

ALSTERWORTHIA

INTERNATIONAL

THE

SUCCULENT ASPHODELACEAE

JOURNAL



Aloe arborescens 'Gold Rush' J. Trager. ISI 95-17

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Alsterworthia International

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Formed to promote and facilitate the publication of information on the genera *Aloe*, *Gasteria*, *Haworthia*, related small genera and their *nothogenera* without discrimination.

All journals have been published on time. In addition nine special issues and three soft cover books have also been published. Two more books are in preparation.

Appointed world agent for Haworthia Study, the journal of the Japanese Haworthia Society.

A cultivar project to compile a list of cultivar names, trace original publications etc and publish the results with colour illustrations is in progress. Additional offers of information and photographs are always welcome.

Kniphofia reflexa

Kniphofia is not a genus which finds great favour with succulent collectors, at least not in their glasshouses. However, because many are hardy outdoors in parts of Europe and in similar areas and a wide range of cultivars has extended their availability, they often find a place in the garden of the succulent collector.

Some species are far from common. *Kniphofia reflexa* had not been seen for more than 60 years until a Kew expedition unexpectedly came across a mass of tall, yellowed-flowered spikes whilst searching for pipeworts in high-altitude swamps, which fringe some of the streams in the forested Bamenda Highlands of Cameroon. *Kniphofia reflexa* is the only *Kniphofia* known from West Africa.

Kniphofia is (distantly) related to *Aloe* and *Haworthia*; it is in a different subgenus of the Asphodelaceae. The possibility of intergeneric hybrids may therefore be remote. Has anyone tried?

Reference: Kew Autumn 2001.

For your guidance an interpretation of Art. 19.18 I.C.N.C.P.

This article states that “The epithet of a cultivar name is not to duplicate the final epithet in Latin form of the correct name under the I.C.B.N. of the taxonomic unit at the rank of species or below to which it is assigned: the cultivar name must be given a distinctive epithet as determined by Art. 19.8 where applicable.”.

Let us apply this article to a non-succulent example, *Bellis perennis* (daisy) so as not to offend any succulent growers. (We are not in contact with daisy growers!) In the cultivar name *Bellis perennis* ‘Perennis’ the cultivar epithet Perennis clearly duplicates the species epithet *perennis*, so the cultivar name is not acceptable under Art. 19.18. Now, what about *Bellis perennis* ‘Perennis Gold’? ‘Perennis’ again duplicates *perennis*, but in this case it is acceptable under Art. 19.18 because a two-word cultivar epithet cannot duplicate a one-word species epithet, notwithstanding that perennis appears in both. An appeal to the House of Lords/Supreme Court etc will not alter this ruling.

However, justice may be done when Art. 19.13 is applied. This says that “For a cultivar name to be established on or after 1/1/59 its epithet is to comprise a word or words in any language other than Latin except as permitted under Art. 19.6, 19.7 and Art. 19/24.” As ‘Perennis’ is Latin and the exceptions do not apply *Bellis perennis* ‘Perennis Gold’ is not acceptable under Art. 19.13 if establishment is attempted from 1/1/59. Thus the inclusion of the species epithet in the cultivar epithet is prohibited if the exceptions do not apply. If it is included the cultivar epithet is not established and the name is invalid.

Alsterworthia International Special Issue No. 9

The Genus Haworthia

Species Standard

&

The Application of Correct Names to Some Old Haworthias.

Dr. M. Hayashi

Dr Hayashi considers that two essential areas of study for his revision of the genus Haworthia are a species standard to define a species and an understanding of, and the correct application of, the names of some old haworthias. Dr Hayashi's papers on these two subjects were published in Alsterworthia International 8(2)8-20 (July 2008) and 7(3)11-13, 16-18 (November 2007) respectively. As this journal is available only to members these papers are now published as a special issue primarily for the benefit of non-members.

Special Issue No. 9 has 24 A4 pages. ISBN 978-09552726-2-2.

Recommended Retail Price: £6.00 + postage.

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Payment with order please - cheque drawn on a UK bank or by PayPal.

Note! Members price is available only from Alsterworthia International, not from bookdealers.

Dr Hayashi is currently working on his revision of the genus. From time to time news on his reclassification and the publication of new species appear in the Japanese journal Haworthia Study. Dr. Hayashi has indicated that when his revision is complete he will publish an English version fully colour illustrated in an Alsterworthia International publication.

Other Classifications

Prices are for Alsterworthia members only and include postage - one copy of each per member.

Ingo Breuer has published *The World of Haworthias, Volume 1*. An outstanding reference for all names and authors with publication references - 340 pages 16.5 x 24.4cm. £23.50. *The World of Haworthias, Volume 2*. Descriptions of all names with references - 859 pages - 16.5 x 24.4. £32.00. *Haworthia photos used to typify taxa described by von Poellnitz*. 200 pages 6.5 x 9.5cm. £13.00. *Notes on Haworthia J.R. Brown*. Brings together all the works published in the C&SJ and Desert Plant Life. 219 pages 16.5 x 24.5. £15.25.

Bruce Bayer has published *Haworthia Revisited - A revision of the genus*. The only revision currently available. 250 pages 21 x 26cm. £37.00. *Update 1*. 63 A4 pages. £23.00. *Update 2*. 165 A4 pages. £46.50. *Update 3*. 167 A4 pages. £46.50. *Update 4*. 109 A4 pages. £32.50. Updates are based on further field research by Bruce Bayer. They bring up-to-date his classification and are illustrated with many, many, many photos.

