

Aloe Collection at Munich Botanical Garden

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The genus *Aloe* L. (Aloaceae) forms an important group of perennial, with rare exceptions, non-hardy herbs, shrubs or trees. *Aloe* comprises an extraordinary diversity of growth form and size. Therefore it is very suitable for landscaping in arid and semi-arid climates as well as for structuring greenhouses in Botanical Gardens showing plants adapted to dry environment. *Aloe* consists of approximately 360 species and subspecies, nearly one half is native to Southern Africa, the other one is distributed in Tropical Africa, Madagascar, Mascarenes, Arabian Peninsula, Socotra, Cape Verde Islands. About 230 taxa are at present cultivated in the Munich Botanical Garden (Botanischer Garten München-Nymphenburg). The collection consists mainly of species native to South and Tropical Africa, 33 species are from Madagascar, 11 species from Yemen or Saudi Arabia. In the collection there are well known and common species as well as endangered and rare species such as e.g. *Aloe polyphylla* Schönland and *A. rauhii* Reynolds. Part of the collection is open to the public. The poster will give an overview of species, cultivation and localities in the greenhouse.

The aim of the collection is on one hand an educational one: to show to the public the diversity of the genus *Aloe*, to give information about the useful species as e.g. *A. vera* (L.) Burm. and how the genus adapted to survive in dry environment and to provoke interest in the problems of endangered taxa and generally in the vulnerability of floras in arid regions. On the other hand the Munich Botanical Garden tries to contribute to the conservation and propagation of endangered taxa in *Aloe* and is interested to complete its special *Aloe*-collection.