The Soutpansberg Centre of Endemism is situated in the Limpopo Province and comprises the Soutpansberg and Blouberg Massifs. The highest point in the Soutpansberg is Lejuma at an altitude of 1 748 m, while the Blouberg rises to 2 051 m. The vegetation of the Soutpansberg is mainly bushveld and thicket, with Afromontane forest patches on the south- and east-facing slopes. At higher altitudes, grasslands are found on particularly the southern slopes, and a fynbos-type vegetation grows in the mist belt at places along the summit. This centre of endemism shows clear floristic links with other Afromontane areas such as the Wolkberg Centre to the south and the Chimanimani-Nyanga Centre in Zimbabwe to the north (Van Wyk & Smith 2001).

There has long been doubt as to the exact identity of maculate aloes occurring in the Soutpansberg, previously identified as Aloe swynnertonii Rendle (= A. chimanimaniensis Christian) (Christian 1936). According to Carter (2001), A. swynnertonii only occurs in Montane grassland in the mountainous border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and the eastern outliers of these mountains. Carter (2001) further states that the disjunct population of A. swynnertonii near Lake Funduzi in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, as reported by Christian (1936) and Reynolds (1950), probably represents an extreme form of a species from the Soutpansberg. The Lake Funduzi plants have shorter bracts, pedicels and perianths than A. swynnertonii (Christian 1936; Reynolds 1950; Carter 2001).

The separate specific status of these plants was recently confirmed by Dr Norbert Hahn (pers. comm.). After extensive fieldwork in the Soutpansberg, he came to the conclusion that populations hitherto regarded as A. maculata All., from the Blouberg and Lejuma and A. swynnertonii from the eastern Soutpansberg (Hahn 2002, 2006) are the same taxon and represent extremes of a very polymorphic taxon. This taxon is considered to be endemic to the Soutpansberg region and is here described as Aloe hahnii Gideon F.Sm. & R.R.Klopper.
nerved. **Pedicels** 10–20 mm long, red. **Flowers:** perianth varying from uniformly red to tri-coloured with green, creamy white and reddish tips, 25–28 mm long, 5–7 mm across ovary, abruptly constricted to 3–4 mm above ovary to form basal swelling, widening towards middle to 5 mm, widening towards throat and wide open mouth, cylindric-trigonoous; outer segments free for 12–14 mm, tips recurved and slightly spreading. **Stamens** with slightly flattened, pale lemon-yellow filaments, hardly exserted. **Ovary** 5–6 × 2 mm, bright light green; style not exserted. **Fruit** cylindric-oblong, matt light green capsule, 20–25 × 7–10 mm. **Seed** not seen. **Flowering time:** June to July. **Chromosome number:** unknown. Figure 1.

**Habitat:** *Aloe hahnii* occurs in the mist belt regions of the Blouberg and most of the Soutpansberg in Soutpansberg Arid Mountain Bushveld (Mucina & Rutherford 2007). The altitude ranges from 1 000 m in Venda to 2 050 m on the Blouberg. It commonly grows on sandy soil derived from the Soutpansberg Group Quartzites (Barker et al. 2006). This aloe has been found in Coleochloa setifera-dominated grassland up to the margins of forests on the Blouberg and similar vegetation on the Soutpansberg, whereas in the western Soutpansberg it sometimes grows in low closed woodland in full shade (N. Hahn pers. comm).

**Illustration:** Smith & Van Wyk: 48 (2008).

**Distribution:** this aloe occurs on the Blouberg and Soutpansberg massifs in the Limpopo Province of South Africa (Figure 2).

**Etymology:** the taxon is named for Dr Norbert Hahn, expert on the flora of the Soutpansberg.

**Diagnostic characters:** *Aloe hahnii* differs from *A. swynnertonii* in the shorter bracts, pedicels and perianths, as well as flowers that are a glossier scarlet-red and more decurved. It is distinguished from *A. vogtsii* Reynolds, with which it occasionally grows sympatrically in the central regions of the Soutpansberg mist belt, by the latter species having buds that are borne horizontally in more elongated (not capitate) racemes (Table 1).
Klopper et al. (2008) reported on the conspecific status of Bulbine triebneri Dinter and *B. alba* Van Jaarsv., but neglected to formalize the synonymy of the later name under the earlier name, which takes priority under the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill et al. 2006). This is now done here:

**Bulbine triebneri** Dinter in Poelln., Feddes Repertorium 52: 113 (1943). *Bulbine frutescens* (L.) Willd. var. *triebneri* (Dinter) Baijnath: 348 (1977). Type: Namibia, 2818 (Onseepkans): Great Namaqualand, Eendoom, east of Warmbath, (-BB), Strey & Schlienben 8536 (PRE); Venda, Tane Vondo, (-CD), Van der Merwe 1362 (PRE); Pietersburg Dist., Blauwberg, top near beacon, (-BB), Strey & Schlienben 8536 (PRE); Soutpansberg Dist., Lake Fundudzi, (-CD), Hahn 2168, 2169 (PRE); Soutpansberg, Lelweyi 35 LS, hill on W boundary leading to high point, (-AB), Venter 6174 (PRE); Soutpansberg Dist., Louis Trichardt, summit of Hanglip peak, (-BB), Galpin 9683 (PRE).

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R.R. KLOPPER* and G.F. SMITH**

* Biosystematics Research and Biodiversity Collections Division, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Private Bag X101, 0001 Pretoria. E-mail: Klopper@sanbi.org; SmithG@sanbi.org.

** Academics Chair, H.G.W.J. Schweickerdt Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Pretoria, 0002 Pretoria.

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**TABLE 1.—Differences between *Aloe hahnii* and *A. swynnertonii***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><em>A. hahnii</em></th>
<th><em>A. swynnertonii</em></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flower colour</td>
<td>Glossy scarlet-red</td>
<td>Orange-red to pinkish red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower shape</td>
<td>Decurved</td>
<td>Slightly curved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bract length (mm)</td>
<td>5-15</td>
<td>8-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedicel length (mm)</td>
<td>10-20</td>
<td>20-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perianth length (mm)</td>
<td>25-28</td>
<td>25-35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASPHODELACEAE: ALOOIDEAE**

FORMALIZING THE SYNONYMY OF BULBINE TRIEBNERI

![Figure 2: Distribution of Aloe hahnii.](image-url)