

An attempt at rationalizing *Sansevieria concinna* (*Dracaena spathulata*) and its fuzzy boundaries

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Abstract

Sansevieria concinna is being discussed because of its differing taxonomic descriptions. It is argued that some characters are listed which are derived from plants and collections that are at best doubtfully assignable to this species. A working description of *S. concinna* s.str. is provided and used to compare these plants and collectionst. New cultivars are described which have been or are associated with *S. concinna* through the use of this species as a parent in the development of the cultivars. Also, cultivars that have not been correctly established according to ICNCP, are presented as new and correctly established.

Introduction

When N.E. Brown published the name *Sansevieria concinna* N.E.Br. (1915), he was unaware of the fact that this species would become popular in cultivation. Its small to modest size, peculiar leaf shape, easy cultivation and flowering, added to its popularity. In the past decades the species became parent in many hybridization attempts. Several of the resulting hybrids gained a notable status among *Sansevieria* lovers and others are only seen occasionally. These many hybridizations and an often badly recorded hybridization history has clouded the true extent of variation of *S. concinna*. Descriptions seem to contain characters taken from herbarium specimens and living plants, that may not belong to the species. Also, the attribution of named or unnamed cultivars to *S. concinna* is by no means always clear cut or well argued. Add to this the fact that many hybrid plants purported to contain concinna-“blood” are released without having been named properly (or at all!), using the international tools for nomenclature of cultivars (notably the International Code for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, ICNCP; Brickell et al, 2016) and so chaos reigns. Nomenclatural issues in *Sansevieria* cultivars have been discussed by the first author in this journal (Hetterscheid, 2025a, b).

We do not pretend to solve all these issues in this paper but merely illustrate a selection of cultivars or potential cultivars involving *S. concinna*, usually with genetic “interference” of other species through artificial hybridization. From among these, we here present a few and officially establish them as new cultivars, following ICNCP rules. We also discuss some doubtful attributions of cultivars to *S. concinna* or other taxa.

We have decided to use only the generic name *Sansevieria* in this paper instead of *Dracaena*, following Hetterscheid (2024a: 6; 2024b: 38) in this choice, because the target community of both this journal and our paper consists overwhelmingly of plant hobbyists.

***Sansevieria concinna* N.E. BR.**

Syn.: *S. subspicata* var. *concinna* (N.E. BR.) MBUGUA

Cultivated material of *Sansevieria concinna* at present seems to consist mostly (but not exclusively) of material from two Lavranos collections, presented and discussed by Chahinian (1992). These are Lav 5933 (Mozambique, Inhambane prov., 20 km west of Vilanculos) and Lav 5949 (Mozambique, Inhambane prov., north of Massinga). Chahinian did not immediately attribute the plants to *S. concinna*, but he saw a strong resemblance to the holotype specimen of the species (Dawe 1, K!, 2 sheets, reproduced here as **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2**). He also mentioned a collection made by David Hardy in South Africa near Lake Sibaya. Later he (Chahinian, 2010: 21) disclosed the collecting number of the Lake Sibaya plant to be Hardy 19879. For further details of the history of discovery etc. of *S. concinna* see Mansfeld (2017).

