

## The correct name of *Aloe plicatilis*, the fan aloe, in the genus *Kumara* (Asphodelaceae: Alooideae), again

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**Summary:** The combination *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) Klopper & Gideon F.Sm. recently published for the fan aloe [*Aloe plicatilis* (L.) Burm.f.], is a synonym of *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) G.D.Rowley, the latter having priority due to earlier valid publication.

**Zusammenfassung:** Die kürzlich für die "fan aloe" [*Aloe plicatilis* (L.) Burm. f.] publizierte Kombination *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) Klopper & Gideon F.Sm. ist ein Synonym von *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) G.D.Rowley, welche Priorität aufgrund der gültigen früheren Publikation hat.

### Introduction

Publication of Grace *et al.* (2013) generated considerable interest among succulent plant enthusiasts as it initiated the deconstruction of the well-known genus *Aloe* L. (Asphodelaceae: Alooideae, alternatively Xanthorrhoeaceae: Asphodeloideae), which has remained comparatively unfettered for more than 150 years. When the genus *Kumara* Medikus (1786: 69) is resurrected for the fan aloe [*Aloe plicatilis* (L.) Burm.f.], Klopper *et al.* (2013 [3 July 2013]) showed that the correct specific epithet to use is *plicatilis*, and not *disticha*, and corrected the name to *Kumara plicatilis*.

However, this combination was earlier made by Rowley (2013 [9 April 2013]). *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) Klopper & Gideon F.Sm. is therefore a superfluous name and synonym of *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) G.D.Rowley, the correct name of the fan aloe when placed in *Kumara*.

This is not the first time that a new combination for this aloe was published by separate authors in close succession. As explained by Klopper *et al.* (2013), the correct author citation for *Aloe plicatilis* is (L.) Burm.f. and not (L.) Mill. as it was

given by Rowley (2013) and used historically. This combination was first published by Burman in *Prodromus Florae Capensis* (1 March to 6 April 1768). The combination made by Miller in *The Gardener's Dictionary* (16 April 1768) is thus a superfluous name.

### Taxonomy

***Kumara plicatilis*** (L.) G.D.Rowley in *Alsterworthia International Special Issue No.10*: 3 (9 April 2013). *Aloe disticha* var. *plicatilis* L., *Species Plantarum*: 321 (1753). *Aloe plicatilis* (L.) Burm.f., *Flora Indica, Prodromus Florae Capensis*: 10 (1 March–6 April 1768). *Aloe plicatilis* (L.) Mill., *nom. superfl.*, *The Gardener's Dictionary* 8: 7 (16 April 1768). *Aloe tripetala* Medik., *nom. superfl.*, *Botanische Beobachtungen des Jahres 1783*: 55 (1783). *Kumara disticha* sensu Medikus, *nom. superfl.*, *Theodora Speciosa*: 70, t.4 (1786). *Rhipidodendrum distichum* (Medik.) Willd., *Magazin für die neuesten Entdeckungen in der gesammten Naturkunde der Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin* 5: 165 (1811). *Rhipidodendrum plicatile* (L.) Haw., *Revisiones plantarum succulentarum*: 45 (1821). *Kumara plicatilis* (L.) Klopper & Gideon F.Sm., *nom. superfl.*, *Phytotaxa* 115: 59 (3 July 2013). Lectotype: *Aloe africana arborescens montana non spinosa, folio longissimo plicatili, flore rubro* [Commelijn (1701: 5, t.3); designated by Wijnands (1983: 125)].

*Aloe linguaeformis* L.f., *nom. illegit.*, *Supplementum Plantarum*: 206 (1782). Type: Cape of Good Hope, *Thunberg 8590* (UPS, holo.)

*Aloe lingua* Thunb., *Dissertatio botanica de Aloë*: 7 (1785). Type: South Africa, no precise locality, *Thunberg 8590* (UPS, holo.).

*Aloe flabelliformis* Salisb., *Prodromus stirpium in horto ad Chapel Allerton vigentium*: 147 (1796). Type: not cited.



**Figure 1.** The leaves of *Kumara plicatilis*, which is endemic to Mediterranean parts of South Africa's Western Cape Province, are arranged in the shape of a fan. Photograph: A.W. Klopper.

*Aloe plicatilis* (L.) Mill. var. *major* Salm-Dyck, *Verzeichniss der verschiedenen Arten und Abarten des Geschlechts Aloe*: 30, 63 (1817). Type: not cited.

## References

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**Figure 2.** The cigar-shaped flowers of the fan aloe, *Kumara plicatilis*, are bright red, with the flared tips infused with yellow.

Photograph: G. Nichols.

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