

## LILIACEAE

### A NEW ALOE FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA

**Aloe erinacea** Hardy, sp. nov. *A. melanacanthae* Berger affinis, sed foliis compactoribus brevioribus biconvexis, floribus brevioribus subventricosis non incurvatis differt.

Plantae solitariae vel glomeratae, acaules vel caulescentes, caulibus decumbentibus 60 cm longis. *Folio* griseo-viridia dense rosulata suberecta deinde patula vel recurvata deltoideo-lanceolata 8-16 cm longa 3-4 cm base lata, supra convexa vel ad basim plana, nonnunquam ad apicem spinis nigricantibus paucibus armata, subtus convexa ad apicem carinata, carinis 5-8 spinis armatis, margine spinis nigricantibus deltoides 5-9 mm longis 10 mm distantibus armata. *Inflorescentia* simplex semper solitaria arcuato-ascendens usque ad 1 m longa. *Pedunculus* laete griseo-viridis vel ochraceus base complanatus circa 1.5 cm diam., circa 25 bracteis vacuis membranaceis leviter fuscis ovato-acuminatis 2.5-3 cm longis 1 cm latis 8-10 nervatis instructus. *Racemi* dense multiflori 24-26 cm longi 5-6 cm diam., gemmis congestis patulis deinde cernuis carmesinis apicibus schistaceis. *Bracteae* membranaceae fuscae 3-5 nervatae infimae 25-27 mm longae 4.5 mm latae pedicellis longiores. *Pedicelli* infimi 18-19 mm longi. *Perianthium* subcylindricum leviter ventricosum 28 mm longum ad medium 7 mm latum base rotundatum haud stipitatum; segmenta exteriora libera apicibus subacutis; segmenta interiora libera eburnea apicibus viridibus. *Antherae* 4 mm exsertae. *Ovarium* viridi-brunneum 5-6 mm longum 2-2.5 mm diam.; stigmata denum 7 mm exserta. *Capsula* non vidi.

Type: South West Africa, Lüderitz District, Witputz South, 21.9.1968, Hardy 2619 (PRE, holo.).

*Plants* succulent, solitary or in compact groups of five or more, sometimes with a decumbent stem up to 60 cm long. *Leaves* grey-green, densely rosulate, suberect becoming spreading or recurved, deltoid-lanceolate, 8-16 cm long, 3-4 cm broad at the base; upper surface convex to flat low down often with a few sharp, black spines near the apex, grey-green; lower surface convex with a distinct keel for one-third of its length, the keel armed with 5-8 deltoid, sharp, black teeth, otherwise same colour as the upper, margins armed with deltoid, horny, black teeth which are evenly spaced throughout, 5-9 mm long, 10 mm

