‘marmoratus’ (marbled).
- marsabitensis** – 1940 – For the occurrence at Marsabit, in Kenya.
- marshallii** – 1897 – Unresolved application, for someone by the name of Marshall.
- massawana** – 1959 – For the occurrence at Massawa district, in Ethiopia.
- mawii** – 1940 – For Capt. A.H. Maw, owner of the property in Malawi where the type was collected.
- mayottensis** – 1908 – For the occurrence on Mayotte Island, in the Comoros Islands.
- mccoyi** – 2001 – For Tom A. McCoy (1959–) US consultant and botanical collector, resident in Saudi Arabia.
- mccloughlinii** – 1951 – For Major Alfred G. McLoughlin (1886–1960), South African lawyer, collector in northeast Africa during military service, who collected the type.
- medishiana** – 1958 – For the occurrence at Medishe, in Somalia.
- megalacantha** – 1898 – For the large teeth on the leaf margin, from Greek ‘megas, megale’ (large), ‘akantha’ (thorn, spine).
- megalacanthoides** – 1997 – For resembling *Aloe megalacantha* in habit, from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- megalocarpa** – 1998 – For the large fruits, from Greek ‘megas, megale’ (large), ‘karpos’ (fruit).
- melanacantha** – 1905 – For the black thorns on the leaf margins, from Greek ‘melas, melano-’ (black), ‘akantha’ (thorn, spine).
- melsetterensis** – 1938 – For the occurrence near Melsetter, in Zimbabwe.
- menachensis** – 1894 – For the occurrence at Menacha, in Yemen.
- mendesii** – 1964 – For Eduardo J. Mendes (1924–), Portuguese botanist who collected in Angola in the 1950s, director of the Centro de Botânica in Lisbon, Portugal.
- menyharthii** – 1898 – For László Menyárh (1849–1897), Austro-Hungarian missionary and botanist, who collected in the Zambesi region.
- meruana** – 1980 – For the occurrence in Meru Game Reserve, in Kenya.
- metallica** – 1903 – For the metallic sheen of leaves, from Latin ‘metallicus’ (metallic).
- meyeri** – 1981 – For Rev. Louis G. Meyer (1867–1958), plant and insect collector, missionary in Namaqualand, who discovered it on an expedition to the Richtersveld in 1939.
- micracantha** – 1819 – For the small teeth on the leaf margins, from Greek ‘mikros’ (small), ‘akantha’ (thorn, spine). According to Van Wyk & Smith (1996), it is not the species with the smallest teeth.
- microdonta** – 1928 – For the small teeth on the leaf margins, from Greek ‘mikros’ (small), ‘odontus’ (tooth).
- microstigma** – 1854 – For the small white spots on the leaves, from Greek ‘mikros’ (small), ‘stigma’ (spot, stigma).
- milleri** – 1908 – For Philip Miller (1691–1771), British botanist and horticulturalist at the Chelsea Physic Garden, who published the eighth edition of his famous *Gardener’s Dictionary* in 1768.
- millotii** – 1955 – For Prof. J. Millot, French zoologist, director of the Institut de Recherche Scientifique, Madagascar and later director of the Musée de l’Homme, Paris, France.
- milne-redheadii** – 1940 – For Edgar Milne-Redhead (1906–1996), British botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and field collector in Africa.
- minima** – 1894 – For the small size of the plant, from Latin ‘minimus’ (very small, smallest).
- minor** – 1804, 1812, 1837, 1896 – For the smaller size, from Latin, comparative of ‘parvus’ (small).
- miskatana** – 2006 – For occurrence at Al Miskat, in Somalia.
- mitis** – 1908 – Application obscure, from Latin ‘mitis’ (mild or soft).
- mitriformis** – 1768 – For the appearance of the rosette apex, i.e. shaped like a Bishop’s cap, from Latin ‘mitris’ (mitre), ‘-formis’ (shaped).
- mitsioana** – 2006 – For occurrence on Mitsio Island, in Madagascar.
- mketiensis** – 1940 – For the occurrence at Mketi, in Tanzania.
- mlanjeana** – 1938 – For the occurrence on Mount Mlanje, in Malawi.
- modesta** – 1956 – For the small size of the plant, from Latin ‘modestus’ (modest, unassuming).
- molederana** – 1989 – For the occurrence on Moledera Hill, in Somalia.
- monotropa** – 1961 – For the unique combination of its characters, from Greek ‘monotropus’ (hermit, alone and on its own).
- montana** – 1896 – For the habitat in mountains, from Latin ‘montanus’ (mountain).
- monteiroi** – 1889 – For Rose Monteiro (1840–1897), who collected the type specimen in Delagoa Bay (Maputo), in Mozambique.
- montemartinii** – 1931 – Unresolved application.
- monticola** – 1957 – For occurring on mountains, from Latin ‘mons, montis’ (mountain), ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- morjensis** – 1979 – For the occurrence at Morijo, in Kenya.
- morogoroensis** – 1940 – For the occurrence at Morogoro, in Tanzania.
- mortimeri** – 2002 – For Prof. Keith V. Mortimer, British dentist and grower of succulents.
- mossurilensis** – 2008 – For the occurrence at Mossuril, in Mozambique.
- mubendiensis** – 1942 – For the occurrence at Mubende, in Uganda.
- mudenensis** – 1937 – For the occurrence in the Mudén Valley in KwaZulu-Natal, in South Africa.
- muirii** – 1929 – For Dr John Muir (1874–1947), plant (and particularly drift seed) collector in the western Cape, who collected the type specimen.
- multicaulis** – 1994 – For the stems clustered from the base, sometimes branched, from Latin ‘multi’ (many), ‘caulis’ (stem).
- multicolor** – 1994 – For the multi-coloured perianth, from Latin ‘multi-’ (many), ‘color’ (colour).
- multifaria** – 1829 – For the leaf arrangement, from Latin ‘multi’ (many), ‘farius’ (ranked).
- multifolia** – 2004 – For the numerous leaves, from Latin ‘multi-’ (many), ‘-folia’ (leaved).
