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### *Sansevieria hyacinthoides*

[Synonyms : *Acyntha guianensis*, *Acyntha guineensis*, *Acyntha thyrsiflora*, *Aletris guineensis*, *Aletris hyacinthoides*, *Aletris hyacinthoides* var. *guineensis*, *Aloe guineensis*, *Aloe hyacinthoides*, *Aloe hyacinthoides* var. *guineensis*, *Cordyline guineensis*, *Cordyline hyacinthoides*, *Pleomele aloifolia*, *Salmia guineensis*, *Salmia spicata*, *Sansevieria angustiflora*, *Sansevieria ceylonica*, *Sansevieria fulvocincta*, *Sansevieria grandis*, *Sansevieria grandis* var. *zuluensis*, *Sansevieria guineensis*, *Sansevieria laetevirens*, *Sansevieria latifolia*, *Sansevieria metallica*, *Sansevieria polyphylla*, *Sansevieria roxburghiana*, *Sansevieria rufocincta*, *Sansevieria spicata*, *Sansevieria stenophylla*, *Sansevieria thyrsiflora*, *Sansevieria trifasciata*, *Sansevieria zeylanica*]

**AFRICAN HEMP** is an evergreen succulent perennial. Native to South Africa it has small fragrant, greenish-white flowers with long stamens.

It is also known as African bowstring hemp, Bowstring, Bowstring hemp, Coretor, *Fèy zorèy bourik* (Creole), Iguana tail, Konje hemp, Leopard plant, Mother-in-law tongue, *Murba* (Bengali), *Muruva* (Sanskrit), *Murva* (Hindi), *Oreilles-bourrique* (French), Skip rope, Sword plant, and Zebra plant.

*Hyacinthoides* is derived from the genus name *Hyacinthus* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning ‘like plants in that (hyacinth) genus’.

It is believed to have been introduced to Hawaii in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century for cultivation for its fibre. Apparently this eventually proved to be unsuccessful commercially but the Islands adopted it widely as an ornamental plant.

The leaf fibre is used commercially today to make string, ropes, paper and matting.