



A new species of *Aloe* from Madagascar: *Aloe fontainei* N. Rebmann

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Exploring the cliffs and the many granitic domes situated between Antsirabe and Ambatotsiphina, in September, 1996, I discovered a species of Aloe which looked like Aloe intermedia and which I had not precisely identified. It was necessary to wait on August 18th, 2005 so that I was able to observe it in full flower in habitat. The plants obtained from seeds had bloomed in my greenhouse in April, 2005.

This species grows on cliffs and granitic domes in exposed spots with a North or Northeast aspect, partially devastated by human fire, towards 1300 m in altitude, together with several other species: Kalanchoe orgyalis, Pachypodium densiflorum, Senecio crassissimus, Senecio sp., Begonia sp. (Caulescent species).

The region of the high plateaus situated between Antsirabe, Ambositra, Mandronosoro and Anjoma is of a great richness in succutent plant species. Within the genus Aloe, many species have been discovered here such as: Aloe pronkil, A. eximia; A. droseroides, A. inexpectata, A. calcairophylla, A. tiremensis, A. compressa, A. erythrophylla or other species like Euphorbia itremensis, E. quartziticola, and Kalanchoe tetraphylla. This new species like delicated to Pierre Fontaine, an amateur who has sometimes travelled with me.

Aloe fontainei N. Rebmann sp.nov.

Type: Norbert Rebmann n°18; August 18th, 2005 (Holotype BR).

Type locality: cliffs and granitic domes, 13km east of Mandoto, 1300 m in altitude, Madagascar.



Location for Aloe Jontainel East of Mandoto (photo : N. Rebmann).

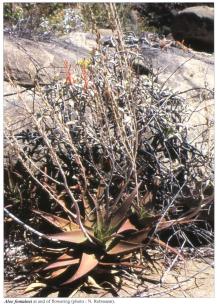
A. silicicola, A. cyrilleique affinis, caulescens, eseptiosa, surculans ex base, caulis 30-150 cm vel+, cum foliis erectis 30 cm tongis subviridibus ad subrubra. Spicae florates 80-90 cm, erectae, fissae in 3 ad 5 partes, inflorescentia botryvides 30-50 cm longa, cum floribus aurantiacis ad rubras, pedicelli 12-20 mm, scariosae bracteae 8-9 mm longae.

Description: caulescent plant, stem slender, about 3 cm in diameter and 30-100 cm high, at first erect and then prostrate and creeping on rocks, remaining erected when the plant grows in rocky crevices and reaching in that case 150 cm high and even more. Stems branch out from the base and new ones alone the stem when it is creening on the

Stems branch out from the base and new ones along the stem when it is creeping on the ground. It is ended by a rosette of about 50 cm in diameter, made of 16-20 leaves. Dry leaves persist, at least for a while, on the stem. Leaf: 30 cm long, 8-9cm wide at the base, greenish to reddish, erect, with the lower face convex. Teeth are well marked, hyaline, deltoid. 3 mm wide and 15 mm high.

Each rosette has 1 to 3 floral stakes branched out each with 3 to 5 ramifications, 80-90 cm long, flattened at the base (15 mm thick). The inflorescences in clusters measure 30 to 50 cm long. Bracts are scarious, 12-16mm long, and pedicels 12-20mm long with flowers 20-25mm long. Petals are slightly longer than sepals and have the tip margin white. Fruits are debisecnt capsules, 18-20 mm long.

Taxonomical situation: this species is close to Aloe silicitola described by H.Perrier, whose site is still unknown until today, but leaves are smaller, the floral stakes are larger as well as the inflorescences, with flowers smaller. Moreover, Aloe silicitola grows,



Aloe Jontainer at end of Howering (photo : N. Rebmann).

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Aloe fontainei at end of flowering (photo : N. Rebmann).

CACTUS-AVENTURES International N° 82 International CACTUS-ADVENTURES according to H. Perrier, towards 2000 m in altitude, more to the East along the river Manandona. Recently described by J.B.Castillon, *Aloe cyrillei* shows an inflorescence similar to this new species.

Text and photos: Norbert Rebmann

Aknowledgement: Thanks to Laurent for the Latin diagnosis.

Eléments de Comparaison avec les espèces similaires

Taxon	Leaves	Stem	Inflorescence	Perianth
Aloe fontainei	erect 8-9cm. at the base 30cm L.	30-100cm L. 3cm in diameter	3-5 branches 30-50cm.	20-25mm
Aloe silicicola	reflexed or spread 7-8cm at the base 40-50cm L.	2m L. 5cm in diameter	3-4 branches 50-60cm.	28-30mm
Aloe cyrillei	erect spread and curved 8cm at the base 40cm L.	stemless to slightly caulescent	3-5 branches 1,2m.	?

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