

Kew

PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES



This report was generated from the SEPASAL database (www.kew.org/ceb/sepasal) in August 2007. This database is freely available to members of the public.

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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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 margaritaceus Vahl [5104]**

Family: CYPERACEAE

Synonyms

Cyperus pseudoniveus Boeck.

Vernacular names

Afrikaans (Namibia) witbiesie [5083]

Jul'hoan (Namibia) #umagari [5083], kari [5083]

Khukh (Namibia) !khopobes [5083]

Naro (Namibia) loiba [5083]

Rumanyo (Namibia) nzuwu-nzuwu [5083]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Kenya [6544], Tanzania [6544], Uganda [6544]
		South Tropical Africa	Mozambique [5480], Zambia [5481], Zimbabwe [5419]
		Southern Africa	Botswana [5104], Cape Province [5104], Namibia [5104] [5149] [5183], Natal [5104], Orange Free State [5104], Swaziland [5104], Transvaal [5104]

ISO countries: South Africa [5104]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Herb [5104]; Annual [5123]; Rhizomatous [5123]; Perennial [5098] [5104] [6544]; Plant Height 0.12-0.75 m [5104]
CLIMATE	Marked Dry Season [5104]; Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]
SOILS	Well Drained [5123]; Sandy [5123] [6544]; Loamy [5123]; Sandy Loams [5123]
HABITAT	Plateaux [5123]; Woodland [5123] [6544]; Grassland/Forb-Land [5123] [6544];

Hillsides/Slopes [5123]; Watercourses [5123]; Pans [5123]; Plains [5123]; Altitude 0-2100 m a.s.l. [5104] [6544]

PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Wild Plants Utilised [5094]

FURTHER DATA SOURCES

Botanical Illustration [6544]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map [5123]

SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS

Taxon Recently Added from Literature [6040]

Uses

Major use

Use group

Specific uses

MATERIALS

Fibres

stems, plugs [5094]

ENVIRONMENTAL USES

Ornamentals

live plant in situ, gardens [6155]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

Varieties:

In East Africa three varieties occur; var. margaritaceus, var. nduru and var. tisseranti [6544] .

DISTRIBUTION

Mozambique:

Cabo-Delgado, Inhambane, Maputo and Niassa Provinces [5480] .

Namibia:

Owambo, Grootfontein, Okavango, Otjiwarongo, Okahandja, Gobabis, Karibib and Windhoek Districts [5183] .

Southern Africa:

Var. margaritaceus occurs in Limpopo, Northwest, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu/Natal and Northern Cape Provinces of South Africa as well as Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland [5104] .

Zambia:

Var. nduru [5481] .

DESCRIPTION

Height:

0.12-0.75 m [5104] .

Inflorescence:

Solitary, congested head of 2-8 crowded spikelets [6544] .

Leaves:

100-400 mm long and 1-4 mm wide, flat or inrolled [6544] .

Lifeform:

A robust perennial with swollen, bulb-like base [6544] .

Lifeform:

Herb, cyperoid, mesophyte [5104] .

Stems:

Culms 200-700 mm long. The base covered by hardened reddish brown or blackish leaf-sheaths [6544] .

IDENTIFICATION

C. margaritaceus and *C. obtusiflorus* var. *obtusiflorus* are very close but *margaritaceus* has less compressed spikelets clustered in groups of 3-7 [5173] .

In its typical form *C. margaritaceus* is easily separated from *C. niveus* by its larger swollen stem-base, fewer and less compressed spikelets and larger nutlets, but the two varieties var. *nduru* and var. *tisseranti* are intermediate [6544] .

MATERIALS - FIBRES

Plugs, stems:

Several stalks are bundled together, the top ends are broken off and the tightly pressed bundle is then used as a plug to seal ostrich-eggshell water containers [5094] .

ENVIRONMENTAL USES - ORNAMENTALS

Live plant in situ, gardens:

Attractive plant with horticultural and cut flower potential [6155] .

ALTITUDE

East Africa:

Var. *margaritaceus* at sea level up to 1600 m. Var. *nduru* at 1000-1900 m. Var. *tisseranti* at 1100-2100 m [6544] .

Southern Africa:

12-2100 m [5104] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Namibia:

Mountain slopes, plains, plateaus, pans and riverbanks [5123] .

GEOLOGY

Namibia:

Sandstone, quartzite and calcrete [5123] .

VEGETATION

East Africa:

Open woodland, grassland recently burnt grassland and savanna [6544] .

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 .

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Namibia:

A wild-growing species in northern Namibia which is tolerated and used by the Mbukushu people [5118] .

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