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SEPASAL is a database and enquiry service about useful "wild" and semi-domesticated plants of tropical and subtropical drylands, developed and maintained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. "Useful" includes plants which humans eat, use as medicine, feed to animals, make things from, use as fuel, and many other uses.

Since 2004, there has been a Namibian SEPASAL team, based at the National Botanical Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources. By August 2007, over 700 Namibian species had been updated.

Work on updating species information, and adding new species to the database, is ongoing. It may be worth visiting the web site and querying the database to obtain the latest information for this species.

## Internet SEPASAL

New query

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 *Display help*In names list include:  synonyms  vernacular names and display: 10  names per page*Your query found 29 taxa*

## Cyperus articulatus L.

Family: CYPERACEAE

### Synonyms

None recorded

### Vernacular names

English (Africa)           aldrue [[1340](#)]  
 English (Namibia)       aldrue [[5098](#)], jointed flatsedge [[5098](#)]  
 Unknown (Mozambique) ndauru [[5480](#)], tindzau [[5480](#)]

### Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Kenya [ <a href="#">6544</a> ], Tanzania [ <a href="#">6544</a> ], Uganda [ <a href="#">6544</a> ]
		South Tropical Africa	Mozambique [ <a href="#">5480</a> ], Zambia [ <a href="#">5481</a> ], Zimbabwe [ <a href="#">5419</a> ]
		Southern Africa	Botswana [ <a href="#">5104</a> ] [ <a href="#">5700</a> ], Namibia [ <a href="#">5104</a> ] [ <a href="#">5149</a> ] [ <a href="#">5183</a> ], Natal [ <a href="#">5104</a> ], Swaziland [ <a href="#">5104</a> ] [ <a href="#">5452</a> ], Transvaal [ <a href="#">5104</a> ]
Status Unknown	Africa	West Tropical Africa	Burkina, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierre Leone, The Gambia, Togo
		Northern America	Oaxaca
		Southern America	
		Northern Mexico	
		Mesoamerica	

ISO countries: India , Mexico , South Africa [[5104](#)]

### Descriptors

**Category**

DESCRIPTION

**Descriptors and states**Herb [[5104](#)]; Aquatic [[5123](#)] [[6544](#)]; Annual [[5123](#)]; Erect [[5123](#)]; Perennial [[5104](#)] [[6544](#)];

CLIMATE	Stoloniferous [6544]; Aromatic - 'roots' [1340]; Plant Height 0.6-2 m [5098] [5104] Subtropical, Hot and Arid [6544]
SOILS	Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown) [5713]; Weakly Saline [5713]; Sandy [5123]; Loamy [5123]
HABITAT	Lowland [5713] [6544]; Watercourses [5713]; Lakes/Ponds/ Pools [6544]; Vlei/Dambo/Seasonally Flooded Grassland [6544]; Altitude 2-1700 m a.s.l. [5104] [6544]
PRODUCTION AND VALUE	Wild Plants Utilised [5098] [5177]
FURTHER DATA SOURCES	Botanical Illustration [5177] [5713] [6544]; Additional References [5318] [6557]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map [5123]
CHEMICAL ANALYSES	Unspecified Lipids - 'roots' [1340]

## Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
FOOD	Unspecified Parts	vegetables
MATERIALS	Unspecified Materials	perfumes
	Fibres	stems, matting; stems, woven material, mats [5177] [5713]
MEDICINES	Unspecified Medicinal Disorders	humans [1340]
	Digestive System Disorders	'roots', humans, stomach; roots, humans, vomiting [1340] [5098] [5177]; roots, humans, abdomen [1340] [5177]; rhizomes, humans, colic [5098] [5177]; rhizomes, humans, colic, teas [1340]
	Infections/Infestations	humans, anthelmintic [1340]
	Mental Disorders	'roots', humans, sedative [1340] [5098] [5177]
	Pain	rhizomes, humans, teeth, anodyne [1340] [5098] [5177]
	Poisonings	roots, humans, snake bites [1340] [5177]

## Picture

None recorded

## Notes

## NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

### *Name derivation:*

'Cuperos' (Latin) and 'keipeiros' (Greek) -sedge or rush; 'articulus' - Latin diminutive for joint, referring to cross walls that form joints across the stem [5177] .

