

A NEW SPECIES OF *ALOE* FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA

*Aloe dewinteri* Giess, sp. nov., *A. namibensi* Giess affinis, sed foliis majoribus patentibus utrinque laevibus, florum bracteis plus minusve obtusis vel leviter apiculatis, floribus deinde flavis fere albis differt.

Plantae solitariae vel caulo brevi ad 10 cm longo. *Folia* 14–22, rosulata, inferiora patentia, in quadrate superiore recurvata, juniora erecta vel patentia, lanceolato-attenuata, basin versus plana, apicem versus aliquid canaliculata, ad 50 cm longa basi ad 15 cm lata, marginibus flavo-brunneis cartilagineis dentibus deltoideis brunneis 1–2 mm longis 10–20 mm distantibus munitis, utrinque laevia, cano-viridia. *Inflorescentia* 1–2 eadem rosula, simplex vel 2–3-ramosa, aliquid arcuato-adscendens, ad 85 cm alta. *Pedunculus* basin versus compressus, ad 3 cm latus; bractee ad 24 chartaceae amplectentes steriles 25–30 cm longae. *Racemus* dense multiflorus, anguste cylindrico-acuminatus, 25–40 cm longus, ad 5 cm diam., alabastris erectis pallide roseis; flores penduli, primum corallini deinde flavi fere albi; bractee oblongo-obovatae, obtusae vel aliquid apiculatae. *Pedicelli* ad 4 mm longi, 1 mm diam. *Perianthium* cylindricum, trigonum, sensim in pedicellum

angustatum, 30–33 mm longum, ad 8 mm diam.; segmenta exteriora 2/3–3/4 longitudinis integra, 3-nervata, apicibus subobtusis, leviter patentia; segmenta interiora integra sed dorso ad exteriora adnata, exteriora aequantia, alba, translucida, aliquid carinata apicibus obtusis leviter patentibus. *Filamenta* alba, complanata, interioribus angustiora 2–3 mm longiora, deinde 6 mm exserta. *Ovarium* 5–6 mm longum, ad 3 mm diam., viride, stylo ad 30 mm longo. FIG. 2, 3 and 4.

Type: South West Africa, 1913 (Sesfontein): Anibib, between Sesfontein and Warmquelle (–BA), *Buhr sub Giess* 10990 (WIND, holo.; PRE, M).

Plants solitary, stemless or with a short stem up to 10 cm long. *Leaves* 14–22, in a rosette, lower ones spreading, recurved in upper quarter, younger ones erect to spreading, lanceolate-attenuate, flat towards the base, becoming somewhat canaliculate towards the tip, up to 50 cm long and up to 15 cm wide at the base, margins with yellowish-brown horny ridge, armed with brown deltoid teeth 1–2 mm long and 10–20 mm apart, both surface smooth, grey-green with slight powdery bloom. *Inflorescence* 1–2 per rosette, simple to 2–3-branched, somewhat



FIG. 2.—*Aloe dewinteri*, habit. Plant growing in an horizontal position in a garden. In nature it hangs on perpendicular cliff-faces (*Giess* 10990).

arcuate-ascending, up to 85 cm high. *Peduncle* compressed towards the base, up to 3 cm broad with up to 24 papery, clasping sterile bracts 15–30 mm long. *Raceme* rather densely multi-flowered, narrowly cylindrical-acuminate, 25–40 cm long and up to 5 cm in diameter, buds erect, pale pink, flowers pendulous, coral pink, turning yellowish to white when open, bracts oblong-obovate, obtuse to somewhat apiculate. *Pedicels* up to 4 mm long and 1 mm in diameter. *Perianth* cylindrical trigonous, gradually tapering into the pedicel, 30–33 mm long and up to 8 mm in diameter, outer segments free for 2/3 or 3/4 of their length, 3-nerved, apices subobtuse, very

slightly spreading, inner segments free but dorsally adnate to the outer, as long as the outer, white translucent, somewhat carinate with obtuse, very slightly spreading tips. *Filaments* white, flattened, the outer narrower and about 2–3 mm longer than the inner, eventually exerted for about 6 mm. *Ovary* 5–6 mm long, up to 3 mm in diameter, green, style up to 30 mm long.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA.—1913 (Sesfontein): Anibib, between Sesfontein and Warmquelle (–BA), *Buhr sub Giess 10990* (WIND, holo.; PRE, M); 26 km W. of Sesfontein (–AA), *Haagner in PRE 32044*; between Sesfontein and Warmbad (–BA), *De Winter & Leistner 5856*.



FIG. 3.—*Aloe dewinteri*, inflorescence (*Giess 10990*).





FIG. 4.—*Aloe dewinteri*, flowers and floral bracts showing the development (left to right) from the bud to the withered stage, xl (Giess 10990).

The species has so far only been collected in the vicinity of Warmbad and Sesfontein in the Kaokoveld, where it inhabits sheer cliff-faces.

Of the South African species, *A. dewinteri* shows most affinity to those species of the series *Asperifolia* Berger. It differs from all of them, however, by the leaves which are smooth on both surfaces and are spreading, by the more or less obtuse floral bracts and the cliff-hanging habit.

Bornman and Hardy in their book "Aloes of the South African Veld", Voortrekkerpers, Johannesburg, 1971, compare the species with *A. niebuhriana* Lavanos, a species from Arabia.

The species was first collected in 1950 on the farm Warmquelle in the Kaokoveld by Dr E. R. Scherz and cultivated in a garden in Klein-Windhoeck. More plants from the same locality were later received from Siegfried Triebner and again from Scherz, but no flowering was recorded until a plant from the same source, grown in the garden of Mrs Ute Meyer of Klein-Windhoeck, produced an inflorescence in 1968. Material had also been collected

by B. de Winter and O. A. Leistner from the same area in 1957. The single surviving plant only produced its first inflorescence in the Pretoria National Botanic Garden in December 1970. The honour of painting this new species for the first time goes to Barbara Jeppe who, on the 30th November 1967, figured a plant, collected by C. Haagner, which was flowering in her garden in Johannesburg, and which was published, with a short description, in the third edition of her book on Aloes, 1970, pp. 132A and 132B, as *Aloe* sp. nov. The present type plant I received from Dr W. Buhr in 1966, and it flowered in my garden in Windhoek in December 1969 and 1970.

The species is named after Dr B. de Winter, who was one of the first persons to study, photograph and collect it in its natural habitat. The plate in Bornman and Hardy, *l.c.*, depicts a plant collected by him.