The search for Madagascar’s
\textbf{Aloe andringitrensis}
and a chance encounter with
\textbf{Perrierosedum madagascariense}

In May 2007 I traveled with Andrew Hankey of the Walter Sisiloo Botanical Garden, and as we ventured out to the mountain range of Andringitra in south-central Madagascar. We had planned just a one-day stop. Just south of Ambalavao, we veered off the main highway onto a dirt track and continued some 20 km to the World Wildlife Fund camp situated near the tiny village of Mandrosoa in a valley just below the mountains. We hoped that, among the granite crags above the village, we might encounter the high-altitude \textit{Aloe andringitrensis}. But when our guide, Franck Tong, consulted with the locals, we learned that the peak we wanted to visit, Pic Boby, was about nine miles away by foot—and nearly all uphill. More than one day would be required.

Franck did not want to make such a long hike, so he quickly secured two local guides for us. I was not accustomed to having guides, and the situation became somewhat awkward when Franck made them into porters as well, even though Andrew and I were essentially self-equipped. But these men were incredibly stalwart, and at Franck's instruction were burdened with carrying much more cooking and camping equipment than was necessary. Recogniz-

Our base camp on the overnight hike to Pic Boby in search of \textit{Aloe andringitrensis} was situated at 7000', just below these cliff faces where we found a rare and virtually unknown succulent, \textit{Perrierosedum madagascariense}. 