



ROYAL
BOTANIC
GARDENS
KEW



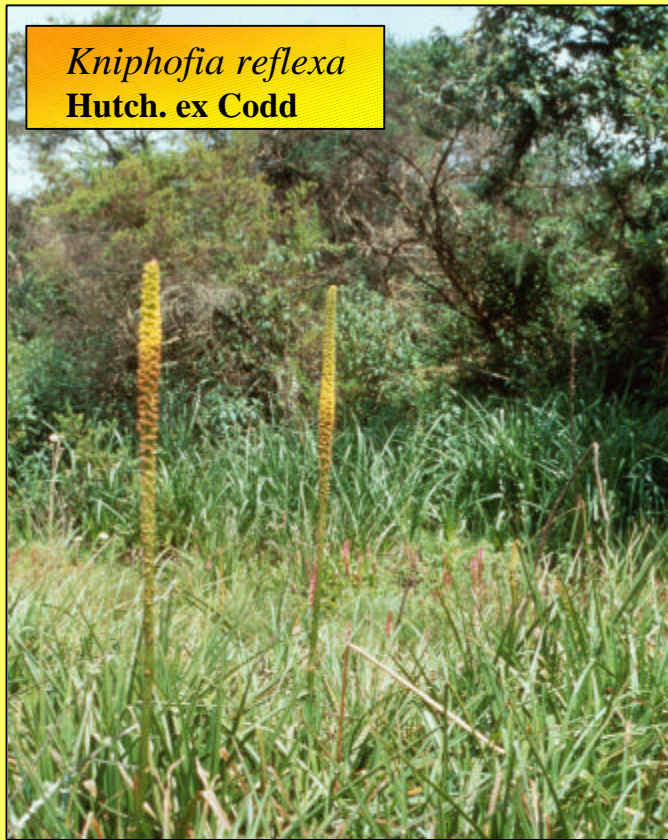
HERBIER
NATIONAL DU
CAMEROUN



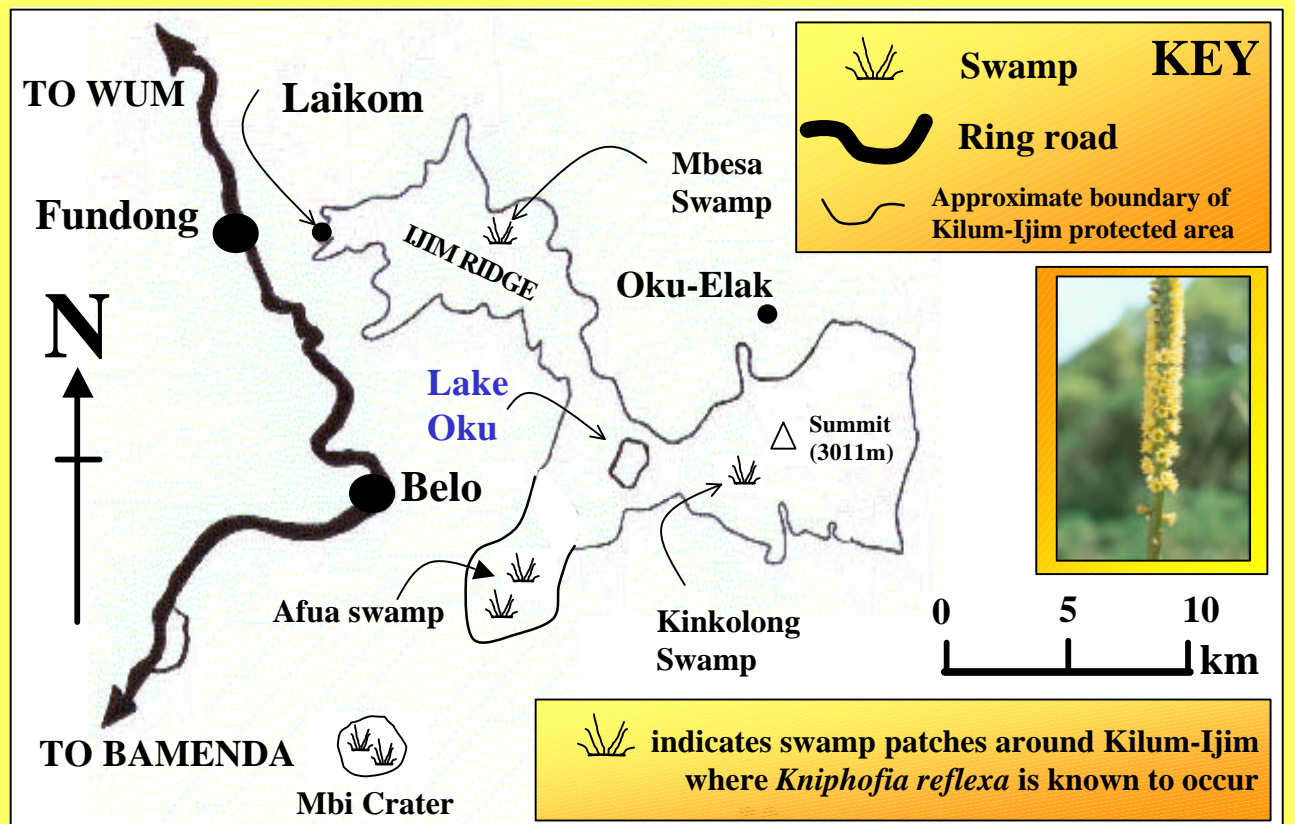
Rare plants of the Kilum-Ijim mountain forests

