
The Nomenclature of *Aloe vera*

Species Name: *Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f. ^{1, 2, 3}
Group: Monocot
Family: Aloaceae
Synonym: Aloeaceae
Descriptor: N. L. Burman
Duration: Perennial
Origin: Uncertain... Sudan, North Africa
U.S. Nativity: Introduced

Synonyms

Aloe barbadensis Mill., *Aloe chinensis* Bak., *A. elongata* Murray, *A. indica* Royle, *A. officinalis* Forsk., *A. perfoliata* L., *A. rubescens* DC, *A. vera* L. var. *littoralis* König ex Bak., *A. vera* L. var. *chinensis* Berger, *A. vulgaris* Lam. ¹. Most formularies and reference books regard *Aloe barbadensis* Mill. as the correct species name, and *Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f. as a synonym. While *Aloe barbadensis* Miller was previously the official name, the plant was still popularly known as *Aloe vera*, and Newton (1979) argued that the scientific name should also be *Aloe vera*. N.L. Burman had used this name for what was previously described by Linnaeus as a variety *vera* of *Aloe perfoliata*. Burman had priority over Miller's later use of the name *A. barbadensis*. Following this argument, the correct name is thus *Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f.

According to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, *Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f. is the legitimate name for the species.

Synonym: *Aloe vera* L.

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¹ Grindlay D, Reynolds T. The *Aloe vera* phenomenon: a review of the properties and modern uses of the leaf parenchyma gel. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 1986, 16:117-151.

² United States Department of Agriculture. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ALVE2>

³ World Health Organization (WHO) monographs on selected medicinal plants. Volume 1, 3.