- munchii** – 1951 – For Raymond C. Munch (1901–1985), South African farmer in Zimbabwe, with a garden containing a collection of the native flora, especially aloes and cycads (see also *hazeliiana*).
- muricata** – 1804, 1809 – (1) For the prickled leaves; (2) for the tuberculate leaves. From Latin ‘muricatus’ (muricate).
- murina** – 1992 – For the mouse-grey colour of the inflorescences, from Latin ‘murinus’ (pertaining to mice).
- musapana** – 1964 – For the occurrence at Mount Musapa, in

Zimbabwe.	Namibia.
<b>mutabilis</b> – 1933 – For the colour change from scarlet in bud to greenish-yellow or yellow in flower, from Latin ‘mutabilis’ (changeable).	<b>omoana</b> – 2007 – For the occurrence near the headwaters of the Omo River, in Ethiopia.
<b>mutans</b> – 1936 – For the colour change, the buds are red but after pollination the perianth becomes almost entirely yellow, from Latin ‘mutatio’ (change).	<b>orientalis</b> – 1987, 1926 – (1) For its distribution range to the east of the range of the typical subspecies; (2) for the occurrence in eastern Madagascar. From Latin ‘orientalis’ (eastern).
<b>mwanzana</b> – 1940 – For the occurrence at Mwanza, in Tanzania.	<b>orlandi</b> – 2006 – For Giuseppe Orlando, from Tenerife, Canary Islands, who collected the plants in Somaliland (Somalia) in 2003.
<b>myriacantha</b> – 1827 – For the many fine teeth on the leaf margins, even though according to Van Wyk & Smith (1996) the leaves of this plant do not have more spines than the other grass aloes, from Greek ‘myrios’ (numerous), ‘akantha’ (thorn, spine).	<b>orpeniae</b> – 1905 – For Kate Orpen (1870–1943), South African poet and plant collector, who collected the type specimen.
<b>mzimbana</b> – 1941 – For the occurrence at Mzimba, in Zimbabwe.	<b>ortholopha</b> – 1933 – For the row of secund flowers, from Greek ‘orthos’ (erect, straight), ‘lophos’ (crest).
<b>mzimnyati</b> – 2005 – For the occurrence along the lower Mzimnyati River in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.	<b>otalensis</b> – 1898 – For the occurrence at Otallo, in Ethiopia.
<b>namibensis</b> – 1970 – For the occurrence in the Namib Desert in Namibia, then South-West Africa.	<b>pachydactylos</b> – 2008 – For the extreme thickness of its relatively short leaves, from Greek ‘pachys’ (thick), ‘dactylos’ (finger).
<b>namorokaensis</b> – 1998 – For the occurrence in the Namoroka Natural Reserve, in Madagascar.	<b>pachygaster</b> – 1923 – For the flower shape, ventricose, from Greek ‘pachys’ (thick), ‘gaster’ (stomach).
<b>natalensis</b> – 1901 – For the occurrence in the province of Natal (KwaZulu-Natal), in South Africa.	<b>pachyphylla</b> – 1880 – For the thick leaves, from Greek ‘pachys’ (thick), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
<b>neglecta</b> – 1837 – For being neglected, from Latin ‘neglectus’ (neglected).	<b>pachythyrsa</b> – 1908 – For the dense inflorescence, from Greek ‘pachys’ (thick) and Latin ‘thyrsus’ (thyrs).
<b>neogaharensis</b> – 2007 – For occurrence at Jebel Qahar, Saudi Arabia, from Greek ‘neos’ (new), because the name qaharensis was already in use for another aloe.	<b>paedogona</b> – 1906 – Because the plants are grown in Angola as a fertility charm, from Greek ‘paedo-’ (pertaining to children), ‘-gonos’ (seed).
<b>neosteudneri</b> – 2007 – For its affinity to <i>Aloe steudneri</i> , named for Dr H. Steudner (1832–1863), botanist and explorer in NE Africa, from Greek ‘neos’ (new).	<b>pallescens</b> – 1821 – Probably for the pale flower, from Latin ‘pallescens’ (becoming pale).
<b>ngobitensis</b> – 1953 – For the occurrence near Ngobit, in Kenya.	<b>pallida</b> – 2000 – For the pale flower, from Latin ‘pallidus’ (pale).
<b>ngongensis</b> – 1942 – For the occurrence in the Ngong Hills, in Kenya.	<b>pallidiflora</b> – 1905 – For the pale colour of the flower, from Latin ‘pallidus’ (pale), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
<b>niebuhriana</b> – 1965 – For Carsten Niebuhr (1733–1815), Danish mathematician and astronomer, explorer in Arabia and elsewhere.	<b>palmiformis</b> – 1878 – For having the form of a palm, from Latin ‘palma’ (palm), ‘-formis’ (shaped).
<b>nitens</b> – 1880 – Probably for the leaves, from Latin ‘nitidus’ (shining).	<b>paniculata</b> – 1809 – For the inflorescence, from Latin ‘paniculatus’ (paniculate).
<b>nobilis</b> – 1812 – For the size, from Latin ‘nobilis’ (noble).	<b>panormitana</b> – 1953 – For originating from Palermo, in Italy.
<b>nordaliae</b> – 2006 – For Prof. Inger Nordal (1944–), Norwegian botanist and plant collector in Africa.	<b>paradoxa</b> – 1908 – Probably for difficulty in identification, from Latin ‘paradoxus’ (strange, paradoxical).
<b>nowotnyi</b> – 1896 – Unresolved application.	<b>parallelifolia</b> – 1926 – For the strap-shaped leaves with parallel margins, from Latin ‘parallelus’ (parallel), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
<b>nubigena</b> – 1936 – For the high altitude distribution, meaning ‘cloud-born’, from Latin ‘nubes’ (cloud), ‘genus’ (birth, origin).	<b>parvibracteata</b> – 1907 – For the small bracts, a misleading name as the bracts are not particularly small, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘bracteatus’ (bracteate).
