

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Aloe ferox

[Synonyms : *Aloe galpinii*, *Aloe horrida*, *Aloe socotrina*, *Aloe supralaevis*, *Pachydendron 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 it 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.