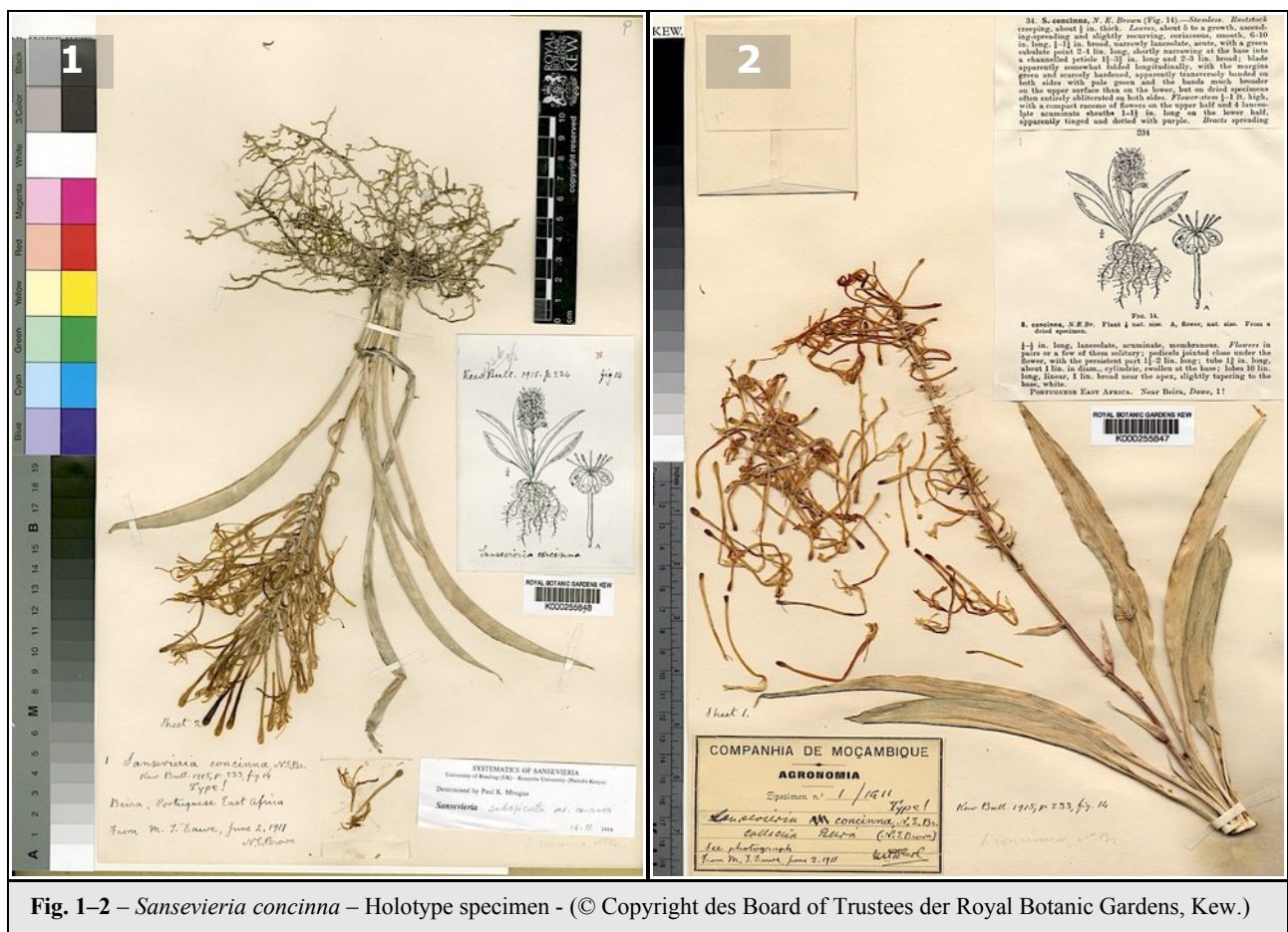
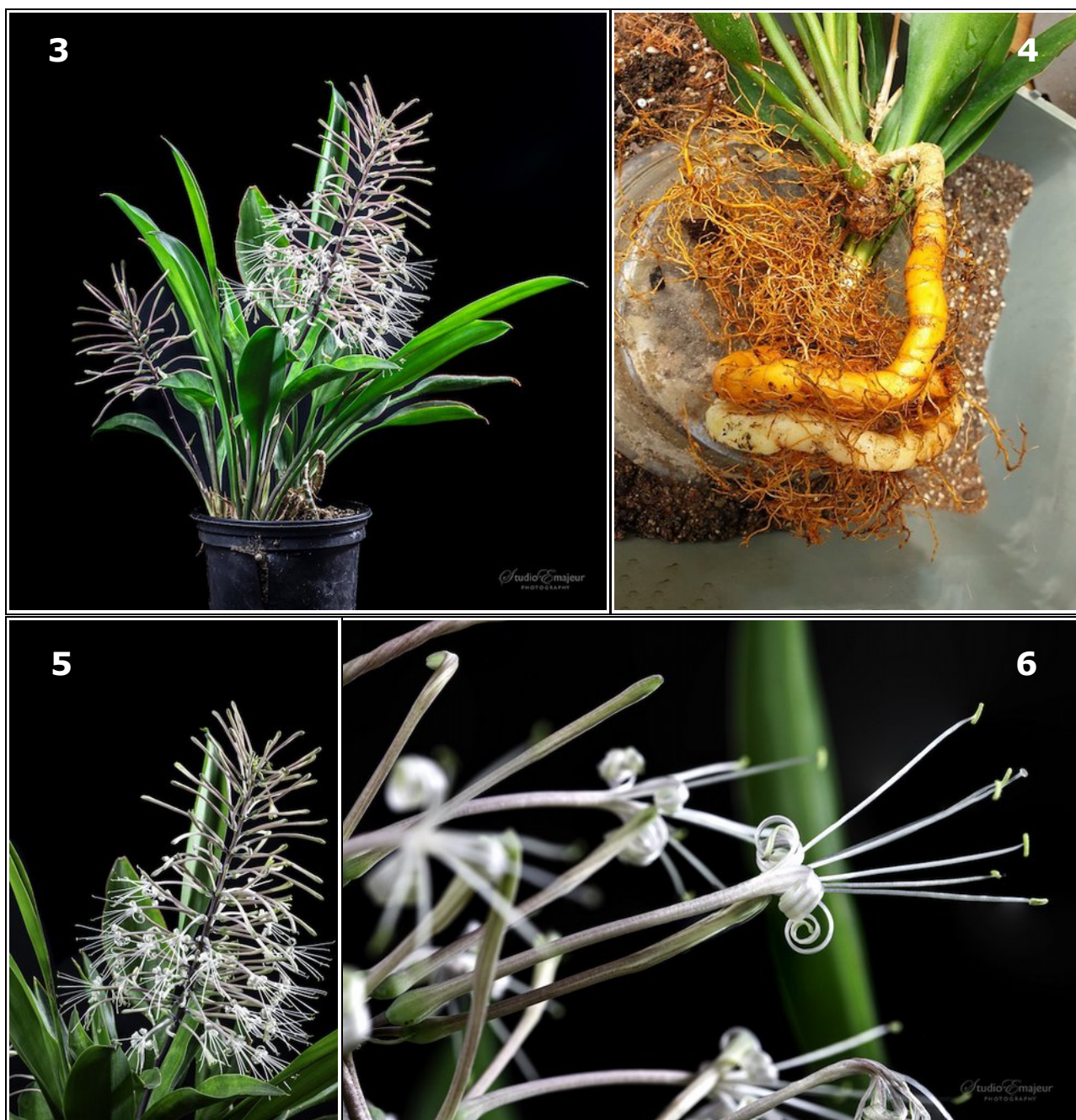


Fig. 1–2 – *Sansevieria concinna* – Holotype specimen - (© Copyright des Board of Trustees der Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.)

We compiled a description here of *S. concinna* to serve as reference, to be used in observations in this paper on the attribution of taxa and cultivars to this species but we adapted for characters and

character states that we feel have been derived from materials not undisputedly belonging to the species. For the description we consulted Chahinian (2005: 37–39), Chahinian (2010), Mansfeld (2013: 56–57) & (2022: 47–48), Webb & Newton (2022: 52–53) and our own observations on cultivated plants. We excluded two Van Jaarsveld collections mentioned and illustrated as living plants by Webb (2020: 20, 21, see below under ‘Lake Sibaya’). For example, we noticed descriptions of *S. concinna* presenting a rhizome diameter of 2 cm, which is never reached by *S. concinna* s. str. (in the strict sense), not even in old plants (max. 1 cm, rarely slightly larger). For this and other reasons stated below, we also excluded cultivars ‘Lake Sibaya’ and ‘Sudwala Caves’ from the description (see further for explanations). Our compiled working description for *S. concinna* s. str. thus reads (see also **Figs 3–6**):



Stemless herb, spreading through underground rhizomes, these long creeping, 1–1 (- 1.5 cm) thick, white when young, turning pale brownish or orange, sometimes gaining a faint purplish hue upon exposure to light. Cataphylls green or more rarely purplish. Leaves 5–8(-20) per shoot, rosulate, elliptic-lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, 10–40 cm long, 12–40 mm wide, coriaceous, erect or slightly oblique, often spatulate (spoon-like) through a distinct narrowing to the base, forming a channeled pseudopetiole (taking up $1/10^{\text{th}}$ to $4/5^{\text{th}}$ of the total leaf length, 2–4 mm in diam.) with lower surface greyish green or pale greyish-purplish, non-narrowed leaf part flat or somewhat folded backwards (revolute), rarely somewhat concave, top acute, chartaceous, green, drying orangish, 2–8 mm long, upper leaf surface smooth or faintly rugulose, uniformly medium green or darker, or faintly marked with paler cross-banding, slightly glossy, margin green, lower surface as upper surface or slightly paler, smooth, dull. Inflorescence a raceme, to 30 cm long, stalk and axis of flowering part flowers more or less densely arranged along the inflorescence axis, single or clustered per 2(-3); flower tube 40–45 mm long, white or pale to dark pink, lobes 4–6, to 20 mm long, white to pale pink, strongly recurving.

Note:

Since *Sansevierias* have a different leaf development and architecture from dicotyledonous angiosperms, notably lacking a “real” petiole (stalk), we use the term “pseudopetiole” for the often seen narrowed lower part of the leaf.