Cultivars - New, Updates and Transient.

Aloe 'Parjay' D. Cumming. Cultivar Nova.

New description. Previously catalogue listed only.

Parentage. Unknown, but includes *Aloe descoingsii* and *Aloe parvula*.

Comments. Clumps freely. Small rosettes. Many whitish spines on both leaf surfaces. White, upward pointing marginal teeth. Dark, blackish-green leaves wide at the base then tapering to a point. The cultivar was created by David Cumming.

Propagation. Freely produced offsets.



Aloe 'Novar' D. Cumming. Cultivar Nova.

New description. Previously catalogue listed only.

Parentage. *Aloe maculata* (variegated) x *Aloe deltoideodonta*.

Comments. Created by David. A small cultivar with prominent, white-flecked leaves and greyish, marginal teeth backward pointing. The lanceolate leaves are greyish-green, tinge reddish-brown in full sun. 'Novar' from the results of the cross - no variegation!

Propagation. Offsets.



×*Gasterhaworthia 'Black Delight'* D. Cumming. Cultivar Nova.

New description. Previously catalogue listed only.

Parentage. Thought to be *Haworthia nigra* (Haworth) Baker x *Gasteria baylissiana* Rauh.

Comments. Slow growing. Leaves tuberculate, about 30mm long, 10mm wide. Very dark, shiny in good light. Created by David Cumming.

Propagation. Offsets and leaf cuttings.



×Gasterhaworthia ‘Varput’

In Alsterworthia International 7(2)11 David Cumming published ×Gasterhaworthia ‘Varput’. Unfortunately the photograph was considerably corrupted and the promise was made that a good photo would be published as soon as one became available. This is it.

The nomenclatural standard for this cultivars is the description in Alsterworthia International 7(2)11 and this photograph, which are held by the Herbarium, RHS Wisley, Woking, Surrey, G23 6QB.



Aloe greatheadii v. davyana variegated.

Yes, you are quite right! This plant does look the worse for wear, but please bear in mind that it is a naturally occurring habitat plant brought into cultivation from Kleinfontein for preservation and propagation. Leaf-tip dye back is a fact of life, which can be somewhat intensified by adverse environmental conditions.

Just imagine a clean, well cultivated plant with extensive, vertical, creamy-white variegation in different widths, with the brown,



horny margins of the species providing a faint, brownish tinge to the white leaf margins and marginal teeth and with green stripes often overlaid, wholly or spasmodically, with a thin layer of opaque tissue producing a misty green. It would be irresistible.

Alas! this is not to be. The desires and needs of collectors count for nothing in the eyes of snout weevils. They found it very attractive. They invaded it and, of course, killed it. It cannot now be christened ‘Pugnacious’ though the snout beetles could be. As its owner said (with tears in his eyes, I suspect) “Now I think it is better left at rest”.

Honorary Alsterworthia International Representatives - New to the List

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Some cultivars of *Aloe arborescens* Miller

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Aloe arborescens Miller, a shrub of varying magnitude, is widely distributed from the Western Cape up through the east coast of South Africa and into Zimbabwe, Mocambique and Malawi. It grows at low levels near the coast and inland, on rocky slopes, in dense bush and in a variety of rock and soil types. Given these very variable conditions, it is not surprising that the species is variable. Kirstenbosch has selected and introduced nine forms into cultivation as cultivars. Each one was named to commemorate a curator or director of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

1. *Aloe arborescens* 'Pearson' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Prof. Harold Pearson, the first director from 1913 until 1916. It has a rounded crown with drooping leaves and salmon-pink flowers. It can be grown in a hanging basket.

2. *Aloe arborescens* 'Compton' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Prof. Robert Compton director from 1919 to 1953. A prolific shrub, about 1.5 m high. Yellow green leaves. Flowers dark red.

3. *Aloe arborescens* 'Rycroft' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Prof. Brian Rycroft, Director from 1954 to 1981. One of the fastest growing aloes. Large open rosettes of grey-green leaves. Flowers orange.

4. *Aloe arborescens* 'Eloff' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Prof. Kobus Eloff, Director from 1981 to 1989. Noted for its lemon-yellow flowers, a unique colour in the species. Plants are not as prolific as the orange-flowered cultivars.

5. *Aloe arborescens* 'Huntley' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Prof. Brian Huntley, Director from 1990 continuing. Prolific, many side branches. Leaves yellowish green. Differs from the other cultivars by flowering in the summer. Flowers orange.

6. *Aloe arborescens* 'Mathews' van Jaarsveld.

Named after J.W. Mathews, Curator from 1913 to 1936. Prolific. Flowers orange-red. Produces the first *Aloe* flowers of the season in South Africa, peaking in April.

7. *Aloe arborescens* 'Jack Marais' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Jack Marais, Curator 1961 to 1980. A densely flowered cultivar with orange-red flowers. Rosettes said to be "neat" but it is not clear how this word distinguishes this cultivar from the others.

8. *Aloe arborescens* 'John Winter' van Jaarsveld.

Named after John Winter, Curator 1967 to 1998.

Distinguished by tall, slender, erect, dark orange flower spikes towering above small rosettes.

9. *Aloe arborescens* 'Philip le Roux' van Jaarsveld.

Named after Philip le Roux, Curator 1999 continuing. Similar to 'Compton' but has yellow flowers.

