

IOS Aloaceae Section report

Leonard E. Newton

Dept. of Plant & Microbial Sciences, Kenyatta University, Nairobi (Kenya)

Several members have been busy, in some cases with collaborative projects. About 40 *Aloe* specialists gathered in Pretoria in November 2007 for a workshop to plan an online digital database on the genus. This will be hosted by ALUKA (<http://www.aluka.org>), which already has available files on some other African plants. Meanwhile, preparation of a book on the whole genus, complete with identification keys, is in an advanced stage. News that this book was planned precipitated a flurry of publishing activity, and over 40 new names have been published during the past couple of years. Devotees of other genera in the family made more individual contributions. On a wider scale, it will be recalled that molecular taxonomists determined that the Aloaceae should be included in the Asphodelaceae, with the optional alternative of including both in an enlarged Xanthorrhoeaceae (*Bot. J. Linn. Soc.* 141: 399–436. 2003). In recent literature most authors now refer these plants to the Asphodelaceae (perhaps partly because the spelling is slightly easier to remember than the alternative!).