<b>nutii</b> – 1897 – For W. Harwood Nutt, missionary in Zambia in the 1890s.	<b>parvicapsula</b> – 2000 – For the small fruits in comparison with the allied <i>Aloe woodii</i> , from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘capsula’ (capsule).
<b>nyeriensis</b> – 1952 – For the occurrence at Nyeri, in Kenya.	<b>parvicoma</b> – 2000 – For the few-leaved rosettes at the stem tips, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘coma’ (hair tuft, mane).
<b>obscura</b> – 1768 – Unresolved application, from Latin ‘obscurus’ (indistinct, obscure).	<b>parvidens</b> – 1992 – For the small leaf teeth, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘dens’ (tooth).
<b>obscurevirens</b> – 1842 – Unresolved application, from Latin ‘obscurus’ (indistinct, obscure), ‘virens’ (becoming green).	<b>parviflora</b> – 1901 – For the small flowers, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
<b>occidentalis</b> – 1926 – For the occurrence in western Madagascar, from Latin ‘occidentalis’ (western).	<b>parvifolia</b> – 1896 – For the smaller leaves, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘-folia’ (leaved).
<b>officialis</b> – 1775 – For its medicinal use, from Latin ‘officialis’ (used medicinally).	<b>parvispina</b> – 1905 – For the small spines, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small), ‘spina’ (spine).
<b>oligophylla</b> – 1883 – For being few-leaved, from Greek ‘oligos’ (few), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).	<b>parvula</b> – 1908 – For the small stature of the plants, from Latin ‘parvus’ (small).
<b>oligospila</b> – 1894, 1902 – For being few-haired, from Greek ‘oligos’ (few) and Latin ‘pilus’ (hair).	<b>patersonii</b> – 1978 – For Andrew Paterson, without further data.
<b>omavandae</b> – 2004 – For the occurrence at Omavanda, in	<b>paucituberculata</b> – 1998 – For the sparsely tuberculate leaves,

- from Latin 'pauci' (few), 'tuberculatus' (tuberculate).
- paulianae** – 1956 – For L. Paulian (wife of R. Paulian, then Deputy Director of the Institut Scientifique de Madagascar) who first collected the plants.
- pavelkiae** – 2007 – For Mr Petr Pavelka, Czech succulent specialist who discovered it in Namibia.
- paxii** – 1897 – Unresolved application, possibly for the botanist Ferdinand A. Pax (1858–1942).
- peacockii** – 1880 – For John T. Peacock, collector of succulent plants, Hammersmith, England.
- pearsonii** – 1911 – For Prof. Henry Harold W. Pearson (1870–1916), English botanist and the first director of the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, who collected the type specimen.
- peckii** – 1956 – For Major E. A. Peck, officer in charge of the Veterinary and Agricultural services in northern Somalia, before and after WWII and keen collector of the native flora.
- peglerae** – 1904 – For Alice M. Pegler (1861–1929), teacher, botanist and naturalist, plant and insect collector in South Africa.
- pebana** – 1998 – For the occurrence on Pemba Island, off the coast of Tanzania.
- pendens** – 1775 – For the hanging growth form, from Latin 'pendens' (hanging).
- penduliflora** – 1888 – For the hanging flowers, from Latin 'pendulus' (hanging down), '-florus' (flowered).
- pentagona** – 1836 – Unresolved application, from Greek 'penta' (five), '-gonia' (angle). It could refer to the leaves being arranged into five ranks.
- percrassa** – 1875 – For the succulent leaves, from Latin 'per-' (very), 'crassus' (thick).
- perdita** – 2008 – For the fact that the information on the type locality was lost, and precise origin of the type collections is unknown, from Latin 'perdita' (lost).
- perfoliata** – 1753, 1835 – For the stem passing through the leaves, i.e. the leaves are amplexicaul, from Latin 'per' (through), 'folia' (leaf).
- perrieri** – 1956 – For J. M. Henri A. Perrier de la Bâthie (1873–1958), French botanist, who lived in Madagascar from 1896–1933.
- perryi** – 1880 – For Wykeham Perry who collected plants in Socotra in 1880.
- pertusa** – 1804 – For the leaves that are pertuso-punctate, from Latin 'pertusus' (perforated), 'punctatus' (dotted).
- petricola** – 1917 – For the habitat in rocky places (granite outcrops in this case), from Latin 'petra' (rock), '-cola' (inhabiting).
- petrophila** – 1933 – For the habitat in rocky places (cliff faces in this case), from Greek 'petra' (rock), '-philos' (friend).
- peyrierasii** – 1976 – For A. Peyrieras, French zoologist.
- philippeii** – 2005 – For Jean-Philippe Castillon (fl. 2008), son of the author.
- picta** – 1785 – For the spots on the leaves, from Latin 'pictus' (painted).
- pictifolia** – 1976 – For the small spots on the leaves, from Latin 'pictus' (painted), '-folius' (leaved).
- pienaarrii** – 1915 – For P. J. Pineaar, who collected it in 1914, near Pietersburg, in South Africa.
- pillansii** – 1928 – For Neville S. Pillans (1884–1964), South African botanist, who first collected it in 1926 in the Richtersveld.
- pirottiae** – 1905 – For Pietro R. Pirotta (1853–1936), Italian botanist and director of Rome Botanical Garden until 1928.
- platylepis** – 1877 – Application obscure, from Greek 'platys' (flat, broad), 'lepis' (scale).
- platyphylla** – 1878 – For the leaf shape, from Greek 'platys' (flat, broad), 'phyllon' (leaf).
- plicatilis** – 1753 – Referring somewhat peripherally to the fan-shaped rosettes, from Latin, 'plicatilis' (foldable).
- plowesii** – 1964 – For Darrel C. H. Plowes (1925–), South African agricultural officer and naturalist in Zimbabwe, who discovered the species.
- pluridens** – 1824 – Referring to the many teeth on the leaf margin, from Latin 'pluri' (many), 'dens' (teeth).
- poissonii** – 1921 – For Dr Henri L. Poisson (1877–1963), French veterinary surgeon and botanist, resident in Madagascar from 1916–1954.