There are, of course, many more cultivars of *Aloe arborescens* than are detailed above. One, which is ideal for pot culture, is *Aloe arborescens* 'Gold Rush' J. Trager.

Aloe arborescens 'Gold Rush' is probably the most beautiful *Aloe arborescens* cultivar. Like most variegated plants it is of horticultural origin. The variegation, which arose probably more than once as a sport in a normal plant, has been developed by selective vegetative propagation. The cultivar was named and distributed by the Huntington Botanical Gardens via its International Succulent Introduction programme in 1995 under number ISI 95-17.

Because of its reduced chlorophyll content, *Aloe arborescens* 'Gold Rush' grows and branches more slowly than the non-variegated species. Not only is the variegation in different rosettes on the same plant quite variable, but also in different leaves on the same rosette. It is constant in a leaf. Whilst most rosettes are variegated to a lesser or greater extent, a few all green or all yellow heads may be produced. Green heads are the most vigorous. To stop them taking over they should be cut out. Yellow leaved rosettes lacking chlorophyll will not survive on their own. If a yellow leaved plant is required, it can be encouraged to flourish by leaving at least one green rosette to provide the food reservoir. The yellow leaved rosettes will be parasitic on the green. Note that some yellowed leaved rosettes have diffuse green around the base of the emergent leaves which is lost as the leaf matures.

The variable variegation is a constant source of interest and delight. In between the extremes of all green and all yellow rosettes there will be rosettes with varying proportions of longitudinal stripes in green and yellow. Some may be almost all green or all yellow with one or a few thin yellow or green stripes respectively. Others may have about one half green and one yellow, or there may be one broad green or yellow stripe towards the centre. Many will have one predominant colour, green or yellow, but with a number of stripes of different widths in the other colour. Stripes always have straight sides except that a stripe at the edge of the leaf may have an undulating side, because the outward growth of the teeth curve the tissues in a regular manner. Generally, the intensity of the yellow increases with



Aloe arborescens 'Pearson'



2. *Aloe arborescens* 'Compton'



Aloe arborescens 'Rycroft'



Aloe arborescens 'Eloff'



Aloe arborescens 'Mathews'



Aloe arborescens 'Huntley'



Aloe arborescens 'Jack Marais'

Aloe arborescens 'John Winter'

Aloe arborescens 'Philip le Roux'

the increasing proportion of yellow in the leaf.

One notable feature of variegation in *Aloe arborescens* 'Gold Rush' is the change from yellow to white as the leaves age and move to the base of the lax rosette. White variegation has not to my knowledge been observed in younger leaves, only in the older. Yellow variegation has always been produced in a rosettes produced from the axil of an old leaf with white variegation.

Aloe arborescens is widely cultivated outdoors in countries with at least Mediterranean type climates. A sunny position with well drained soil is of benefit, but plants do seem to be able to withstand somewhat overgenerous watering when compared with some other species. In habitat some populations, such as those in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, may be subject to early morning frost, but the rising sun quickly dispels it. This frost experience does not qualify *Aloe arborescens* as a hardy outdoor plant!

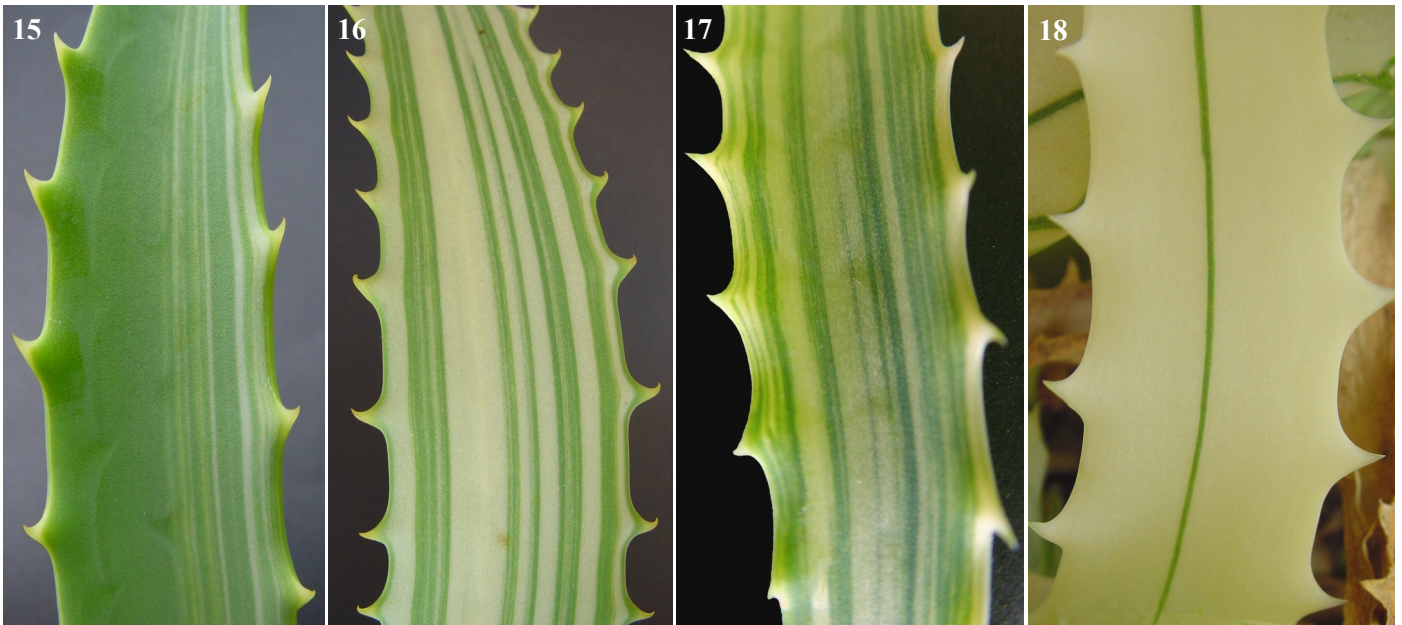
Aloe arborescens, particularly the smaller forms, grows well in pots and drooping forms in larger hanging baskets. Size can be restrained by frequent pruning, which results in a compact, readily branching plant. Plants restricted in pots, particularly if repotting