Non-hybrid cultivars of *Sansevieria concinna*

Literature and opinions voiced on internet, illustrate a long-standing confusion about the proper way to recognize cultivars from wild living materials in *Sansevieria*. Also, their proper nomenclature has been misunderstood and misapplied many times. The first author (Hettterscheid, 2025a, b) has addressed this issue and so we limit our comments in this paper to specific cases. In *Sansevieria*, the confusion about cultivar status started (unintentionally) with Chahinian (1992) and more specifically with his naming of plants found by John Lavranos. Lavranos sent Chahinian samples of his finds. Chahinian introduced these plants to the *Sansevieria*-community in his own journal (Chahinian 1992). He presented two different clones, identified by collecting numbers of Lavranos (Lav 5949 and Lav 5933) and one by David Hardy without number (later he added the number as Hardy 19879). Although Chahinian (1992: 9 & Fig. 3) used the cultivar epithet typography (single, high placed, inverted commas) to demarcate the Lavranos numbers, he never mentioned in his paper that he considered these (and Hardy’s) to be cultivars. This also means that no cultivar name, in terms of ICNCP rules, was officially established in that publication. In 1994 (p. 44), Chahinian continued using the typography for cultivar names but still without any obvious intention of regarding the clones as cultivars. In 2005 (pp 37 – 39) he treated both Lavranos clones separate from his general description of *S. concinna* (incl. separate descriptions) and still wrote their names as for cultivars but again without explicitly stating that they are cultivars. In Chahinian 2010 (page 21), the case changes. Chahinian maintains the typography of the clones as cultivars but this time he identifies these names explicitly as cultivar names and states them to be of general interest to the public on account of their differences from the “normal” *S. concinna*. He already associated both clones to that species before, notably in 2005 (p. 37 & 38) by naming them *Sansevieria* aff. *concinna* ‘Lav. 5949’ and *S. aff. concinna* ‘Lav 5933’. We therefore conclude that in Chahinian 2010 (21, Figs 4, 5, 6), the two Lavranos clones were established as new cultivars, incl. their correct names (*S.* ‘Lav 5949’ & *S.* ‘Lav 5933’) and descriptions (by indirect reference to Chahinian 2005, a.o. in the references), complying with the rules of ICNCP. Because there is wide consensus now that both collections be-

long to *S. concinna* (and comparison with the type material seems to confirm that as well), we have added their characters to our working description of the species above. Their cultivar names seem to be functioning well, as in offers and exchanges of the clones usually these are applied. But whether one chooses to identify the clones as merely part of the natural variation (the sum total of all populations of *S. concinna* in the wild), or prefers to address them as cultivars (in the context of domestication), is a free choice and not subject to matters of “right” or “wrong” because both approaches are supported by what we know of *S. concinna*. This is not so in the cases of the cultivars ‘Lake Sibaya’ and ‘Sudwala Caves’ (see further).

Introducing new cultivars and establishing official publication moments of existing ones.

The list of unnamed *Sansevieria* hybrids introduced into cultivation without proper cultivar names is long. The ones we chose here to present as new cultivars with proper names are somewhat idiosyncratic choices. We chose the criterion that one of the parents is (or is suggested by others to be) *S. concinna* or is historically associated with *S. concinna* (notably ‘Lake Sibaya’ and ‘Sudwala Caves’). Because quite a number of hybrids is developed with ‘Sudwala Caves’ as a (suspected) parent, we included these too. Quite often such hybrids show the influence of this cultivar in the expression of violet/purple in rhizomes, cataphylls and leaves. Overall, all our choices show more or less strongly expressed spoon-shaped leaves. Finally, support for our choices can best be obtained from molecular analyses to come. The results of such cultivar analyses will luckily not influence the value they have for the *Sansevieria* community in terms of collecting and enjoying them.

1.) *Sansevieria* ‘Balthasar’ (Fig. 7–9),

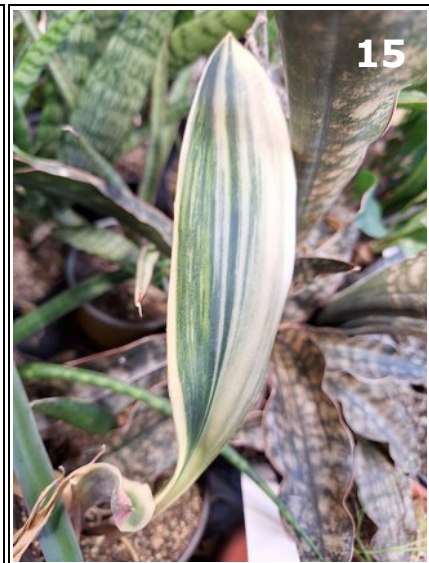
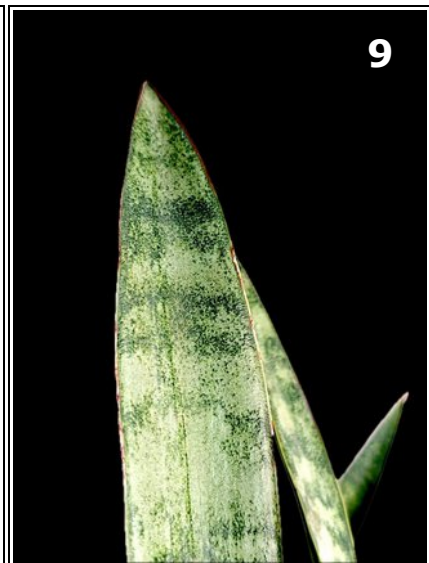
(Jankalski 2009: 17 (fig. on p. 15)) = *S. fischeri* x *S.* ‘Lav 5949’. Originator: B.J. Chahinian (Chahinian 1994: 44).

Description (adapted from Jankalski, 2009, with our own observations):

Rhizome long creeping, pale brown, turning green when exposed to light, to 1.5 cm in diam.; shoots with 3–6 leaves; leaves 10–40 cm long, pseudopetiole absent, or poorly developed, or distinct, short or very long (but then the broadened leaf part very narrow), broadened leaf part elliptic to linear-lanceolate, 10–30 cm long, 1–6 cm across, upper surface semi glossy, cross-banded with dark and paler (greyish-) green.

Note:

Chahinian’s (1994) descriptive text reads: “SJPI No. B033 *Sansevieria* sp. ‘Lav 5949’ x *S. fischeri*. The editor pollinized, as the name indicates, an “ex Socotra” spoon leaved plant with the pollen of an “ex singularis” inflorescence. The seeds then, were obtained, as the name indicates, on the “Socotra” plant. The plant obtained is much smaller than the mother plant, very thick leaved and has the bluish cast of *S. fischeri* and hints of the red edges of the latter’s juvenile form leaves.”. The indications “Socotra” and “singularis” are merely quoted that way because the parent plants were so tagged when Chahinian got them. Jankalski (2009) also mentioned a sales number of Bob Smoley’s Gardenworld, BSGW10146. This number is still present on their website (<https://www.bobsmoleys.com/sansev.html>) but the name ‘Balthasar’ has not been adopted.