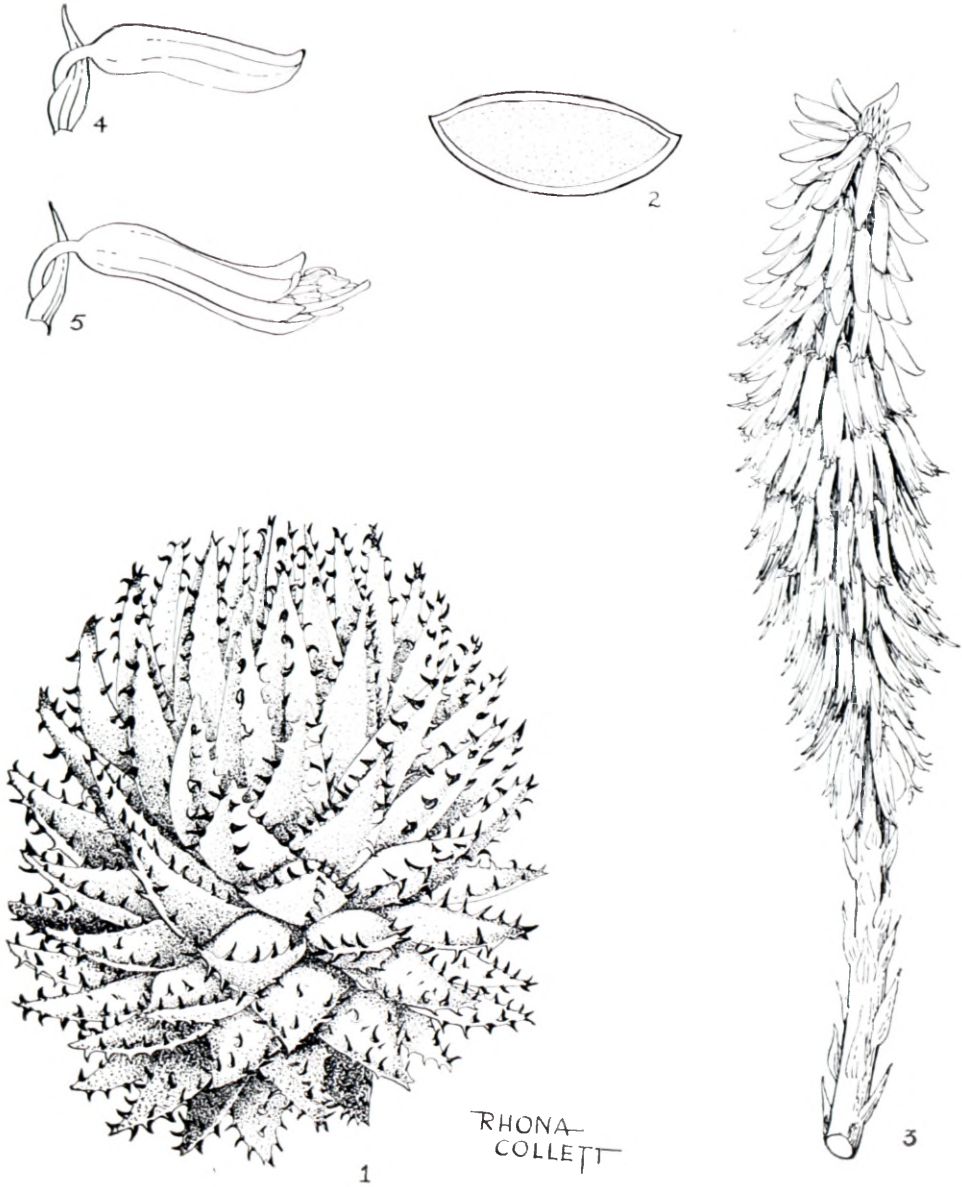


FIG. 1.—*Aloe erinacea*. 1, plant growing in the National Botanic Gardens, Pretoria, x  $\frac{1}{2}$  (approx.); 2, cross section of leaf, x 1; 3, inflorescence from the natural habitat, x  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; 4, bud, x 1; 5, flower, x 1.

apart. *Inflorescence* simple, usually one from a rosette, arcuate-ascending up to 1 m high. *Peduncle* pale grey-green to yellowish brown, flattened low down, about 1.5 cm diameter, clothed with about 25 sterile bracts which are 2.5-3 cm long, 1 cm broad at the middle, ovate-acuminate, membranous, brownish, 8-10 nerved. *Racemes* densely flowered, 24-26 cm long; buds crowded, horizontally spreading to spreading downwards, crimson with slate-grey tips. *Bracts* thin, membranous, brownish, 3-5 nerved, longer than the pedicel, the lowest 25-27 mm long, 4.5 mm broad at base. *Pedicels* about 18-19 mm long on the lower flowers. *Perianth* cylindrical and slightly narrowed above the ovary, subventricose, about 28 mm long, 7 mm broad at the middle, rounded at the base, not stipitate; outer segments free to the base, apices subacute, with 4-5 nerves which meet near the apex, inner segments free, yellowish-white, greenish at apex. *Anthers* exerted by 4 mm. *Ovary* greenish-brown, 5-6 mm long, 2-2.5 mm diam.; stigma exerted by 7 mm. *Capsule* not seen.

This species is nearest *Aloe melanacantha* Berger from which it can be distinguished by the more compact rosette, the shorter leaves which are more biconvex and eventually more spreading and by the shorter, subventricose perianth which is not incurved.

*Aloe erinacea* was first collected at Witputz-Suid by Mr. Jan Botha of Rosh-Pinah, South West Africa, in 1967. In September 1968 he accompanied the author to this locality where a number of plants were collected, some of which were planted at Rosh-Pinah and the balance being cultivated at the National Botanical Gardens, Pretoria.

The accompanying description was based on plants which flowered at Rosh-Pinah in August 1969.