is infrequent, benefit from being fed in the growing period. I use a 20:20:20 fertiliser once a month. It is an easy plant to propagate, as cuttings root readily. Spring is a good times to take cuttings. I use a dry compost (60% coir, 40% perlite) for cuttings, spray daily for 2 to 3 weeks, then water. Other methods are successful.

References

Veld & Flora 88(2)63-65 (2002),
 Directory of plants distributed by International Succulent Introductions 1958-2001 with Alphabetical Index. ISBN 0 9534004 1 7

Photos. Figs. 7-14 Ernst van Jaarsveld.
 Figs. 1 & 15-23 Harry Mays.



**The leaves of *Aloe arborescens*
'Gold Rush'**

Figs. 15-18.

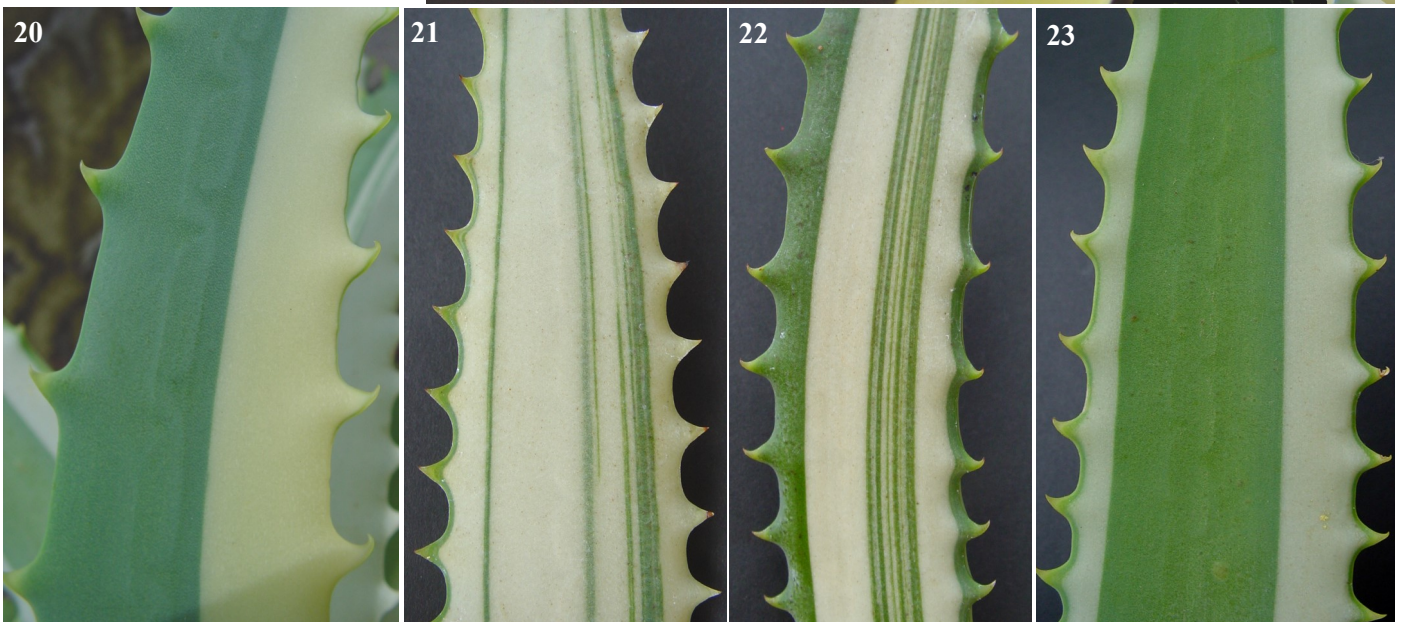
Variable longitudinal variegation. The intensity of the yellow stripes appears to increase as the proportion of yellow increases and that of the green decreases.

Figs. 19

The yellow is at its most intense when the green is at an absolute minimum. Note that at the base of young yellow leaves the green is diffuse. It is soon lost to give all yellow leaves

Fig. 20-23

Towards the base of a plant, the leaves are the oldest. With age the yellow variegation turns to white. No white variegation has been so far seen in young leaves.



Species variability

Bruce Bayer.

Photographs supplied by the author.

It is my contention that different as all these single plants (24 to 29) appear to be, they are in fact members of one species. The inference is drawn from observations of approximately 150 populations occurring in a geographically coherent pattern in the restricted area between Worcester and Riversdale and southward to the coast. The inference is strengthened by the observations of similar continual intergradation of variation in similar sets of populations throughout the distribution range of the genus.