- pole-evansii** – 1940 – For Dr Illyd B. Pole-Evans (1877–1968), botanist in South Africa.
- polyphylla** – 1934 – For the many leaves, from Greek 'poly' (many), 'phyllon' (leaf).
- pongolensis** – 1936 – For the occurrence at Pongola, in South Africa.
- porphyrostachys** – 2000 – For the red inflorescences, from Greek 'porphyreos' (purplish-red), 'stachys' (spike).
- postgenita** – 1830 – Obscure application, from Latin 'post' (behind or after), 'genitus' (produced, born).
- powysiorum** – 1990 – For J. Gilfred L. Powys (1938–) and wife Patricia G., farmers, explorers and collectors of succulents in Kenya, Tanzania, southern Ethiopia and southern Sudan.
- praetermissa** – 2002 – Because the taxon was previously overlooked, from Latin 'praetermissus' (overlooked, missed out).
- pratensis** – 1880 – The name means growing in meadows but the species also occurs in rocky places, from Latin 'pratensis' (growing in meadows).
- pretoriensis** – 1914 – For the occurrence near Pretoria, South Africa, where the type was collected.
- principis** – 1821 – In appearance a princely plant, named for the Prince (Fürst) Joseph Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck (1773–1861), German botanist, artist, horticulturalist, and succulent plant expert.
- prinslooi** – 1965 – For Gerry J. Prinsloo, an amateur grower of aloes, who discovered the plant.
- procera** – 1974 – For the tall inflorescences, from Latin 'procerus' (tall).
- prolifera** – 1804 – For being prolific, from Latin.
- pronkii** – 2006 – For Mr Olaf Pronk of Antananarivo, Madagascar, who operates a nursery.
- propagulifera** – 1998 – For the production of bulbils on the inflorescence, from Latin 'propagulum' (bulbil), '-fer' (carrying).
- prostrata** – 1926 – For the spreading leaves, from Latin 'prostratus' (prostrate, creeping).
- pruinosa** – 1936 – For the peduncle and flowers being covered in a white, waxy, powdery bloom, from Latin 'pruinosis' (covered with a waxy bloom).
- pseudoafricana** – 1817 – For resembling *Aloe africana*, from Greek 'pseudo-' (false).
- pseudoferox** – 1817 – For resembling *Aloe ferox*, from Greek 'pseudo-' (false).
- pseudoparvula** – 2004 – For the resemblance to *Aloe parvula*, from Greek 'pseudo-' (false).
- pseudopicta** – 1908 – For the resemblance to *Aloe picta*, from Greek 'pseudo-' (false).
- pseudorubroviolacea** – 2000 – For the resemblance to *Aloe rubroviolacea*, from Greek 'pseudo' (false).

- puberula** – 1894 – For the puberulous bracts, pedicels and perianth base, from Latin ‘puberulus’ (puberulous).
- pubescens** – 1957 – For the hairy flowers, from Latin ‘pubescens’ (pubescent).
- pulcherrima** – 1997 – For its beauty, from Latin ‘pulcher’ (beautiful).
- pulchra** – 1973, 1987 – For its beauty, from Latin ‘pulcher’ (beautiful).
- punctata** – 1804, 1839 – For the spotted leaves, from Latin ‘punctus’ (dot).
- pungens** – 1908 – From Latin ‘pungens’ (pungent, piercing).
- purpurascens** – 1789 – For the leaves turning purple when dry, from Latin ‘purpurascens’ (becoming purple).
- purpurea** – 1783 – For the purple margins of the leaves, from Latin ‘purpureus’ (purple).
- pustuligemma** – 1994 – For the blistered surface of the flower buds, from Latin ‘pustula’ (blister), ‘gemma’ (bud).
- quartziticola** – 1926 – For the occurrence on quartzite rock, from English/French ‘quartzite’ and Latin ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- quinquangularis** – 1829 – Unresolved application, from Latin ‘quinque’ (five), ‘angularis’ (angled).
- rabaiensis** – 1895 – For the occurrence on the Rabai Hills, in Kenya.
- ramosa** – 1804 – For the branching of the stems, from Latin ‘ramosus’ (branched).
- ramosissima** – 1939 – For being much-branched, from Latin ‘ramosus’ (branched), superlative.
- rauhii** – 1963 – For Prof. Werner Rauh (1913–2000), German botanist in Heidelberg and specialist on Madagascan succulents.
- rebmannii** – 2002 – For Prof. Norbert Rebmann (1948–), French university lecturer and aloe enthusiast.
- recurvifolia** – 1935 – For the curved leaves, from Latin ‘recurvus’ (curved backwards), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- redacta** – 1990 – For the limited range, or for the reduced pedicels and bracts, from Latin ‘redactus’ (reduced).
- reflexa** – 1840 – Probably for the leaves, from Latin ‘reflexus’ (reflexed).
- reitzii** – 1937 – For Mr F.W. Reitz, who discovered it and drew Reynolds’ attention to it.
- rendilliorum** – 2006 – For the Rendille tribe, in Kenya.
- repens** – 1974 – For the prostrate habit, from Latin ‘repens’ (creeping).
- retrospiciens** – 1958 – Looking back, for the orientation of buds and flowers, from Latin.
- reynoldsii** – 1934 – For Dr Gilbert W. Reynolds (1895–1967), Australian who emigrated to South Africa, who contributed significantly to the knowledge of the genus.
- rhodacantha** – 1799 – For the red spines on the leaf margins, from Greek ‘rhodos’ (rose-red), ‘akanthos’ (spine).
- rhodesiana** – 1911 – For the occurrence in the former Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.
- rhodocincta** – 1880 – For the pale reddish leaf margin, from Greek ‘rhodos’ (rose-red) and Latin ‘cinctus’ (encircled).
- riccobonii** – 1912 – For Vincenzo Riccobono (1861–1943), chief gardener of the Botanical Garden of Palermo, in Italy.
