



ORTHOLOPHA

The Newsletter of the Aloe, Cactus and
Succulent Society of Zimbabwe

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Hi Everyone,

We had a great visit last month to Ruzawi School, organised by the very organised Sean Sagonda. A fine day in the country and a chance to look at a stunning school grounds and a couple of individual gardens. Fifty people came and luckily the weather held firm, but the day before or the day after and it could have been tricky. A big thanks to Paul Davies, Headmaster, the Dolphins, where we lunched and Sean and Itai his mother.



Which reminds me, what do you think of the absolutely stunning tree stem on the left? Have you ever seen anything so perfectly straight? Maybe you need to look again and see what is really there. And on the right? Dead leaves, right?????

Cheers,
Mafungi.

Your Committee

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Monthly Meeting : Sunday 27th August 2017

This month's **Meeting** is at **Monica Shultz's** home at No **6 Misseden Road**, in **Bluff Hill**. Monica is an avid gardener and has recently converted her garden to a water wise garden.

PLEASE remember to bring a delicious plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring your chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle.

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: Depending on where you are coming from get onto Lorraine Drive, either on Lomagundi Road at the Westgate roundabout or from Harare Drive at the Bluff Hill industrial park.

From the Westgate side take the 4th road on the left and **6 Misseden** is on the corner.

From the Harare Drive side take the 4th road to the right and **6 Misseden** is on the corner.

Flowering Plant: August

What is this, on the right?

Send your knowledgeable and considered opinions to bo.hoom52@yahoo.com.

The respected judge's decision is final and the winner will get a box of choice Belgian chocolates, provided they are shared.

The lucky winner in July will be announced on Sunday! Be there!!!!

You can claim your prize at the next Meeting on Sunday 27th August 2017



The plant above is the August entry.
What is it?

**Clue: it was photographed in Madagascar
Photograph taken by Mafungi**

You can win a box of chocolates!!!

Send your entries to Mafungi at
bo.hoom52@yahoo.com



At ACSSZ we also show an interest in all things green! And in Madagascar some things are greener than green, like this gecko.

Annual Membership: Thanks to all the members that have already paid. If you haven't yet paid, please do.

Membership is \$20 per person/couple per year. Children \$5 per year. Foreign membership \$40 per year. Make payment to a committee member, the CABS account, or through EcoCash:

CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society

Acc #: 1002616336 Reference: kindly include your surname as the deposit reference.

Alternatively send \$21-00 through EcoCash to 0783 911314 : kindly include a reference



Branching Hyphnae spp. On the edge of rampant erosion

When you visit the Red Tsingy in north-eastern Madagascar you will come across these Illala-palm equivalents growing in rampant profusion across the length and breadth of the ancient sand-dunes that form the geologic base of the area. The Tsingy were only exposed in the 1960's, coming into view as man's destructive agricultural practices led to massive erosion. So at the bottom of these huge gullies you will find the most amazing sandstone formations. They were developed into a community park with relatively easy visitor access only since about 1990. The Grey Tsingy of Ankarana on the north-western side is the result of ocean upliftment and are completely different. Look out for the next issue of Ingens to read about them.

People are poor and clever. There is no point in building brick and mortar houses that can be flattened by the destructive effect of cyclones that proliferate in the summer monsoons. So virtually everybody lives in well constructed huts made out of palm parts. Leaf spines for the roof support, palm poles for the uprights and palm leaves for the thatching. The huts lean into and with the wind. Repairs are easily done at the cost of labour only.