How then do you distinguish between so different individual plants or groups of plants? For this situation the ICNCP provides a solution. You can give the chosen habitat plants brought into cultivation cultivar and group names. A cultivar name would be the oldest species names if its circumscription was compatible with the plant(s) brought into cultivation for propagation. If old species names were not compatible with the selected plants new cultivar name would be given. The cultivars with a common feature could be given a group name e.g. Spiny Group, Smooth Leaved Group, etc. The alternative is to create more species and less cultivars perhaps to the point where there is no room left for the creation of cultivars. Of course, creation of species is dependent on what constitutes a species. Much has been said about this subject, but no universally accept species concept has yet emerged for *Haworthia* and, therefore, a problem arises. The ICNCP stipulates that the name of a cultivar "...is the correct name of the genus or lower taxonomic unit to which it is assigned together with a cultivar epithet.". But what do you do when there are competing classifications resulting in different taxonomic units? What is the correct name? The ICNCP has nothing to offer on this point and neither has the ICBN.





24. *Haworthia mirabilis* (paradoxa) Vermaaklikheid.

25. *Haworthia mirabilis* (paradoxa) Vermaaklikheid (per Ismael Ebrahim).

26. *Haworthia mirabilis* (badia) Napier.

27. *Haworthia mirabilis* (pilosa) Lower Breede River.

28. *Haworthia mirabilis* (atrofusca) W. Heidelberg

29. *Haworthia mirabilis* "meiringii" W. Bonnievale.

WHY IS IT SAFER TO STAY AT HOME AND WATCH THE FOOTBALL ON TV THAN VISIT SOUTH AFRICA

Anonymous (by request)

I had an interesting situation earlier last year whilst on a trip with a friend, consequently we have a little story to tell. A close shave? Nope, neither of us have made use of a razor. We went quite a way into 'rural' Transkei to a place where he and Ernst had found some *Gasteria croucheri*. About a year and a half ago they had been unable to reach the plants, so we decided to try to find them.

It was Monday the 3rd, lucky???? I had no idea how far it was. It was not all that hard getting there as it was 'downhill' all the way, mostly down what appeared to be a 'runoff' stream bed with many large, dark-coloured rocks, of some significance, see later. Anyway, on the way down I noticed a plant lying loose on the ground, a little off the path. It looked like it had been there about a couple of weeks. I reiterated that he should not have mentioned in jest, a little earlier, that the plants, of which there were only a few, might no longer be there. They are very popular for local medicinal purposes as well as for 'good luck' when planted on the roof of huts (includes 'protection' from lightening strikes!). Normally *Gasteria excelsa* is used for this purpose.

When we reached the site we found that all the plants had gone. I did however find an interesting plant so I took a GPS reading. I then realised that we have descended some 1,800 feet. So now we had to return, uphill. This would be a little daunting at the best of times, but was now even more so due to the fact that it was a somewhat warm day. These very deep river valleys do get a little warm. It must have been somewhat over 40° C, IN THE SHADE, as it was still 38° C at 1730 when we passed through Umtata (Yes! We did get out.). That was bad enough, but it was also north facing and those dark rocks come into play. They were so hot one could hardly touch them. It gets even worse. I do not normally carry any water as it takes me all my time to carry my camera without discomfort. My friend had a litre with him. So up we went sheltering under low trees and bushes every 100 meters or so. At one stage he decided that he had better make an effort to get back to the car as soon as he could as he had stopped sweating, a bad sign, as overheating with all its muscle problems follows not long afterwards. He promised to come back with water if he got back without incident.

I made my way up till about 100 meters from the top and I just felt that I should not go any further. This was the last bit of shade. Just in case he did not make it, I decided that I would wait till either it got cooler or he returned with water, rather than risk overheating and collapse. From the top of the hill it was another two kilometres to where the car was, 2/3rds of which was downhill and 1/3rd up the other side. Eventually he did return with water. I drank the whole 2liters before we started back.

He, as well as being a doctor, is also an avid hunter. He has had wide experience as has been hunting 'everywhere' including lots of 'tropical' Africa. He said that this was his worst experience. It certainly was for me. If I had known the area and where we were going in advance, I would never have gone, especially with the weather conditions as they were. It took a long three hours to get out.

Tailpiece

The Chinese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than British or Americans. The French eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than British or Americans.

The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than British or Americans. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine, and also suffer fewer heart attacks than British or Americans.

Conclusion.

Eat and drink what you like. It's speaking English that kills you.

Moral of this story is to stay alive become a couch potato, stay at home and watch the football. Most of all, stop speaking English? As 'they' say, 'There is a very fine line between 'hobby' and 'mental illness'.

Editor's note. No comment!

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Alsterworthia International Honorary Representative - France.

Please note that

Mr. Christian Prud'hon
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has succeeded

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E-mail: audissou@audissou.com

as the representative for France.

Jean has been our representative since
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achieved.

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to a fruitful relationship.

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Four Notable Cultivars.

Jozef Verhoven

30



H. truncata x *H. maughanii* x *H. mirabilis* v. *paradoxa*

31



H. truncata x *H. maughanii* x *H. pygmaea*

The illustrations show four plants in my collection which I have obtained from friends. The information I received with them was limited, partly because my friends had received some of them from their friends, etc. They are outstanding plants

Two of the four cultivars came to me as multiple hybrids with formula names consisting of three species, but the exact order in which the pairs were combined was not stated. In both, two of the three parents are the same and both have a similar overall form, but the leaves differ. The differences between the two cultivars resulting from the influence of the third parent can be seen from the leaf ends. In one, fig. 30, the more pointed leaf ends stem from the influence of *Haworthia mirabilis* v. *paradoxa*, which has a much more pointed leaf end than that of *Haworthia pygmaea*. The much shorter and wider leaf end of *Haworthia pygmaea* combined with the blunt leaf ends of *truncata* and *maughanii* have produced a more rounded, retuse leaf end with a larger window, fig. 31.

