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PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES



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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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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

Edit query

View query results

 *Display help*In names list include: synonyms vernacular names and display: All names per page*Your query found 29 taxa***Cyperus fulgens C.B.Clarke [5104]**

Family: CYPERACEAE

Synonyms

None recorded

Vernacular names

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Afrikaans (Namibia) | uintjie [1171] [2136] [5091] |
| Afrikaans (Southern Africa) | boesmanuintjie [2795], uintjie [2795] |
| Diriko (Namibia) | ntiua [5123] |
| Jul'hoan (Namibia) | !au [5111], /ga'allo [5111], /ga'allokuku [5111], /ga'aro [5111], g!a'u [5083] [5101], lao [5083] |
| Kung Bushmen (Namibia) | g!a'u [5098] |
| Kxoe (Namibia) | kyan-'an [5083] |
| Nama (Namibia) | !hanni [2136] |
| Naro (Namibia) | nlnni [5083] [5094] |
| Otjiherero (Namibia) | oseu [2795] [5083] [5098] |
| Otjiherero (Namibia) [bulb] | ozoseu [5091] [5095] |
| Rukwangali (Namibia) | nontukulu [5083] |
| Rumanyo (Namibia) | ntiua [5083] |
| San (Southern Africa) | !gewu [2795], n!ani [2795] |
| Thimbukushu (Namibia) | thiwa [5083] |
| Unknown (Okavango) | nohaywa [1171] |

Partial distribution

| Plant origin | Continent | Region | Botanical country |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| Native | Africa | East Tropical Africa | Tanzania [6544] |
| | | South Tropical Africa | Zambia [5481], Zimbabwe [5419] |
| | | Southern Africa | Botswana [5104] [5156] [5700], Cape Province [5104] [5156], Namibia [5104] [5149] [5156] [5183], Orange Free State [5104] [5156], Transvaal |

ISO countries: South Africa [5104]

Descriptors

| Category | Descriptors and states |
|--------------------------|--|
| DESCRIPTION | Herb [5104]; Bulbous [5101]; Annual [5123]; Erect [5123] [5156]; Cormous [5088]; Perennial [5104] [5111] [5123] [5156]; Stoloniferous [5101] [6544]; Plant Height 0.1-0.3 m [5104] |
| CLIMATE | Marked Dry Season [5091] [5104] [6544]; Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104] |
| SOILS | Well Drained [5123]; Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown) [5088] [5123]; Boulders/Rocky [5123]; Gravels/Stony [5123]; Alluvial Soils [5091]; Sandy [5123]; Seasonally Waterlogged [5091] [6544]; Loamy [5123] |
| HABITAT | Woodland [5123]; Shrubland/Bushland/Scrub [5123]; Hillsides/Slopes [5123]; Permanent Watercourses [5091] [5101]; Croplands [5156]; Pans [5123]; Altitude 350-1400 m a.s.l. [5104] |
| PRODUCTION AND VALUE | Wild Plants Utilised [2795] [5088] |
| CONSTRAINTS | Garden Weed [5123] |
| FURTHER DATA SOURCES | Botanical Illustration [6544]; Botanical Photograph [2795] [5088] [5111]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map [5123] |
| SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS | Taxon Recently Added from Literature [6040] |
| CHEMICAL ANALYSES | Unspecified Carbohydrates - 'roots' [5089] [5118]; Unspecified Lipids - 'roots' [5118]; Proteins - 'roots' [5118] |

Uses

| Major use | Use group | Specific uses |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| FOOD | 'Roots' | bulbs/corms [5091] [5123]; bulbs/corms, vegetable dishes [1171] [2136] [5088] [5089] [5098] [5101] [5111]; bulbs/corms, vegetable dishes, staple food [2795] [5118]; bulbs/corms, raw [1171] [2136] [2514] [5089] [5098] [5101] [5111] [5118] |
| ANIMAL FOOD | 'Roots' | bulbs/corms, game mammals [5123]; bulbs/corms, game birds [5123] |
| | Aerial Parts | unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing [5091] [5123] |

Picture

None recorded

Notes

NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

Name derivation:

'Fulgens' = shining, glistening (Latin) [5156] .

DISTRIBUTION

Africa:

Southern Africa and extending northwards to tropical Africa [5156] .

Namibia:

Kaokoland, Owambo, Etosha, Grootfontein, Okavango, Omaruru, Okahandja, Gobabis, Karibib, Windhoek and Rehoboth districts [5183] .

South Africa:

Var. *contractus* in Limpopo and Northwest Provinces. Var. *fulgens* in Limpopo, Northwest, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces [5104] .

Southern Africa:

Wide distribution in southern Africa, particularly in the Kalahari and other dry parts [2795] .

DESCRIPTION

'Roots':

Creamy white bulb covered with brown papery scales [5111] .

'Roots' Tuber [5123] .

Habit:

A tall, erect, robust perennial, with a bulb connecting the plant to its neighbour [5156] .

Height:

Var. *contractus* 0.1-0.3 m. Var. *fulgens* up to 0.3 m [5104] .

Inflorescences:

20.5-70 mm long and 20-100 mm wide anthela, consisting of one sessile and 2-6 stalked spikes, only rarely with additional secondary spikes [6544] .

Leaves:

Many at base, the largest 150-250 mm long and 3-8 mm wide [6544] .

Lifeform:

Sedge [5088] .

Lifeform:

Var. *contractus* - cyperoid, geophyte, helophyte. Var. *fulgens* - cyperoid, geophyte, mesophyte [5104] .

Stems:

Culms 200-250 mm long and 0.8-3.0 mm thick, triangular [6544] .

IDENTIFICATION

Similar to *C. usitatus*, but is taller and has a larger, lax inflorescence and larger bulb [6544] .

FOOD - 'ROOTS'

Bulbs, raw, vegetable dishes:

After removing the papery scale, the bulb can be eaten either raw or baked in hot ash. Eaten raw, it is refreshing due to its water content and the taste is a little bit like ginger [5089] [5111] .

Bulbs, vegetable dishes:

The bulbs are easily dug out and usually roasted in hot ash. Before consumption the scales are removed. If there are enough bulbs, they are pounded and cooked with water. Milk may be added later. If the corms are baked and dried, they are stored for later consumption. The corms are mostly collected in wintertime [5088] .

Bulbs, vegetables dishes:

The bulb is roasted in the sand under the fire [5101] .

Corms, raw, vegetables dishes, staple food:

The corms are edible and collected in large quantities as a staple food in many parts of southern Africa. The corms are borne directly below the flowering stalks at a relatively shallow depth. The fresh corms are sweetish and somewhat astringent, but roasting in hot ash is said to improve the sweetish nutty taste, as does boiling in milk [2795] .

ANIMAL FOOD - 'ROOTS'

Bulbs/corms, game mammals, game birds:

In Namibia the bulbs are eaten by game mammals and guinea fowl [5123] .

CHEMICAL ANALYSES - MISCELLANEOUS

'Roots', carbohydrates, proteins, fatty acids:

The corms contain approximately 8% protein, 40% carbohydrates and 20-25% fat [5118] .

ALTITUDE

East Africa:

800-850 m [6544] .

Southern Africa:

Var. contractus at 350-1200 m. Var. fulgens at ?-1400 [5104] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Namibia:

Growing near permanent springs [5091] .

GEOLOGY

Namibia:

Calcrete, granite and dolomite [5123] .

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS - MISCELLANEOUS

Namibia:

Growing on damp, alluvial soils after rain [5091] .

FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

Flowering, southern Africa:

December to March [5156] .

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, March 2007 .

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