- richardsiae** – 1964 – For Mrs H. Mary Richards (1885–1977), British collector, resident in East Africa from 1952–1974.
- richaudii** – 2008 – For Philippe Richaudii, nurseryman in France, in whose greenhouse the plant grew.
- richtersveldensis** – 1982 – For the occurrence on the Richtersveld, in South Africa.
- rigens** – 1958 – For the stiff leaves, from Latin ‘rigens’ (rigid).
- rivae** – 1898 – For Dr Domenico Riva (c.1856–1895), Italian botanist collector in northeast Africa, who collected the type specimen.
- rivierei** – 1977 – For Fernando Riviere de Caralt (1904–1992), Spanish industrialist, grower of succulents and owner of the private botanical garden ‘Pinya de Rosa’.
- rodolphei** – 2008 – For Rodolphe Castillon, a grower of Madagascan succulent plants.
- roeoelii** – 2005 – For Walter Rööslü who collected the type with R. Hoffmann.
- rosea** – 1921, 1926 – For the rose-pink flowers, from Latin ‘roseus’ (rose-like).
- rossii** – 1894 – For Ermano Ross, the author’s assistant at the Palermo botanical garden.
- rubescens** – 1799 – For the reddish leaves, from Latin ‘rubrus’ (red), ‘-escens’ (becoming).
- rubriflora** – 1936 – For the red flowers, from Latin ‘rubrus’ (red), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- rubrodonta** – 2007 – For the red teeth at leaf margins, from Latin ‘rubrus’ (red), Greek ‘odontos’ (tooth).
- rubrolutea** – 1896 – For the flower colour, from Latin ‘rubrum’ (red), ‘luteus’ (yellow).
- rubroviolacea** – 1894 – For the colour of the dry leaves, from Latin ‘rubrus’ (red), ‘violaceus’ (violet).
- ruffingiana** – 1999 – For Dr E. Ruffing, German physician working in Madagascar.
- rufocincta** – 1819 – For the rosy-edged leaves, from Latin ‘rufus’ (reddish), ‘cinctus’ (encircled).
- rugosifolia** – 1992 – For the rugose leaf surface, from Latin ‘rugosus’ (rugose), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- rugo-squamosa** – 1926 – For the rough upper leaf surface, from Latin ‘ruga’ (wrinkle), ‘squamosus’ (scaly).
- runcinata** – 1908 – For the serrate leaves, from Latin ‘runcinatus’ (runcinate).
- rupestris** – 1896 – For the habitat, associated with rocks or cliffs, from Latin ‘rupestris’ (of rocks).
- rupicola** – 1960 – For the occurrence among rocks, from Latin ‘rupes’ (rocks, cliffs), ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- ruspoliana** – 1898 – For Prince Eugenio Ruspoli (1866–1893), Italian explorer and collector in northeast Africa, who collected the type.
- ruvuensis** – 2007 – For the occurrence near the Ruvu River, in Tanzania.
- sabaea** – 1894 – Probably commemorating the state of ‘Saba’ (Sheba).
- sabila** – 1840 – For the common name for aloe in Mexico.
- saganeitiana** – 1908 – For the occurrence near Saganeiti, in Ethiopia.
- sakarahrensis** – 2004 – For the occurrence in the Sakahara forest, in Madagascar.
- sakoankenke** – 2004 – For the Malagasy common name of the plant ‘sakoankenke’.
- salm-dyckiana** – 1829 – For Prince Joseph Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck (1773–1861), German botanist, artist, horticulturalist and succulent plant expert.
- saponaria** – 1789 – Because the leaves are used to make soap, from Latin ‘saponarius’ (soapy).
- saronarae** – 2006 – For the occurrence near Saronara, in Madagascar.
- saudiarabica** – 2007 – For the occurrence in Saudi Arabia.
- saundersiae** – 1936 – For Lady Katherine Saunders (née Wheelright) (1824–1901), English collector and botanical artist in South Africa, mother of Charles James Renault Saunders (1857–1935) an explorer and collector in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Mozambique. According

- to Reynolds (1950) it was collected by Lady Saunders in the 1930s in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, but her death occurred in 1901. It was probably collected by the son.
- saxigena** – 1908 – For occurring between stones, from Latin ‘saxum’ (rock), ‘-genus’ (born).
- scabrifolia** – 1990 – For the rough leaves, from Latin ‘scabrum’ (rough), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- schelpei** – 1960 – For Prof. Edmund A. C. L. E. Schelpe (1924–1985) South African botanist at the University of Cape Town, who collected the type.
- schilliana** – 1996 – For Prof. Rainer Schill, German botanist at Heidelberg University.
- schimperii** – 1876 – For Georg W. Schimper (1804–1878), German botanist and plant collector, who lived and became nationalised in Abyssinia.
- schinzii** – 1898 – For Hans Schinz (1858–1941), Swiss botanist who collected the type specimen.
- schistophila** – 1926 – For the preferred habitat on schistose rocks, from Greek ‘schistos’ (schist rock), ‘phylos’ (friend).
- schlechteri** – 1903 – For Max Schlechter (1874–1960), German trader and plant collector in South Africa, who collected the type specimen.
- schliebenii** – 1970 – For Hans Joachim E. Schlieben (1902–1975), German botanist, who collected the type specimen in Tanzania.
- schmidtiana** – 1879 – For Mr E. Schmidt, head of the famous nursery firm Haage and Schmidt in Erfurt, Germany.
- schoelleri** – 1894 – For Max Schoeller, German ethnologist travelling widely in Africa.
- schomeri** – 1966 – For Menko Schomerus, a mine-owner in Madagascar.
- schonlandii** – 1902 – For Dr Selmar Schönland (1860–1940), German-born botanist who emigrated to South Africa in 1899 and became director of the Albany Museum in Grahamstown.
- schweinfurthii** – 1880 – For Dr Georg Schweinfurth (1836–1925), German botanist, geographer and explorer of northeast Africa and Arabia.
- scobinifolia** – 1958 – For the rough leaves, from Latin ‘scobina’ (rasp), ‘-folius’ (leaved).