For the present these two are being left with their formula names.

Haworthia 'Pearl' (cultivar nova) came to me as a *Haworthia truncata* cultivar, but without a cultivar name. I have given it the cultivar name 'Pearl' and eliminated the species name, because another species is clearly involved - it is a hybrid. The influence of a roseate parent is much more prominent in this hybrid, but unfortunately its name is not known to me. The young chunky leaves in the centre of the plant with blunt ends are reminiscent of *Haworthia truncata*. As they grow and age they elongate to change the blunt ends to retuse leaf ends. Further growth and aging results in a curved to almost straight leaf with a much less prominent retuse end. Similarly the warts on the ends of the upper leaf surface are much reduced in the older,

basal leaves, some of which show a tendency to die back from the tip. Young leaves are darker green. In older leaves the top part of the upper leaf surface becomes yellowish green with fingers of darker green projecting into it or the yellowish green shows as lines on darker green.

Haworthia ‘Spetter’ is a hybrid of *Haworthia truncata*. It came to me as *Haworthia truncata* ‘Spetter’ but as the clone is clearly a hybrid the cultivar name cannot be associated with a species. The other parent is not known to me. The slightly retuse leaf ends are rounded and quite unlike the blunt leaf ends of *H. truncata*. At first sight the leaves seem to be distichous, but the influence of a roseate parent can be seen in the twist of the central leaves. The diffused, reddish-brown leaf colour is an addition which is not found in *Haworthia truncata*. I do not know where this cultivar name was published. Can anyone provide the answer please?



Photographs by the author.



Fig. 32. *Haworthia* ‘Pearl’

Fig. 33. *H. truncata* ‘Spetter’

Members Concession Prices for Alsterworthia International Publications.

As a service to members we offer Alsterworthia International publications at prices with postage which are less than the recommended prices for the public. As this service is for members only, each member is allowed only one copy of each publication. As the concession price is offered by Alsterworthia International it can be obtained only from Alsterworthia International.

Our limited advertising is done almost exclusively in our journal, which is a member only publication, consequently we rely on book dealers to sell Alsterworthia International publications to the public. This has proved to be a satisfactory arrangement. It has the confidence of all parties. The sale of Alsterworthia International publications has expanded and Alsterworthia International receives good, free publicity. For this to continue it is essential that confidence in the system should be maintained.

Apparently towards the end of last year one person approached an overseas bookshop for a copy of one of Bayer’s Updates and when told the prices immediately retorted that he could get a copy from Alsterworthia International at a lower price than the book dealer paid. That was an outright lie. No one can. This is fortunately an isolated incident. Why it occurred is not certain, but it was most unwelcome.

Though I am sure it is not necessary for the bulk of our members, may I reiterate that members concession prices for Alsterworthia International publications are available only for orders sent direct to Alsterworthia International. They are not available from book dealers, and the allowance is one only of each per member.

New Cultivars from Gariep Plants

PO Box 11017, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, South Africa
E-mail: gariep@succulents.net www.succulents.net

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Kotie Retief & Sean Gildenhuys
take a few moments off work at Gariep Plants for the editor to record the people behind the plants.

35



***Haworthia* 'Prodigy'**
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. *Haworthia truncata* x *Haworthia springbokvlakensis*.

Description. Leaves in the form of a low rosette, the dark green, rounded, retuse leaf ends are inverted v-shaped windows with irregular bases where they meet the dark green of the lower upper leaf surface. Rosette diameter 6cm. Leaf width 2.2cm. Plants have remained solitary to date. This cultivar was produced by Gariep Plants, South Africa.

Propagation. Leaf cuttings.

***Aloe wickensii* Pole-Evans**
'Sean Gildenhuis' H. Mays.
Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. A spontaneous variegate in a batch of seedlings from seed sown by Sean Gildenhuis, Gariep Plants, South Africa, as *Aloe wickensii* Pole-Evans. The name *Aloe wickensii* is recorded as a synonym of *Aloe cryptopoda* Baker in the Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants - Monocotyledons, but in South Africa it is widely regarded as distinctly different. If you do not agree the cultivar name will be *Aloe cryptopoda* 'Sean Gildenhuis' H. Mays.

Description. As for the species except that the green leaves have yellow to greenish-yellow vertical stripes of varying widths.

Propagation. Offsets.



***Haworthia fasciata* (Willd) Haw.**
'Schizophrenia' S. Gildenhuis.
Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. This cultivar arose from the tissue culture of the species by Etwin Aslander. Sean Gildenhuis selected one clone with a mixed green and lime colour as the base for this cultivar.

Description. The form of the cultivar is that of the species. The leaves are variegated dark green and lime. The young (central) leaves are predominantly lime, the older (basal) leaves are green as in the species. This cultivar has the same transverse bands of white tubercles on the leaf under side as the species.

Propagation. Offsets.





Aloe 'Twister'
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. *Aloe pictifolia* x *Aloe variegata*.

Description. Leaves lanceolate, spiralling in three tiers, green, irregularly spotted white on both leaf surfaces, edges white, cartilaginous. Rosette diameter 32cm. Leaf width 4.4cm. The influence of *Aloe pictifolia* is seen in the spotted, lanceolate leaves; that of *Aloe variegata* in the tiered formation, the cartilaginous edges and the much tidier appearance of the rosette. Flowers are mid way between both parents - a soft pinkish red colour. Height about 50cm.