## DISTRIBUTION

### *Botswana:*

Extremely common and widespread [5177] .

### *Mozambique:*

Gaza, Maputo, Niassa and Tete Provinces [5480] .

### *Namibia:*

Kaokoland, Owamboland and Grootfontein districts [5183] .

## DESCRIPTION

Cyperoid, emergent hydrophyte or helophyte [5104] .

*Growth form:*

A robust perennial with solitary culms from the ends of stolons [6544] .

*Height:*

0.6-1.6 m [5104] .

*Height:*

Up to 2 m [5098] .

*Inflorescence:*

Compound, terminal, lax anthela, 40-150 mm in diameter with 1-3 sessile spikelet-clusters and 2-10 pedunculate clusters, or umbels of new sessile and stalked clusters [6544] .

*Leaves:*

Leaf-blades absent. Leaf-sheaths loose, straw-coloured, purple or blackish, ending in a triangular limb [6544] .

*Roots:*

Stolons to 100 mm or more long (but frequently with culms at 10-30 mm intervals) and 2-8 mm thick, often woody, clothed with blackish or purple scales [6544] .

*Stems:*

Culms 80-1600 mm long and 3-12 mm thick below, but only 1-3 mm thick below the inflorescence, rounded, pith-filled with transverse rings 5-50 mm intervals. The lower part of the culm covered with 3-5 leaf-sheaths [6544] .

## IDENTIFICATION

Similar to *C. longus*, *C. denudatus* and *Schoenoplectus corymbosus* var. *corymbosus*, none of which have stem cross walls [5177] .

This species is recognized by the robust, leafless, septate culms and the rather large terminal inflorescence with minute inflorescence-bracts [6544] .

## MEDICINES - UNSPECIFIED MEDICINAL DISORDERS

In Mozambique the plant is used medicinally [1340] .

## MEDICINES - DIGESTIVE SYSTEM DISORDERS

*Rhizomes, humans, colic, teas:*

An infusion of the rhizome is used by the indigenous people of Central Africa as a colic remedy (Sillans 1953) [1340] .

*Roots, humans, vomiting:*

Roots used medicinally to reduce vomiting in yellow fever [1340] [5177] .

## MEDICINES - PAIN

*Rhizomes, humans, teeth, anodyne:*

In East Africa the root is a toothache remedy [1340] .

## CHEMICAL ANALYSES - MISCELLANEOUS

*'Roots', unspecified lipids, aromatic:*

The sun-dried pseudo-bulb yields to benzol 9.43% of concrete which has a faintly aromatic and terebinthine odour (Joly 1937). The benzol extract on distillation yields 18-19% of volatile oil [1340] .

## ALTITUDE

*East Africa:*

900-1300 m. In Kenya and Tanzania from sea-level to 1700 m [6544] .

*Southern Africa:*

2-1065 m [5104] [5713] .

## TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

### *Botswana:*

Usually emergent in permanent, deep (>1 m), standing water near lake edges or in flowing 'flats'. May occur in seasonal swamps that dry out infrequently [5177] .

### *Namibia:*

Riverbanks, pans, islands and marshes, [5123] .

### *Southern Africa:*

In or by fresh or somewhat brackish water up to more or less 1 m deep, in swamps, lake shores, streams and rivers [5713] .

## FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

### *Botswana:*

In spring and summer [5177] .

### *Flowering, southern Africa:*

October to March [5713] .

## CYTOLOGY

For the genus  $x = 5, 8 (6, 7, 9, 13)$  (high aneuploids, high polyploidy) [5150] .

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Updated for southern Africa by E. Irish, checked by C. Mannheimer; SEPASAL Namibia, National Botanical Research Institute, February 2007 .

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