

Description of a new Nothotaxon in the genus *Aloe* (Asphodelaceae) in Socotra: *Aloe* × *buzairiensis* J. Lodé nothosp. nov.

Aloe perryi Baker × *Aloe squarrosa* Baker ex Balfour

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During one of my journeys to Socotra, Yemen, within the framework of the realization of my work on the “ Succulent Plants of Socotra ”, I had the occasion to visit many locations. One of these, Jabal Buzairi, is interesting in many respects, because it shelters the three species of Aloes known on the island: *Aloe perryi* Baker, *Aloe squarrosa* Baker ex Balfour, and the recently described *Aloe jawiyon* Christie, Hannon &



Aloe x buzairiensis, habitat, Jabal Buzairi, Socotra (photo : JL).

Oakham. If it had been evoked of the possibility of a hybridization between *A. perryi* and *A. jawiyon*, a thing which I did not observe in the habitats I visited, but which was indicated by others (1), I did not expect to find a natural hybrid between *A. perryi* and *A. squarrosa*. The fact was confirmed by the discovery of several plants of different age, but with identical characteristics.

While *Aloe squarrosa* is generally situated on the high parts of the mountain, at the edge of steep cliffs, at about 800-850m in altitude, the hybrid is at the base and at the beginning of the hillside, up to 760m of alt. The oldest plants are growing in bushes of *Buxus hildebrandtii*, are typically branched out from the base and maculate as in *A. squarrosa*, but are very sturdy and almost one metre high, with a thick trunk about 20-25mm of diam.



left : *Aloe x buzairiensis* type, right, *Aloe squarrosa* to compare, Jabal Buzairi, Socotra (photo : J.L).

The young plants are at first stemless and produce leaves rather bluish at the beginning, at first weakly maculate, with a very widened base. The population seems limited to some plants and is rather variable.

The name given to the hybrid “*buzairiensis*” makes reference to the place where it was discovered, Jabal Buzairi.

Holotypus: in regione occidentale insulae Socotra (Jabal Buzairi, 764m alt.). Lecta ab Joël Lodé 26 oct 2009. (Herb. Fundación Joël Lodé n°1230512, Cuevas del Almanzora).



Aloe perryi, Jabal Buzairi, Socotra (photo : J.L).

Text & photos: J.L.

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