Propagation. Offsets. If reluctant behead .



Haworthia mirabilis v. beukmannii
(V. Poelln.) Bayer
'Emerald Giant'
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. A selection of the species found growing in Kotie Retief's nursery, Gariep Plants, South Africa.

Description. This cultivar is robust with chunky leaves, which are a rich, dark emerald-green with less prominent light green lines projecting into the retuse end from the base. Surface rough with small tubercles. Tubercles also line the leaf edges and keels. Rosette diameter 12.5cm. Leaf width 3.6cm. Plantlets are sometimes produced on the inflorescences. Its features make it a candidate for donating pollen in future breeding experiments.

Propagation. Offsets. Gariep Plants has also propagated it by tissue culture.



Haworthia cymbiformis (Haw.)
Duval
'Rose'. S. Gildenhuys.
Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. Of horticultural origin. A unusual form of the species found by Sean Gildenhuys among other *H. cymbiformis* growing at the Gariiep Nursery.

Description. The light green leaves are more or less vertical, deltoid, thin, slightly concave with 2-3-4 lengthwise shallow channels. Rosette diameter 12cm. Leaf width 4cm.

Propagation. Offsets - see illustration.



Haworthia emelyae v. *emelyae*
'Chocolate Stripes'
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. This cultivar was selected from plants grown from seed (GM256) from Rooiberg Pass.

Description. The form of the cultivar is that of the variety. It differs by having prominent, chocolate-coloured lines on the retuse leaf ends, which distinctly separate the flecks into (3)4(5) somewhat oblong blocks (compare with the photograph of the species where the flecks are randomly distributed, fig. 44 JDV84/11 and further photographs in *Haworthia Revisited* page 69).

Propagation. Offsets and leaf cuttings.



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Haworthia 'Malachite'
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. *Haworthia koelmaniorum* x *Haworthia venosa* ssp. *tessellata*.

Description. Dark green, polished, caniculate leaves in a spiral of three tiers, hard, rough with longitudinal, sometimes raised, rows of opaque tubercle on both leaf surfaces, Those on the upper surface form blisters, fig. 47. Rosette diameter 8cm. Leaf width 1.8cm. This cultivar was produced by Gariiep Plant Nursery, South Africa.

Propagation. Offsets

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Haworthia 'Delight'
S. Gildenhuys Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. *Haworthia koelmaniorum* x *Haworthia marginata*.

Description. Rosette tight, fig. 46; leaves lanceolate, very hard, bluish-grey often with a pink flush, covered with raised pearl like tubercles more or less in latitudinal rows, fig. 48, leaf margins. tuberculate. Diameter 15cm. Leaf width 2.8cm. Slow growing and solitary.

This cultivar was produced by Gariiep Plant Nursery, South Africa.

Propagation. Leaf cuttings.



Leaf details of *Haworthia* 'Malachite'



Leaf details of *Haworthia* 'Delight'



***Haworthia* 'Green Ice' S. Gildenhuys Cultivar nova.**

Parentage. A spontaneous *Haworthia emelyae* v. *comptoniana* (G.G. Smith) Venter & Hammer hybrid occurring at the Gariep Plant nursery, South Africa.

Description. This hybrid look nothing like the seed bearing parent which has a flattish rosette made up of highly retuse leaves. The cultivar has more or less upright, lanceolate, curved-back, light-green leaves with dark green lines, intermittent to continuous on both surfaces, but denser on the under side.

Propagation. As the plant remains solitary, it is propagated by leaf cuttings.



Gasteria batesiana v. dolomitica
Van Jaarsv. & A.E. van Wyk
'Inyoka' S. Gildenhuys.
Cultivar nova.

Parentage. A selected seed grown plant from seed of the original type material obtained from Ernst van Jaarsveld.

Description. Form as for the variety but with ample white markings grouped into broad bands of irregular configuration.. "Inyoka" = Snake in Zulu language.

Propagation. Offsets and leaf cuttings.

Aloe 'Dappled Green'
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. *Aloe striata* x *Aloe variegata*.

Description. Leaves rosulate, acuminate, mid green dappled with whitish spots. Rosette diameter 27cm. Leaf width 7cm. The leaves of this cultivar lack the striations of *Aloe striata*, are more rigid and with a rosette in a spiral of three rows (but not as prominent as the spiral of *Aloe 'Twister'*), the influence of *Aloe variegata*. Plants are now five years old. So far no flowers have been produced.

Propagation. Offsets. If reluctant behead to promote offset production.



Haworthia emelyae var. comptoniana 'Genesis'
S. Gildenhuys. Cultivar Nova.

Parentage. A selection by S. Gildenhuys, Gariep Plants from GM226 seed grown plants.

Description. As for the species except that this clone has amazing leaf colouration - light, slightly yellowish, green with dark green irregular markings. These are in longitudinal rows which are separated by yellowish green stripes. Note: in Aloe 45(4)85 a "white" plant was illustrated with white replacing the yellowish green. No cultivar name has been published for this clone.

Propagation. Leaf cuttings. One plant has divided dichotomously.