2.) *Sansevieria* 'Fireworks', new cultivar (Fig. 10–15)

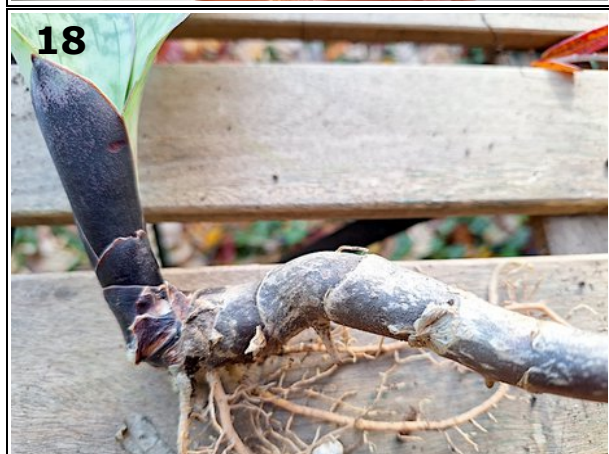
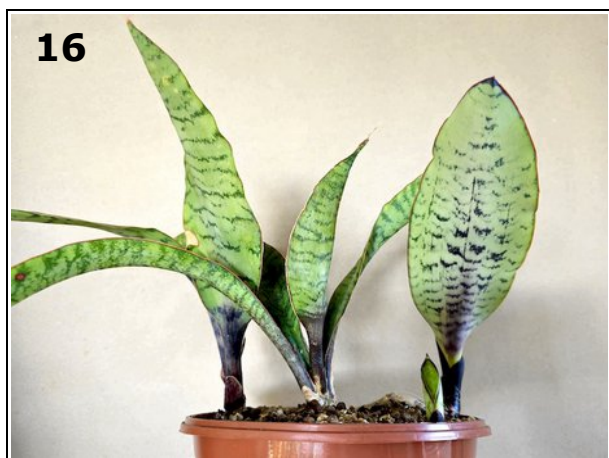
Originator: unknown (Thailand), Trade name: *S. Sudwala* variegated.

Description:

Rhizome long creeping, to 2 cm in diam., pale dirty brown, turning mid to dark green when exposed to light, sometimes with a purplish hue; leaves 2–6 per shoot, varying from typical spoon shaped (with clear pseudopetiole) to lanceolate (without pseudopetiole); pseudopetiole (0-)1–25 cm long, entirely deep purple, or carmine to bright pale or darker pink, or only the base deep purple or bright violet with the remaining part carmine or pink, the colours usually extended into the base of the broadened part of the leaf; broadened leaf part ovate, broadly or narrowly elliptic or lanceolate, 10–40 cm long, 2–5 cm across, both sides smooth, margin green to red, both surfaces extremely variably coloured and patterned, rarely uniformly dark green with faint, paler cross-banding, more often with a few to many lengthwise, sharply or fuzzy delineated, narrow or very broad, yellow stripes. Inflorescence not seen.

Note:

This cultivar must be the most variable of any in *Sansevieria*. Every new shoot has an unpredictable array of leaf shapes and leaf colours, never one the same as the previous. Because of this “explosion” of colours and colour patterns, we chose the cultivar name to be ‘Fireworks’. Another unique feature in all *Sansevieria* is the occurrence of a very bright pink, often developing in the pseudopetiole and the laminar leaf part.



3.) *Sansevieria* ‘Green Lantern’, new cultivar (Fig. 16–18)

= ‘Sudwala Caves’ x unknown (unconfirmed suggestions for the unknown parent are *S. elliptica* and *S. sp. Mafinga*, the latter maybe ES22407), Originator: unknown.

Description:

Rhizome long creeping, 1–2 cm in diam., white when young, then orange (ageing greyish) but becoming purple close to developing into a new shoot; shoot with 1–4 leaves and very prominent deep maroon cataphylls; pseudopetiole 1–5 cm long, dark purple; broad leaf part erect or oblique, elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 10–30 cm long, 7–9 cm across, both surfaces smooth at first, then becoming slightly rugulose, upper surface bright pale green with lengthwise rows of V-shaped or more irregular, dark green spots (there sometimes connected to build bands) and some dark green, thin lines, margin purple red to red, lower surface as upper but green parts even paler and brighter, spots darker green to dark maroon. Inflorescence unknown.

Note:

This is a very remarkable cultivar for its outstanding contrast of the very bright pale green colour mixed with very dark green to dark purple spots. It is still rare in cultivation, but we expect it to become very popular the coming years.



4.) *Sansevieria* ‘Lake Sibaya’ (Fig. 19–20),

(Chahinian 2010, 21, Fig. 7) Origin: a plant collected by David Hardy (Hardy 19879) in South Africa near Lake Sibaya (and propagated clonally after that by Chahinian and distributed as clone).

Note:

We consider the cultivar name *Sansevieria* ‘Lake Sibaya’ for Hardy 19879, to be correctly established by Chahinian (2010, 21, Fig. 7). He presents the Hardy 19879 clone again as *S.* ‘Lake Sibaya’ although without using the term

“cultivar name” but his intention to treat it like a cultivar as the two Lavranos clones in the same paper, is clear. In fact, his whole paper illustrates his final opinion that all the treated clones in this publication (see also under ‘Sudwala Caves’) are proper cultivars, with which we agree. We did not include the characters of ‘Lake Sibaya’ in our reference description of *S. concinna* (see above) because we are not 100% convinced that it is a form of *S. concinna*. There are some clear differences between ‘Lake Sibaya’ and all other material seen in cultivation of *S. concinna*. The four main and consistent differences (without considering dimensions) are:

- a) It has a thicker leaf texture
- b) It has a broader pseudopetiole (9-12 mm vs. 3-8 mm)
- c) It has a distinct added colour to the pseudopetiole that sometimes runs a little into the base of the lower leaf surface. This color may start out as purplish, soon changes to a (pale) brownish-orange and may disappear in very old leaves, or the colour is pale to darker (dirty) brownish orangish from the start but losing its brightness with age.

We also excluded Van Jaarsveld’s clones presented by Webb (2020: 20, 21) from *S. concinna*. The leaf dimensions presented by Van Jaarsveld (2002: 9) exceed typical *S. concinna* considerably, with the leaf length given as 70 cm. Webb himself (2020: table 2) does not mention this size for *S. concinna* but a maximum leaf length of only 25 cm. Webb thus also implies that the plants of *S. concinna* sent to him by Van Jaarsveld (Webb, 2020, Figs. 4a, 4b), may not belong to *S. concinna*. It is quite interesting to see that both Van Jaarsveld’s collections were made not far from the locality where *S. ‘Lake Sibaya’* was found by Hardy. In terms of size and other characters (e.g. red leaf margins, just observable in Webb’s figures), the Van Jaarsveld plants do match ‘Lake Sibaya’ and it may well be that together they are a diagnosable “unit” that may even represent an undescribed (unrecognized) species.