Kniphofia reflexa (Asphodelaceae)

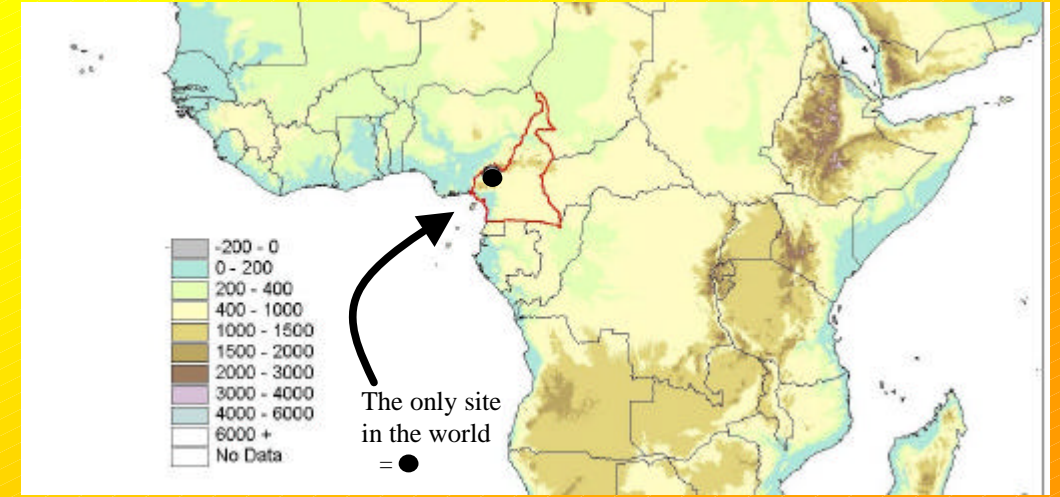
Kniphofia reflexa is a tufted perennial herb with soft leaves up to 60 cm long x 1.5 cm broad, arranged in a rosette; the inflorescence is a stout spike 0.6 to 1.6 m tall (to 2 m tall in fruit), smothered with small yellow flowers followed by black fruits. Populations usually produce only a few flowering spikes at one time.



Kniphofia reflexa
Hutch. ex Codd



Swampy habitats have many rare species in need of protection



Long known only from the collection made by Maitland in April 1931 from a single locality above Laikom on the Ijim Ridge, this plant was not recollected until Cameroonian botanist Martin Etuge found seven fruiting specimens at the Afua swamp in 1996. It has since been found at the Mbesa swamp, the Kinkolong swamp at the Kilum summit and in the Mbi Crater, but it is not known to occur anywhere else on the planet.

Kniphofia reflexa is the only species of this temperate, horticulturally important genus known from West-Central Africa. The other 64 species are known from Arabia, down through the mountains of East Africa, to South Africa and Madagascar. *Kniphofia reflexa* is a 'Red Data' species being officially accepted by IUCN (The World Conservation Union) as being Endangered (EN C1) globally.