Aloe karasbergensis—Pillans was described by Pillans in 1928. It is a member of Aloe Section Paniculatae Salm-Dyck ex Kunth, which consists of six species namely A. buhrii Lavranos, A. karasbergensis, A. komaggasensis Kritzinger & Van Jaarsv., A. kouebokkeveldensis Van Jaarsv. & A.B. Low, A. reynoldsi Letty and A. striata Haw. A. karasbergensis and A. komaggasensis were reduced to subspecific status under A. striata by Glen & Hardy (1987, 2000). Lavranos (2004) argued that these two taxa should be recognized as separate species, since all six taxa in A. Section Paniculatae are easily distinguishable on the basis of vegetative and floral characters.

Aloe karasbergensis grows in semi-desert sand and stony mountain slopes in Namibia and the Northern Cape Province (Figure 14), especially in areas with very low and erratic rainfall (Glen & Hardy 2000). The distribution details provided by Reynolds (1950) indicate that this species occurs in southern Namibia from the Kubub Mountains south to the Richtersveld and Springbok area in South Africa, and then again near Kenhardt and south of Prieska. The distribution map provided by Glen & Hardy (2000) clearly echoes this disjunct distribution. A. karasbergensis has also recently been found further West, on the Aurus Mountains, inside Diamond Area No. 1 in Namibia (E. van Jaarsveld pers. comm.)

Even though the only specimen in the National Herbarium, Pretoria (PRE) of Aloe karasbergensis from the central Northern Cape was collected by the revered J.P.H. Acocks, author of Veld types of South Africa, there has been some doubt on the validity of the disjunct distribution range of A. karasbergensis, as reflected in Reynolds (1950) and Glen & Hardy (2000).

A recent collection by the second author confirms that the species indeed occurs in the central Northern Cape Province.

NORTHERN CAPE.—3021 (Vanwyksvlei): Carnarvon area. Farm Konkakloof, (-DD), P.J. du Preez 3670 (BLFU).

REFERENCES


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