Considering all observations we made, we stepped back from the historical bias (that started with Chahinian’s comparison to *S. concinna* and was perpetuated ever since) of several authors, who exclusively associate this cultivar with *S. concinna*. We feel that a definitive association of ‘Lake Sibaya’ with known species is momentarily speculative at best (and also not quite necessary in communication about the cultivar). With the differences of ‘Lake Sibaya’ with *S. concinna*, as listed above, it is certainly necessary, in case one wants to, to compare it with morphologically similar species like e.g. *S. subspicata* (coastal Mozambique, vicinity of Maputo). Let’s not forget that Chahinian (2010: 23) specifically draws attention to the enormously variable *S. subspicata* in discussing species association of the plants mentioned in his paper. To add to further options of species association, we notice that in Mozambique several populations of unidentified spoon-leaved *Sansevieria* species are known, which so far have been introduced with only locality indications identifying them from each other, like Chongoene, Mbalanine, Pemba, Xai-xai. All these might equally well be seen as candidate species with which ‘Lake Sibaya’ could be compared in thorough taxonomic analyses (preferably based on studies of the phylogenomics of these plants and/or *Sansevieria* in general).

Chahinian’s suggestion that the proper name should be ‘Lake Sibaya’ (Chahinian, 2020: 21), is discussed by Webb (2020: 19, 21), concluding that both spellings of the name are in use in the area. Following ICNCP the original spelling Lake Sibaya therefore is correct and should be maintained.

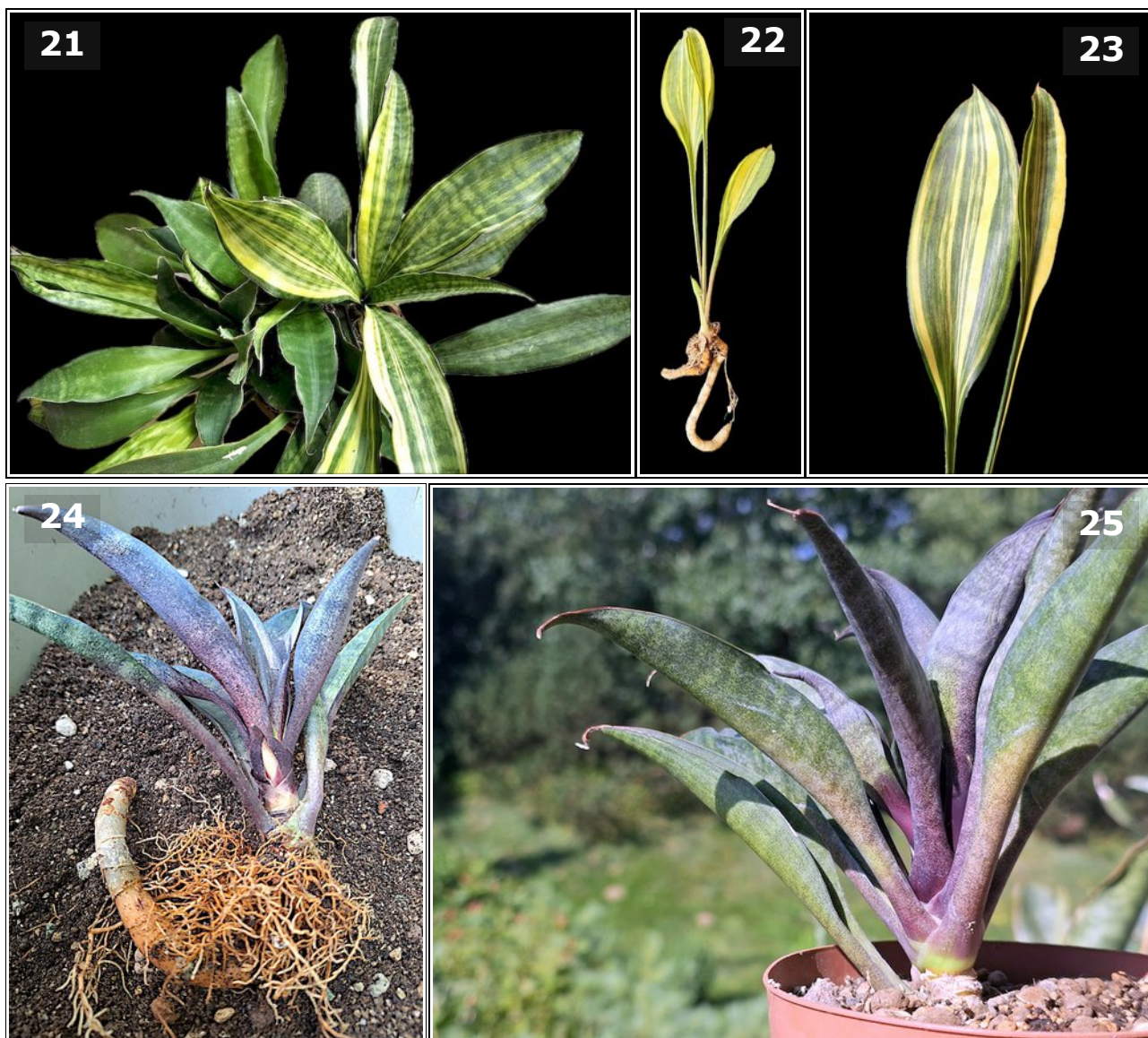
5.) *Sansevieria* ‘Lake Sibaya Variegated’, new cultivar (Fig. 21–23).

Description:

As ‘Lake Sibaya’ but with few to many lengthwise, bright yellow stripes, these narrow (2 mm) to broad (15 mm), sharply or fuzzier delineated and bending parallel with the venation.

Note:

We don’t know how long this cultivar has been in cultivation and where it popped up for the first time. It has been tagged as Sibaya variegated or Sibaya variegata, or variants of that. The name we chose complies with ICNCP and because we agree that it is a mutant of ‘Lake Sibaya’ itself, the latter’s name is allowed to be included in the new cultivar’s name suggesting this relationship between the parental cultivar and its derived mutant.



6.) *Sansevieria* ‘Little Witch’, new cultivar (Fig. 24–25)

Originator: unknown

Description:

Stem forming; rhizome to 1 cm in diam., orange when fresh, then turning dirty pale greyish; shoots with a stem of up to 10 cm long, carrying 4–20 leaves; leaves spoon shaped, pseudopetiole 2–4 cm long, dirty greenish (rarely) to deep maroon, lower surface with or without a faint cross banding, expanded leaf part elongate elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 3–15 cm long, 2–3 cm across, margin cream, pale green, red or purple, upper surface slightly rugulose or smooth, rarely (also depending on light exposure) green with faint cross banding, or partly or uniformly purple to blackish purple, lower surface smooth, colours and patterns as upper surface but often slightly paler. Inflorescence unknown.

Note:

The oddest feature of this cultivar is the vertical elongating shoot axis, unseen in *S. concinna*, so probably a morphological feature brought in by the unknown parent. Otherwise unique by its combined dwarf habit and very dominant purple colour.



7.) *Sansevieria* 'Meteorite', new cultivar (Fig. 26–27)

= *S. concinna* x unknown. Originator: Charoon Sukhee (Thailand).