Aloe aculeata Pole Evans in Botswana

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Aloe aculeata is primarily a species of northern South Africa and southern Zimbabwe. There is, however, a small population in Botswana at the border with Zimbabwe north of Francistown between Tshesebe and Ramokgwebane. I first photographed it near Tshesebe in April 1966. The first person to collect it in Botswana was Peter Smith. His pressed specimens (P.A. Smith 2461) were deposited in herbaria at Harare (SRGH) and Kew (K). He also planted some in Maun. I saw them there on 11 August 1991 when they had flowers in the shade and fruit in the sun. Peter reported that the black-headed oriole fed on the flowers.

I noted some with fewer thorns on the back at Tshesebe on 15 May 1993 and felt these might be hybrids, but without flowers I couldn't be sure. I also never saw hybrids in the many years I observed it in the National Botanic Garden in Gaborone. Reynolds (1966 and 1974) reported hybrids with *A. davyana*, *A. marlothii* and *A. wickensii* in South Africa and with *A. chabaudii*, *A. excelsa*, and *A. globuligemma* in both South Africa and Zimbabwe.

I never found a local name for *A. aculeata* in Botswana, but Reynolds (1974) reported "Ngopane" and "Sekgope" from South Africa. These Sepedi names are similar to Setswana names "Kgophane" (*A. zebrina*), "Sekgophana" (*A. transvaalensis*), and "Sekgopha" (*A. littoralis*).

The spines on the Botswana plants have a white circle at the base like the ones in Zimbabwe. (South African ones usually do not.)



References:

Reynolds, G.W. 1966. The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar, Aloe Book Fund, Swaziland.

Reynolds, G.W. 1974. The Aloes of South Africa, 3rd ed., A. A. Balkema, Cape Town.

Fig. 1. Aloe aculeata Maun

Fig. 2. Aloe aculeata Tshesebe

A few thoughts on news from south Africa.

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Towards the end of *Haworthia Update 4* Bruce Bayer published two articles titled *Close to Closure* and *Closure* with a third slightly longer article titled *Post Closure*. The implication was that he was retiring from writing books and substantial articles. He had indicated to me that he might write an occasional article.

Fortunately Bruce's enthusiasm for nature and in particular his devout interest in haworthias has resulted in him indicating that "During the last half of 2008 I decided that I would make a last concerted effort to try to further clarify the uncertainty of classification of these plants". As a result he has made more field excursions into (potential) *Haworthia* habitats with substantial results. He is full of enthusiasm referring to finding new populations, refinding old, taking many photographs, life moving fast, several projects on hand etc and more visits are planned.

Many people from researchers to hobbyists study haworthias in habitat (professionally or casually), but extensive reporting for the benefit of the *Haworthia* public at large is rare. Habitats are fragile systems under the dominance of humans whose frenzied activities to produce more, consume more, build more, travel more, propagate (themselves) more are directly or indirectly responsible for the destruction of habitats and the plants they contain. No doubt the future holds more of the same. It is only the reporting of habitat studies which will preserve some of the habitat detail observed. In this connection Bruce is making a valuable contribution. The detail he reports includes many photographs of plants in habitat, which illustrate the range of plants in different locations. For most people these will be the only comprehensive references they have for these plants and for increasing numbers of plants the only references available following the destruction of habitat for agriculture, industry, infrastructure, buildings, social activities etc. They are much more relevant than herbarium specimens, which represent in mortified form but few plants. Anyone concerned with classifying plants, either as species or cultivars, will find them necessary references to be taken into account and they will need to confront the problems they present in the light of whichever species definition they use.

It is well-known that the International Code of Botanical

Nomenclature (ICBN) defines only how to publish names, not how to define a species. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) does define a cultivar - by requiring the publication of the name with a description which distinguishes it from other cultivars. Nevertheless this still leaves open what is described as a cultivar in its own right and the nature and extent of the description. Do small differences in sizes (plant body, leaves, spines etc), shades of colour, variable variegation, etc provide for different cultivars when there may be some intermediates around to link them. Many argue "yes" others "no". The controversy over lumping and splitting applies both to species and cultivars. In addition, as the ICNCP provides for species names to be used as cultivar names when the classification of a plant as a species is no longer regarded as appropriate, controversies are evolving about whether or not plants are species or cultivars.

The ICBN is widely used by taxonomists for naming species. It does provide for amendments to be made by agreement, but this is a slow process and there will always be some disappointed people who find the ICBN inappropriate to their needs. As Bruce Bayer's broad species concept can result in several species being absorbed into one he has started to use published names in the form of the genus, plus the species name he considers appropriate under his species definition, followed by the name of the species in inverted commas which is included in his species e.g. *H. mirabilis* 'atrofusca', *H. mirabilis* cf 'magnifica'. He also points out that it would be possible to treat each plant in a variable complex as a cultivar, but this would result in a myriad of cultivar names.

Underlying these problems is the fact that Bruce is doing valuable field research and publishing the results for the benefit of all of us and also for posterity. The photographs are an essential component. To conclude these "thoughts" eight of Bruce's recent photographs follow as appetizers.





MBB7804 *H. retusa* 'nigra' Kransci Sermond.



MBB7778 *H. mirabilis*. Komserante.

MBB7771 *H. mirabilis* cf. 'splendens' & *H. retusa*
W Soetmelksrivier JDV 5513

58



MBB7770 *H. mirabilis* W Soetmelksrivier JDV 5494

59



MBB7519 *H. minima*, S Kleinberg.

60



MBB7708 *H. floribunda*
Goedverwagting..

61





MBB774 S Swellendam JDV 5598.
Can you locate the plants?