- scorpioides** – 1974 – For the shape of the peduncle, from Latin ‘scorpioides’ (scorpioid).
- secundiflora** – 1895 – For the second flowers (directed to one side), from Latin ‘secundus’ (second), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- semiguttata** – 1821 – For being ‘half-warted’, from Latin ‘semi’ (half), ‘guttatus’ (spotted).
- sempervivoides** – 1926 – For resembling representatives of the genus *Sempervivum*, from Greek ‘-oides’ (resembling).
- seretii** – 1921 – For Felix Seret (fl. 1905–1909), Belgian forestry officer and plant collector in the (now) Democratic Republic of Congo.
- serra** – 1799 – For the serrate leaves, from Latin ‘serra’ (saw).
- serriyensis** – 1965 – For the occurrence at the village of Serriya, in Yemen.
- serrulata** – 1789 – For the finely serrulate leaf margins, from Latin ‘serrulatus’ (serrulate).
- sessiliflora** – 1917 – For the sessile flowers, from Latin ‘sessilis’ (sessile), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- shadensis** – 2000 – For the occurrence in Jabal Shada, in Saudi Arabia.
- sheilae** – 1985 – For Iris Sheila Collette (1927–), English amateur botanist, well-known collector and researcher of Arabian succulents.
- sigmoidea** – 1880 – Application obscure, meaning curved like an ‘s’, from Greek ‘sigma’ (the letter ‘s’).
- silicicola** – 1926 – For the preferred habitat, from Latin ‘silicis’ (silica), ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- silvicola** – 1926 – For the occurrence on forests, from Latin ‘sylva’ (forest), ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- simii** – 1917 – For Dr T. R. Sim (1858–1938), horticulturalist and botanist in South Africa, who first collected the plant.
- sinana** – 1957 – For the occurrence at Debre Sina, in Ethiopia.
- sinkatana** – 1957 – For the occurrence at Sinkat, in Sudan.
- sinuata** – 1794 – Probably for the leaves, from Latin ‘sinuatus’ (waved, sinuate).
- sladeniana** – 1920 – For William Percy Sladen (1849–1900), British naturalist and financial benefactor of the expedition on which this plant was discovered.
- sobolifera** – 1994 – For the offsetting nature of the plants, from Latin ‘soboles’ (branch, offspring), ‘-fer’ (carrying).
- socialis** – 1926 – For the clustering habit, from Latin ‘socialis’ (social).
- solaiiana** – 1940 – For the occurrence at Solai, in Kenya.
- somaliensis** – 1899 – For the occurrence in Somalia.
- sororia** – 1908 – For the relationship to other species, from Latin ‘soror’ (sister).
- soutpansbergensis** – 1962 – For the occurrence on the Soutpansberg, Limpopo Province, in South Africa.
- speciosa** – 1880 – For the showy, beautiful inflorescences, from Latin ‘speciosus’ (beautiful).
- spectabilis** – 1937 – For the general appearance, from Latin ‘spectabilis’ (showy).
- spicata** – 1782 – For the long and densely-flowered spike-like inflorescences, from Latin ‘spicatus’ (spicate).
- spinosior** – 1804, 1821 – (1) For being more spiny; (2) for the larger prickles near the leaf tips. From Latin ‘spinusos’ (spiny), comparative.
- spinosissima** – 1933 – For being very spiny, from Latin ‘spinusos’ (spiny), superlative.
- spinulosa** – 1822 – For the very small spines, from Latin ‘spinula’ (small spine).
- splendens** – 1965 – For the flower colour, from Latin ‘splendens’ (brilliant).
- spuria** – 1908 – Because it could be a hybrid, from Latin ‘spurius’ (doubtful, false).
- squarrosa** – 1884 – For the rough leaf surface, from Latin ‘squarrosus’ (spreading, recurved).
- stans** – 1908 – For the erect habit, from Latin ‘stans’ (standing upright).
- stefaninii** – 1916 – For Giuseppe Stefanini (1882–1938), Italian naturalist, traveller and collector in eastern Africa, Ethiopia and Somalia.
- stefanieana** – 2000 – For Mrs Steffanie Paulsen, German horticulturalist responsible for the Madagascar collection at the Heidelberg Botanical Garden.
- stenacantha** – 1940 – For the narrow spines, from Greek ‘stenos’ (narrow), ‘akanthos’ (spine).
- stenophylla** – 1896 – For the narrow leaves, from Greek ‘stenos’ (narrow), ‘phyllon’ (leaf).
- stuedneri** – 1894 – For Dr H. Stuedner (1832–1863) botanist and explorer in northeast Africa who collected the type.
- straussii** – 1912 – For Mr H. Strauss, who in 1910 sent the plant from Berlin to La Mortola, Italy, where it was described.
- striata** – 1804 – For the lines on the leaves, from Latin ‘striatus’ (striate).

- striatula** – 1825 – For thin green parallel lines on the leaf sheaths, from Latin ‘striatus’ (striate).
- strigata** – 1829 – Unresolved application, from Latin ‘striga’ (a straight, bristle-like hair).
- stuhlmannii** – 1898 – For Franz Stuhlman (1863–1927), Acting Governor of Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and plant collector, who collected the type specimen in Zanzibar.
- suarezensis** – 1926 – For the occurrence in the region of Diego Suarez (Antsiranana), in Madagascar.
- subacutissima** – 1973 – Because Reynolds assumed that the taxon was similar to *Aloe acutissima*, from Latin ‘sub’ (almost, more or less).
- suberecta** – 1789 – For the suberect leaves, from Latin ‘sub’ (almost), ‘erectus’ (erect).
- subferox** – 1825 – For resembling *Aloe ferox*, from Latin ‘sub’ (almost).
- subinermis** – 1869 – For being almost unarmed, from Latin ‘sub’ (almost), ‘inermis’ (unarmed).
- subolifera** – 1939 – For forming suckers, from Latin ‘soboles’ (branches).
- subtuberculata** – 1825 – For the leaf tubercules, from Latin ‘sub’ (almost), ‘tuberculatus’ (tuberculate).
