



A developing inflorescence of a red flowered specimen of *Aloe lavranosii*.



A very white haired flower form of *Aloe lavranosii* from the type locality.



An inflorescence of a yellow flowered *Aloe lavranosii*.



A red flowered specimen of *Aloe lavranosii* at the type locality, the hot and humid Dathina Plain, Southern Yemen.



Aloe lavranosii flowering during the dry season near Lodar, Southern Yemen. Note the dense white hairs on the flowers of this individual.

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Front cover:

Aloe lavranosii, a yellow flowered individual a few kilometers west of Mudiyah, Yemen. This is the form previously known as *Aloe doei*, which was based on a single yellow flowered specimen. Further study has shown that *Aloe lavranosii* flowers are extremely polymorphic, ranging from red to yellow, glabrous to densely hirsute. This plant is from very near the type locality of what was previously known as *Aloe splendens* which was based on a red, glabrous flowered plant, and like *Aloe doei* has been subsumed into *Aloe lavranosii*. Also seen in this photo growing socially with this rare aloe, are several other interesting succulents such as, *Euphorbia inarticulata*, *Cissus rotundifolia* and a species of *Sarcostemma*.

Photo: Tom McCoy

Back cover:

Aloe vanbalenii in the Ubombo Mountains near Border Caves.

Photo: Maddy Ogden (Taken on the post conference tour).

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Editorial

The Succulent Society of South Africa and editorial committee of ALOE are proud to produce this special issue. This year marks the 50th birthday of the Society, with the publication of volume 50. The Inhlaba Indaba was a special event in which the Society was involved and the editorial committee undertook to publish the proceedings of the conference. To all contributors who put a lot of work into adapting their conference talks into articles, the editorial committee would like to convey a sincere word of thanks. We must mention the effort the South African Biodiversity Institute made, to ensure the success of the conference. Without SANBI, prof Gideon Smith and the staff of the Institute, the Indaba would probably never have seen the light of day. It was decided at the conference to dedicate this issue to John Lavranos. The very special aloe named for him, *Aloe lavranosii*, appears on the front and inside cover of this issue. We were planning to include a report on the post conference tour, but this will hopefully appear in the next edition of ALOE.

Kotie Retief
Editor