



Desert Springs

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Helping with Scientific Research

In July, we welcomed Pr. Diego Rivera Nuñez and Encarna Carreño from the University of Murcia who are carrying out a phylogenetic study on the genus *Vitis* (the vine family) and its relation with *Cyphostemma*, of which they were able to take material from DESERT SPRINGS' greenhouse.

Two years ago, Desert Springs Cactus Nursery also collaborated with the University of Murcia in research for natural colouring agents derived from cactus fruits.

In 2006, Pr. Manfred Koenen from University of Bonn (Germany) came to collect genetic material from the *Aloe porphyrostachys* ssp. *koenenii* in our greenhouse.

This is a plant close to *Aloe vera* and its pharmaceutical possibilities are of interest and are being studied.



Introduction of New species



In 2006 a new species of Aloe was finally and officially described, although discovered in Jordan in 1985: *Aloe porphyrostachys* ssp. *koenenii*.

In 2008, a new species of Agave, *A. cordillerensis* was found in Peru.

Both these plants were discovered by the Chief Naturalist of DESERT SPRINGS, Joël Lodé. After propagation, they were planted and can be seen on hole 9. Fortunately, they are not invasive.

Flowering for the first time after 29 years!

A cactus grown from seed and collected in 1979 in EL Salvador (Central America), bloomed for the first time at DESERT SPRINGS after 29 years of care!

It is an Opuntia, *Opuntia salvadorensis*, a rare species poorly known in cultivation and regrettably sensitive to the cold.

If you want to grow cactus, the patience is the rule!



Aloe porphyrostachys ssp. *koenenii* in cultivation at Desert Springs Nursery.

TIP FOR WATERING YOUR CACTI DURING SUMMER:

Do not be overly generous with water when watering your cacti: indeed just wet the compost, then only water, when the compost seems completely dry. After such watering, they can thrive 3 to 4 months without any water.