- succotrina** – 1773 – It grows wild only in the extreme south-western Cape of South Africa, the name is due to either the plant being thought to be the source of the drug socotrine aloes and originating from Socotra, or to the compound word meaning ‘succus’ (sap), ‘citrinus’ (lemon-yellow). Although the purple juice is characteristic of the plant (Reynolds, 1950; Glen & Hardy, 2000), it was reported that it turns yellow when it dries (Lamarck 1783).
- suffulta** – 1937 – Referring to the weak and slender inflorescences which are always supported by the surrounding vegetation, from Latin ‘suffultus’ (supported).
- suprafoliata** – 1916 – Refers to the leaves of the young plants that are seemingly situated on top of each other in two rows, resembling the pages of an open book, from Latin ‘supra’ (above), ‘foliatus’ (leaved).
- supralaevis** – 1804 – For the smooth upper surface of the leaf, from Latin ‘supra’ (above), ‘laevis’ (smooth).
- suzannae** – 1921 – For Suzanne Decary, daughter of the author.
- swynnertonii** – 1911 – For Charles F. M. Swynnerton (1877–1939), English zoologist and naturalist, botanical explorer in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, who collected the first specimens in Zimbabwe.
- tarkaensis** – 1936 – For the occurrence near Tarkastad in the Eastern Cape Province, in South Africa.
- tartarensis** – 2007 – For the occurrence at Tartar Falls, in Kenya.
- tauri** – 1968 – For E. J. Bullock, of Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), a student of the genus, who discovered the species, from Latin/Greek ‘taurus’ (bull).
- teissieri** – 2002 – For Marc Teissier, French horticulturalist and curator of the private botanical garden ‘Les Cèdres’ at Saint Jean Cap Ferrat near Nice, France.
- temifolia** – 1783 – For the thin leaves, from Latin ‘tenuis’ (slender, thin), ‘folius’ (leaved).
- temuior** – 1825 – Referring to the slender branches, from Latin ‘tenuis’ (slender).
- termetophyla** – 1921 – For the habitat on termite mounds, from Latin ‘termes’ (those that terminate, or destroy), and Greek ‘phylous’ (friend).
- tewoldei** – 1997 – For Tewolde-Bergan Gebre-Egziabher, Ethiopian botanist and one of the joint leaders of the Ethiopian Flora Project.
- thompsoniae** – 1946 – For Dr Sheila Thompson (née Clifford) (fl. 1930s) Haenertsberg, South Africa, who collected it in 1924.
- thorncroftii** – 1917 – For George Thorncroft (1874–1934), a keen gardener and collector in Barberton, South Africa, who first collected it.
- thraskii** – 1880 – For a Mr Thrask, after a long forgotten person by the name of Thrask (Van Wyk & Smith, 1996); it is not known after whom it is named (Glen & Hardy, 2000).
- tidmarshii** – 1903 – For Edwin Tidmarsh (1831–1915), curator of the Grahamstown Botanic Garden, who, in 1900, gave the plant to Dr Selmar Schönland, who described it.
- tomentosa** – 1884 – For the hairy flowers, from Latin ‘tomentosus’ (felted, covered in matted hairs).
- tomlinsonii** – 1929 – For Mr L. L. Tomlinson, of Delarey, Swellendam, South Africa, who discovered the plant.
- tormentorii** – 1975 – For the type locality, Gunner’s Quoin, in Round Island, Mauritius, from Latin ‘tormentum’ (a military engine for discharging missiles).
- tororoana** – 1953 – For the occurrence on Tororo Rock, in Uganda.
- torrei** – 1946 – For António Rocha da Torre (1904–1995), Portuguese biologist and pharmacist.
- trachyticola** – 1926 – For the habitat, from English/French ‘trachyte’ (trachyte rock), Latin ‘-cola’ (inhabiting).
- transvaalensis** – 1898 – For the occurrence in the former Transvaal (now split into Gauteng, Limpopo, North-West and Mpumalanga Provinces), in South Africa.
- trichosantha** – 1905 – For the hairy perianth, from Greek ‘trichos’ (hair), ‘anthos’ (flower).
- trichotoma** – 1824 – For division in threes, probably referring to the inflorescence or to the flowers, from Latin ‘trichotomus’ (trichotomous).
- tricolor** – 1877 – For three colours, probably for the variegated flower (white, red and green), from Latin ‘tri-’ (three), ‘color’ (colour).
- trigonantha** – 1971 – For the markedly trigonous perianth, from Greek ‘trigonous’ (triangular), ‘anthos’ (flower).
- tripetala** – 1783 – Probably for the three outer perianth segments, from Greek ‘tri-’ (three), ‘petalon’ (petal).
- trothae** – 1905 – For Lothar von Trotha (1848–1920), a German soldier in German East Africa from 1894–1897, who collected the type specimen in Tanzania.
- tuberculata** – 1804 – For the numerous tubercules on the leaf surfaces, from Latin ‘tuberculatus’ (tuberculate).
- tugenensis** – 1990 – For the occurrence in the Tugen Hills, in Kenya.
- tulearensis** – 2007 – For the occurrence near Tuléar (Toliara), in Madagascar.
- turkanaensis** – 1942 – For the occurrence in the Turkana District, in Kenya.
- tweediae** – 1942 – For E. Marjorie Tweedie, British artist and collector resident in Kenya from 1918 onwards, who discovered and collected the plants in Uganda.
- ucraiae** – 1897 – For Bernardino da Ucria (1739–1796), Italian Franciscan monk and botanist, and curator of the Botanic Garden of Palermo.
- ukambensis** – 1955 – For the occurrence in the former Ukambani District (now Kitui and Machakos districts), in Kenya.

- umbellata** – 1799 – For the inflorescence being more or less umbellate, from Latin ‘umbella’ (umbel).
- umfoloziensis** – 1937 – For the occurrence near the Black and White Umfolozi Rivers, in South Africa.
- vacillans** – 1775 – Probably for the habit, as it becomes decumbent, from Latin ‘vacillans’ (swinging to and fro).
