Rising in the central part of the Arabian coastline, there lies an abrupt moun-
tainous area bathed by the waters of the Arabian Sea, and endowed with a
very unusual misty climate pattern, called Coastal Fog or Monsoon Oasis.
History has divided this remarkable region that now includes most of the Omani Dhofar
governorate and the easternmost part of the Yemeni province of Al Mahrah. This is the atypical habitat
within which is found a species of Adenium Roem. & Schult. which until now was believed to be but a form
of those encountered in Yemen and beyond. Isolated from the rest of the Peninsula by the immense Rub
Al Khali desert in the north, the large and low lying western plain of Wadi Al Jiz that cuts it off from the
Al Mahrah governorate and the huge arid stony plain of Jiddat Al Harrasis in Muhafazat Al Wusta to the
east, stand the steep Dhofar mountains.

These are divided into four ranges, Jabal Samhan rising gently westward from the bay of Hallaniyyat
and peaking at 1821 m, then the Jabal Al Qara overlooking the broad Salalah plain, followed westward
by Jabal Al Qamar that dramatically plunges into the sea and, finally, ending in Yemeni territory with Jabal
Hawf. Of an intricate geological structure, these ranges are mainly composed of Cretaceous and Paleogene
limestones laying on Pre-Cambrian basement rocks.

Into such a peculiar topographic context, combined with a seasonal cold upwelling along the coast,
there comes the south west monsoon in the warm season called the Khareef, bathing the region in a moist
and persistent mixture of drizzle and haze for around three months every year, between mid-June and mid-
September. Such a supply of humidity enhances the annual rainfall considerably, multiplying the average
precipitation by a factor of up to five.