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### *Aloe ferox*

[Synonyms : *Aloe ferox* var. *galpinii*, *Aloe ferox* var. *incurva*, *Aloe ferox* var. *subferox*, *Aloe galpinii*, *Aloe horrida*, *Aloe muricata*, *Aloe perfoliata* var. *ferox*, *Aloe pseudoferox*, *Aloe socotrina*, *Aloe subferox*, *Aloe supralaevis*, *Aloe supralaevis* var. *erythrocarpa*, *Pachidendron ferox*, *Pachidendron pseudoferox*, *Pachidendron supralaeve*, *Pachyendron ferox*]

**CAPE ALOE** is a succulent, evergreen tree. Native to South Africa (particularly Natal) it has tiny reddish-gold flowers.

It is also known as Aloe (English, German), Bitter aloe, *Blåaloe* (Swedish), *Kapaloe* (German), *Piikkiaaloe* (Finnish), Red aloe, and Uganda aloes.

It is pollinated by sunbirds.

The bitter-tasting juice from the leaves is collected throughout the year.

Warning – internal use can cause urine to turn red.

*Ferox* means ‘ferocious, spiny or very thorny’.

The juice is an ingredient in some alcoholic drinks.

Cape aloe is the floral emblem for South Africa and there the leaf juice is used commercially in veterinary medicine.

Medicinally, the leaf juice can be used as a laxative and can also be part of external treatment for ulcers and (in cream form) reddened skin.