- vallis** – 1974 – For the habitat, from Latin ‘vallis’ (of walls).
- vanbalenii** – 1934 – For Jan C. van Balen (1894–1956), horticulturalist, former director of Parks of Johannesburg, South Africa, who first collected the species.
- vandermerwei** – 1950 – For Dr Frederick Z. Van der Merwe (1894–1968), South African medical inspector of schools, and specialist in *Aloe* and *Scilla*.
- vanrooyenii** – 2006 – For Mr Pieter van Rooyen, of Greytown, South Africa, who prompted further investigation of wild populations of the species (see Smith & Crouch, 2006).
- vaombe** – 1912 – For the local vernacular name of the plants in Madagascar.
- vaotsanda** – 1912 – For the local vernacular name of the plants in Madagascar.
- vaotsohy** – 1912 – For the local vernacular name of the plants in Madagascar.
- variegata** – 1753 – For the spotted leaves, from Latin ‘variegatus’ (variegated).
- venenosa** – 1893 – For being poisonous, from Latin ‘venenosus’ (very poisonous).
- vera** – 1753 – The true aloe, from Latin ‘vera’ (in truth, real).
- verdoorniae** – 1936 – For Dr Inez C. Verdoorn (1896–1989), South African botanist and past Curator of the National Herbarium of the then Botanical Research Institute (now SANBI), in Pretoria, South Africa.
- verecunda** – 1917 – Because the leaves wither in winter and the plant is almost impossible to be seen, from Latin ‘verecundus’ (modest).
- verekeri** – 1938 – For Mr L. S. A. Vereker, keen collector of Zimbabwe succulents who first collected it in 1931.
- vernalis** – 1981 – For the flowering season in the spring months of August–September, from Latin ‘vernalis’ (pertaining to springtime).
- verrucosospinosa** – 1773 – For the tubercles and spines on the leaves, from Latin ‘verrucosus’ (warted), ‘spinosa’ (spiny).
- versicolor** – 1950 – Perhaps for the flower colour, from Latin ‘versicolor’ (variously coloured).
- veseyi** – 1959 – For L. Desmond E.F. Vesey-Fitzgerald (1909 or 1910–1974), British entomologist, who worked in many tropical countries, including Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.
- viguierei** – 1928 – For Prof. René Viguier (1880–1931), French botanist who collected in Madagascar with H. Humbert.
- virens** – 1804 – For the colour of the leaves, from Latin ‘virens’ (becoming green).
- viridiflora** – 1937 – For the green flowers, from Latin ‘viridis’ (green), ‘-florus’ (flowered).
- viridifolia** – 1905, 2007 – For the green leaves, from Latin ‘viridis’ (green), ‘-folia’ (leaved).
- viridis** – 1821 – For the bright green leaves, from Latin ‘viridis’ (green).
- vituenis** – 1898 – For the erroneously presumed occurrence in the Witu region in Kenya, starting point for the expedition when the plant was collected.
- vogtsii** – 1936 – For Louis R. Vogts, South African administrator and successful cultivator of succulent plants in his garden near Pretoria, who discovered it near Louis Trichardt (Makhado), Limpopo Province, South Africa.
- volkensii** – 1895 – For Prof. Georg L.A. Volkens (1855–1917), German botanist in Berlin and explorer of the Kilimanjaro.
- vossii** – 1936 – For Harold Voss, its first collector.
- vryheidensis** – 1935 – For the occurrence near the town of Vryheid in KwaZulu-Natal, in South Africa.
- vulgaris** – 1783 – The ordinary aloe, from Latin ‘vulgaris’ (common).
- wernerii** – 2007 – For Prof. Werner Rauh (1913–2000), German botanist in Heidelberg and specialist on Madagascan succulents, who discovered it in 1991 and noted its main distinguishing characters.
- whitcombei** – 1995 – For R. P. Whitcombe of Salalah, Oman, who first collected the plant.
- wickensii** – 1915 – For John E. Wickens (1867–1949), English horticulturalist and plant collector in South Africa.
- wildii** – 1961 – For Prof. Hiram Wild (1917–1982), British botanist and director of the National Herbarium in Harare, Zimbabwe.
- wilsonii** – 1956 – For John G. Wilson (1927–), British agricultural officer and ecologist with the Ugandan Department of Agriculture; later living in Kenya.
- wollastonii** – 1908 – For A. F. R. Wollaston, British botanist and collector in East Africa who collected the specimen.
- woodii** – 2000 – For John R. I. Wood (1944–), British Inspector of Schools in Yemen and active amateur botanist.
- woolliana** – 1934 – For Mr Woolley who lived in Barberton in the 1930s and collected the first specimen.
- wratislaviensis** – 1953 – Unresolved application.
- wrefordii** – 1956 – For Herbert Wreford-Smith (1890–1962), transporter, farmer, prospector, cattle dealer and naturalist in Kenya and Uganda.
- xanthacantha** – 1811 – For yellow spines, from Greek ‘xanthos’ (yellow), ‘akanthos’ (spine).
- xanthostachys** – 1908 – For the yellow inflorescences, from Greek ‘xanthos’ (yellow), ‘stachys’ (spike).
- yavellana** – 1954 – For the occurrence at Yavello, in Ethiopia.
- yemenica** – 1983 – For its occurrence in Yemen.
- zakamisyi** – 2007 – For Mr Zakamisy, who showed the authors the way to the place where the plant was growing.
- zanzibarica** – 1947 – For the occurrence in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- zebrina** – 1878 – Referring to the spots on the leaves that often merge to form more or less regular transverse stripes or bands, as in a zebra, from Portuguese ‘zebra’ latinised.
- zeyheri** – 1880 – For Karl L. P. Zeyer (1799–1858) German naturalist and botanical explorer in South Africa.
- zombitsiensis** – 2000 – For the occurrence in the Zombitsy forest, Toliara, in Madagascar.
- zuluensis** – 1937 – For the occurrence in Zululand (now KwaZulu-Natal), in South Africa.