

Sorting out the *Sansevierias*

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The genus *Sansevieria* (Asparagaceae) has been largely shunned by taxonomists, and the 1915 monograph by N.E. Brown has still not been superseded. This is partly because many species were described from cultivated material of unknown origin. Field and cultivation studies of species with prominent erect stems, occurring at low altitudes in Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania, revealed that there are at least seven distinct taxa, but with only four published names available. Three new species are recognized as a result of this study, and descriptions have now been published.

Three new species are recognized as a result of this study, and descriptions have now been published (Bradleya 27: 153-158, 2009; 28: 19-26, 2010). The prominently caulescent species of *Sansevieria* now comprise: *S. arborescens* Gérôme & Labroy (1903), *S. bagamoyensis* N.E. Brown (1913), *S. caulescens* N.E. Brown (1915), *S. powellii* N.E. Brown (1915), *S. dumetescens* L.E. Newton (2009), *S. ascendens* L.E. Newton (2010), *S. powysii* L.E. Newton (2010).