

Two new subspecies of *Aloe* (*Asphodelaceae*) from central Madagascar, and further observations on *Aloe trachyticola*

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First descriptions of *Aloe conifera* ssp. *pervagata* and *A. fievetii* ssp. *johannis-baptistei* from the central plateau of Madagascar. Photography by Jean-Philippe Castillon.

While my son and I were writing the book *The Aloe of Madagascar* (2010), a question arose concerning *Aloe conifera* H.Perrier, as to whether there were any differences between the following two populations of plants represented by: the type collection of *A. conifera* which Perrier (1926) collected on Mount Ravotay, south of Ambatofinandrahana, and that of *A. conifera* Reynolds 7692 (1966: 477–480) illustrated with photos of plants, that he had found some 9km southwest of Ivato, along the road to Ambatofinandrahana. Only a trip to Ravotay mountain could answer this question, so I visited that locality last year and now consider that Reynolds's plant is sufficiently different from Perrier's *Aloe conifera* to warrant subspecies status, which is described as follows:

***Aloe conifera* H.Perrier ssp. *pervagata* J.-B. Castillon, ssp. nov.**

Diagnosis: *Aloe coniferae* ssp. *coniferae* cognata est, sed juvenilibus plantis rosulatis non distichis, saepe aculeatis supra superas laminas; foliis brevioribus, rubro-caeruleis non viridibus; spicis inauratis non luteis; plantis pervagatis et non certae regionis, praecipue distinguitur.

[Related to *Aloe coniferae* ssp. *coniferae*, but mainly distinguished by juvenile plants being rosulate not distichous,



Fig. 1 A juvenile plant of *Aloe conifera* ssp. *conifera*



Fig. 2 *A. conifera* ssp. *conifera* in the Mount Ravotay area