

ASPHODELACEAE

CORRECTIONS TO THE EPONYMY AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF *ALOE VANROOYENII*

For the sake of providing appropriate recognition to the discoverer of a plant, or those who draw the attention of systematists to the existence of new taxonomic entities, taxa are often named for such key individuals. However, not all relevant biographical information is always documented by the nomenclaturist, much often being presumed without regard for possible misinterpretation by subsequent botanists. *Aloe greenii* Baker represents an example of a name about which uncertainty lingers regarding the identity of the person commemorated (Reynolds 1950; Van Wyk & Smith 2004), some 130 years following its circumscription (Baker 1880: 165). Accordingly, and as a necessary courtesy, we cor-

rect the recent etymological explanation of the specific epithet chosen for *Aloe vanrooyenii* Gideon F.Sm. & N.R.Crouch (Smith & Crouch 2006). These authors inadvertently gave a Mr Gert van Rooyen as the person honoured; the plant actually commemorates Mr Pieter van Rooyen of Greytown who stimulated and facilitated further taxonomic studies of this unique maculate aloe.

Additionally, we provide a more complete distribution map for this KwaZulu-Natal endemic (Figure 10), based on specimens housed at NU and NH.

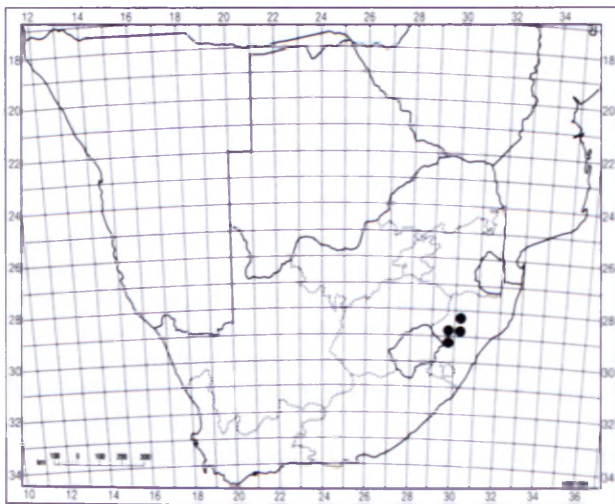


FIGURE 10.—Known distribution range of *Aloe vanrooyenii*.

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