Description:

Rhizome 0.5–1 cm in diam., orange; leaf distinctly spoon-shaped, with the upper half quite abruptly narrowing to the prominent pseudopetiole; pseudopetiole 3–4 cm long, upper and lower surface pale or dark green; rest of the leaf broadly elliptic to ovate, dark green with only faint, paler spots towards the top, semi-glossy, wavy, top part usually recurving, margin at first pale green, soon turning red, 5–6 cm long, 4–5 cm across; lower surface pale green with dark spotting and/or crossbanding.

Note:

Although this cultivar was introduced into the trade with the name presented here, it never got officially established following ICNCP rules. According to the second author, the production of 'Meteorite' has been discontinued, so its survival is in the hands of a very few owners (notably in Poland). Because of its unique size and shape, we hope that the present owners will distribute offshoots of it as much as possible.

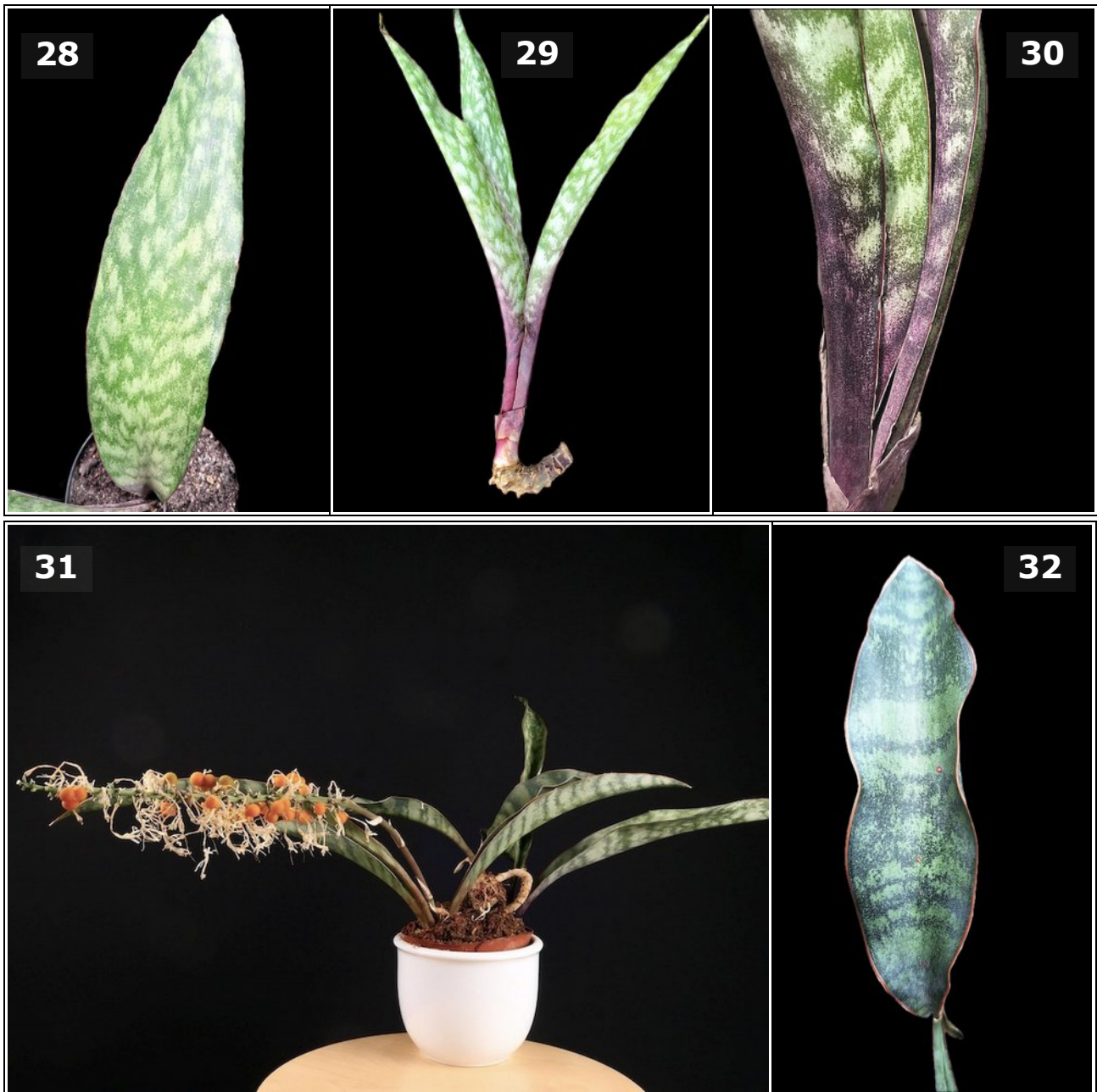
8.) *Sansevieria* 'Red Angel', new cultivar (Fig. 28–30)

= *S. aubrytiana* x 'Sudwala Caves'. Originator: Kang Anto (Indonesia).

Description:

Rhizome 2–3 cm in diam., dark green to dirty violet; shoot with 2–3 leaves; leaves elongate elliptical, 20–40 cm long, 6–8 cm across, upper surface smooth, mid green with a dense pattern of paler green elongate rhombic, or slightly zigzagging spots, margin red, base a short pseudopetiole, upper

surface with a faint purplish hue, lower surface as upper but the pseudopetiole a greyish-waxy deep maroon, running a short distance beyond the pseudopetiole, over the midvein. Inflorescence not seen.



9.) *Sansevieria* ‘Red Lady’, (Fig. 31–32)

(Mansfeld 2019: 38, figs. 13–15, as “Hybr. Nov.”) = ‘Sudwala Caves’ x *S. liberica*. Originator: Heinz-Günter Budweg, Germany.

Description (compiled by us from Mansfeld's description and available pictures, added by our own observations of a plant in cultivation):

Rhizome long creeping, fast growing, appearing above soil quite easily, turning greyish when exposed to light, sometimes with a hue of greyish-purplish; shoot with 2–3 leaves; leaves elongate-elliptic, 12–35 cm long, 4–7 cm across, slightly wavy, upper surface smooth, semi-glossy, mid green with darker green cross-banding, base purple, margin red, pseudopetiole more or less distinct, to 6 mm long, to 15 mm across with upper surface purplish and lower surface dark purple; lower surface as upper, base purple, surface smooth; inflorescence oblique, bending horizontally when in fruit, basal part purplish, flower-bearing part green; flowers green, or lobes whitish, 2 per cluster.

Note:

Mansfeld (2019) describes the plant as vigorous, with the purple even more pronounced than in the 'Sudawala Caves'-parent. Inflorescence characters of both parents seem to be expressed in 'Red Lady'.



10.) *Sansevieria* 'Saturn', new cultivar (Fig. 33–35)

= *S. concinna* x (unknown). Originator: Charoon Sukhee (Thailand).

Description:

Dwarf plant; rhizome to 1 cm in diam. green; shoots with 3–7 leaves; leaves 3–20 cm long, distinct-

ly spoon-shaped, pseudopetiole 1–4 cm long, green to pale purple; expanded leaf part 3–16 cm long, 3–10 cm across, ovate or elliptic, top often slightly revolute, margin green, upper surface slightly rugulose, plain mid green, with or without a very faint cross banding, or the base with some cross bands purplish, lower surface smooth, uniformly green or with a paler cross banding, or the basal part with a purple hue. Inflorescence unknown.

