

RARE & ENDANGERED PLANT HIGHLIGHT

ALOE RAUHII

Aloe rauhii is a rare succulent plant native to the semi-desert of southwestern Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island. Madagascar is recognized as one of the world's most important centers of biodiversity and is home to five percent (5%) of the world's plant and animal species.

Because these plant species have evolved in relative isolation for millions of years, the flora of Madagascar is among the most unique and fascinating in the world. Eighty percent of Madagascar's plant species, including *Aloe rauhii*, are endemic, meaning that it occurs nowhere else in the world. Continued 'slash and burn' agricultural practices destroy both habitat and long term health of the nutrient poor soil. The resulting erosion then deposits huge quantities of sediment in islands rivers.