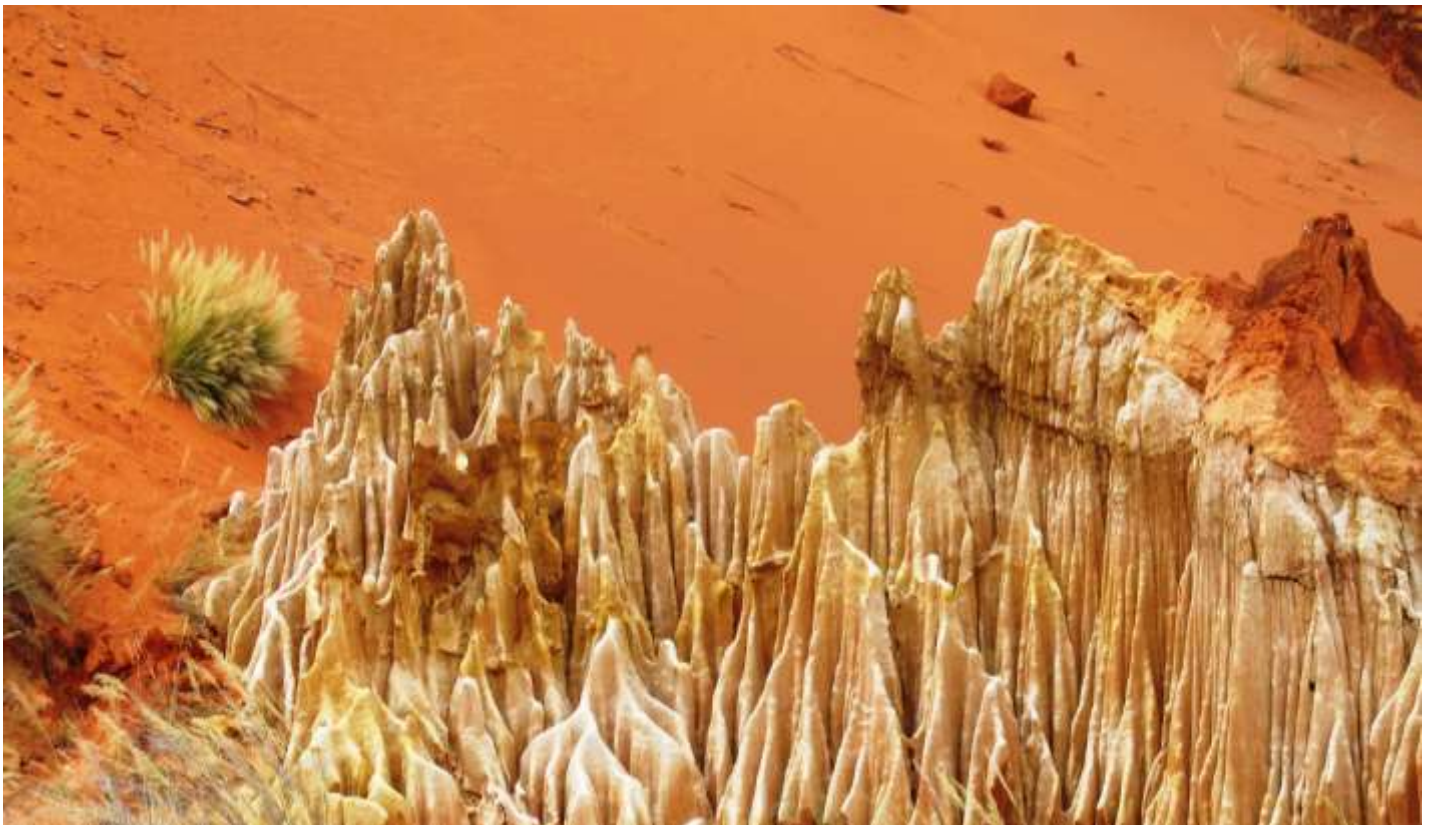


Raphia palms

The leaves of these palms are so valuable that Madagascar is a stronghold for the beautiful raphia palm. Vast plantations of them are maintained in river valleys so that the leaf-spines can be harvested and used as roof supports in the houses.

When we think how rare the raphia palm is in our own country and the fragility of a few isolated populations still existing only in the Chimanimani and Mvuradonha Mountains, it is almost beyond belief that in Madagascar, where there are huge threats from habitat loss to almost all other plant and animal life, that at least the raphia is safe.

The Health Corner: Well there you go folks what could be more healthy than having the chance to gaze upon sights such as this. Millions of years in the making and a few decades of poor farming practices and almost unbelievable formations appear out of the new riverbed. Fragile, but strangely calming to look at. Anticipation often keeps one alive well-beyond sell-by dates and if you can just hang around to the next issue of Ingens we will tell you more about some of our own amazing plants and places as well as those of Madagascar!!!!



So let's see you all out at the monthly meeting this coming weekend! There is so much to be done in our gardens in preparation for the summer coming soon.

Cheers, Mafungi