Note:

A very distinct dwarf cultivar, not unlike ‘Meteorite’ (see there) but distinctly more robust and often with purple hues.

11.) *Sansevieria* ‘Sudwala Caves’, (Fig. 36–41

(Chahinian 2010: 22–23 (see below for an explanation of this reference)).

Syn.: *S. angustiflora* ‘Sudwala Caves’ (Jankalski, 2006: 26). Alt. name: *S. concinna* subsp. *sudwallensis* R.H. Webb (misspelled, should be subsp. *sudwalensis*).

Description (adapted from Webb, 2020: 21–22, added with our own observations):

Rhizome long creeping, 1.5–2 cm in diam., pale orange turning grey with age and turning dark violet-purple when exposed to light; shoots with 2–5 leaves; leaves 20– ca. 70 cm long, pseudopetiole 5–15 cm long, to 1.5 cm in diameter, channelled, dark violet-purple when young (with or without paler spots), later turning orangish; broadened leaf part narrowly elliptic to elliptic lanceolate, margin red, upper surface smooth, mid green with paler green spots, lower surface as upper but often the base dark violet-purple around the midrib, less often expanded over nearly the entire surface. Inflorescence 40–50 cm long, non-flowering part ca 5 mm in diam., at first erect to semi-erect, eventually bending horizontal, flowering part 18–20 cm long, 9–10 cm wide (incl. flowers), axis with the directly light-exposed parts bright orange, remaining parts purple or dull green; flowers in clusters of 2–4(5), waxy pale violet when unopened, peduncles 4–5 mm, glaucous green with a thin waxy layer, ovary elliptic, 4–5 mm x 2 mm, glaucous green, with a waxy layer; perianth 40–45 mm long, basal part a narrow tube, ca. 20 mm long, 1–1.2 mm wide, outside glaucous greyish green with a faint pale purplish hue, lobes 3–5, white.

Notes:

1. Chahinian (1994: 43 – 45) referred to the area name Sudwala Caves (South Africa) as origin of a plant, he introduced into cultivation (numbered SJPI A021, and with the typography ‘Sudwala Caves’). The plant was found by S. Muller in 1978 (without number).

2. We suggest Chahinian (2005) used Sudwala Caves as a cultivar epithet for the first time, for the same reasons as stated by us under ‘Lake Sibaya’ (see there).

3. Jankalski (2006: 26) associates ‘Sudwala Caves’ with *S. angustiflora* Lindb. but he presents no reason for doing so. His statement with *S. angustiflora* reads, “*The collections known in the trade [as] ‘Sudwala Caves’ is [are] referable to this species but differ by having fewer leaves marked with wine red or maroon*”, but any decisive similarities to *S. angustiflora* are lacking, so we reject this association. Jankalski’s suggestion also means that a comparison with *S. hyacinthoides* (L.)Druce could be suggested, as most authors seem to agree that *S. angustiflorus* is a synonym of *S. hyacinthoides*.

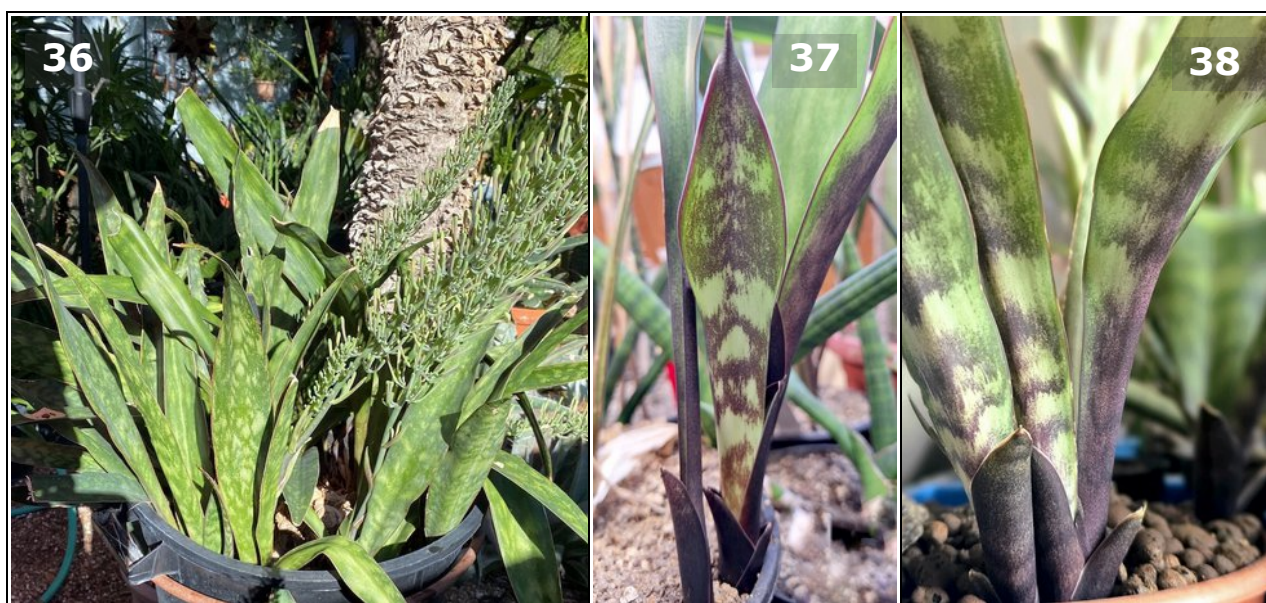
4. Concerning the suggested association of ‘Sudwala Caves’ with any species, a case very similar to that of ‘Lake Sibaya’ can be made. The cultivar has often been associated with *S. concinna* but its differences from

S. concinna s.str. are even greater than those between ‘Lake Sibaya’ and this species. Notable differences of ‘Sudwala Caves’ with *S. concinna* s.str. are:

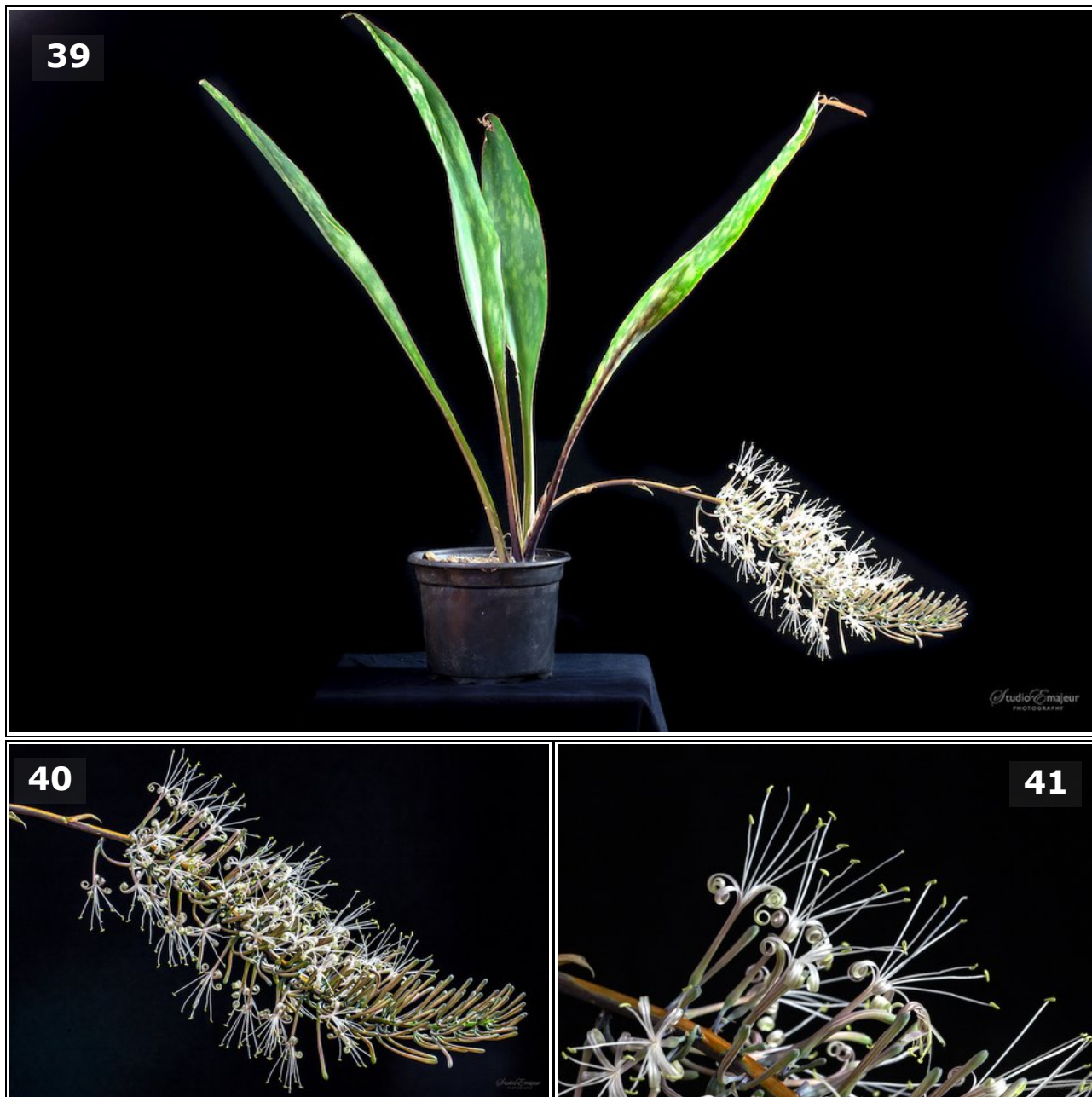
- a much larger size, with leaves up to 70 cm long
- a very dark purple colour of the pseudopetiole, with age becoming orangish (see Chahinian, 2005: 123)
- a thicker rhizome, up to 2 cm in diam. (vs. 1.5 cm).
- rhizome turning deep purple upon exposure to light (vs. staying green or brownish in *S. concinna*).
- no development of typical spoon leaves (only narrowly elongate and with pseudopetiole at the most taking up half the length of the entire leaf)
- inflorescence much larger, notably the flowering part
- flowers in clusters of 2 – 5 (unlike Webb, 2020, mentioning only 1–2)

We conclude that there is no relevant proof to date, to include ‘Sudwala Caves’ in *S. concinna*. For this reason and another (see below) we consider Webb’s (2020) renaming of ‘Sudwala Caves’ as a formal ICN-based taxon with the name *S. concinna* subsp. *sudwallensis*, as premature. It suggests that the single plant ever found of ‘Sudwala Caves’ represents a natural taxonomic entity, implying that it plays a role in nature, incl. all dynamics of plants in a population (like experiencing natural selection, interaction with e.g. pollinators and what not). But thus far there is no proof that the plant is a member of such a biological community or has ever been. The choice of the subspecies category by Webb implies that it is “a geographically separated population of a species”. But there is not a population of such plants as ‘Sudwala Caves’ known at all. Webb (2020) visited the general area of supposed origin of ‘Sudwala Caves’ (Sudwala Caves Park) but could not find any plant of it, nor did anyone there know of it.

As an aside, we notice that the type of Webb’s new taxon is cited as “Muller s.n.” but as Webb prepared the holotype himself from Muller’s clone, it must be cited as “Webb s.n.” or Webb + a Webb number”. The first author (WH) asked a staff member of MO (herbarium Missouri Bot. Gard.) to locate Webb’s specimen but it could not be found. The specimen may not have been inserted yet or is kept “in the dark” because of the present-day policy of herbaria, to not officially accept specimens of which it is unknown if they were collected legally, which is not a factual issue in the case of Webb’s specimen because it is taken from a plant only known in cultivation.



So, as in the case of ‘Lake Sibaya’ we refrain from associating ‘Sudwala Caves’ with any known species, let alone consider it a taxon (see Hetterscheid & Brandenburg, 1995, Hetterscheid et al. 1996 and Hetterscheid 2024a,b for a critical view of the use of the taxon concept for domesticated organisms). To us *S.* ‘Sudwala Caves’ it is a properly established cultivar, whose cultivar name correctly expresses its actual status as a domesticated plant.



12.) *Sansevieria* ‘Violetta’, new cultivar (Fig. 42–44)

= *S.* ‘Sudwala Caves’ x unknown (poss. *S. concinna*). Originator: unknown
Informal name: *S.* Violet.

Description:

Rhizome to 1.5 cm in diam., orange when fresh; shoots with up to 15 leaves; leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 10–60 cm long, 1.5–3 cm in diam., with or without a pseudopetiole, the latter deeply channelled, semi-cylindric, mid to dark violet-purple, leaf (ex pseudopetiole) upper surface papery, dark violet-purple or, more rarely, dark green, lower surface as upper surface. Inflorescence (one measured) 55 cm long, bending horizontal; flowerless part 30 cm long, 5 mm in diam., deep purple with numerous, small, narrow, dirty greyish-whitish spots, bracts distant, lanceolate, 2 (upper) – 8 (lowest) cm long, sharply, narrowly acute, lower half pale green, upper half brownish purple or spotted brownish purple; flowering part 25 x 10 cm (incl. flowers); flowers grouped in 2- to 4-flowered clusters; flower 4–4.5 cm long, tube 3–3.5 cm long, green or creamish, 1 mm in diam., lobes ca. 1 cm long, 1.5 mm in diam., white.

Note:

A very distinctive cultivar for its many, very narrow leaves with usually large parts being deep violet purple. The name of the cultivar alludes to its main colour in the shape of the name of the famous Violetta character of Verdi's opera *La Traviata*.



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