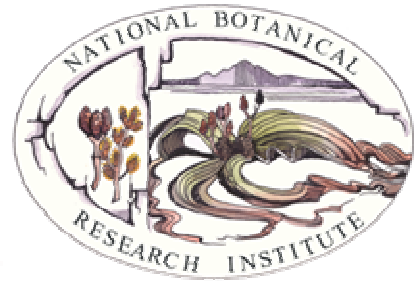


Kew

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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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

Family: CYPERACEAE

Synonyms

Cyperus brunneo-vaginatus Boeck.

Vernacular names

Afrikaans (Namibia) matjiesgoed [5083]

Damara>Nama (Namibia) lharu.s/b [5095]

Nama (Namibia) !khopobe.s [5095], !khowob.s [5095], lharub [2136]

Otjiherero (Namibia) ondeka [5123]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	East Tropical Africa Southern Africa	Kenya [6544] Cape Province [5104], Lesotho [5104] [5550], Namibia [5104] [5183], Orange Free State [5104], Swaziland [5104] [5452], Transvaal [5104]

ISO countries: South Africa [5104]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Herb [5104]; Aquatic [5123]; Erect [6544]; Rhizomatous [2136] [5123] [6544]; Perennial [5104] [5123] [6544]; Plant Height 0.3-1.52 m [5104]
CLIMATE	Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]
SOILS	Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown) [6544]; Weakly Saline [5123]; Gravels/Stony [5123]; Poorly Drained [5123]; Sandy [5123]; Seasonally Waterlogged [5123]; Silts [5123]
HABITAT	Coastal Regions [5123]; Lowland [6544]; Watercourses [2136] [5123]; Estuaries [5123]; Floodplains [5123]; Pans [5123]; Altitude 5-2150 m a.s.l. [5104]
PRODUCTION AND VALUE	Wild Plants Utilised [2136] [5084]

FURTHER DATA Botanical Illustration [6544]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map [5123]
SOURCES
SEPASAL Taxon Recently Added from Literature [6040]
DATASHEET STATUS

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
ANIMAL FOOD	Aerial Parts	unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing [5123]
MATERIALS	Fibres	stems, thatch, roofs [2136]; stems, plaiting, mats [2136] [5084] [5095]; stems, plaiting, baskets [5103]; stems, thatch, huts [5095]
MEDICINES	Infections/Infestations	roots, humans, throat, infections, poultices [5095]; roots, humans, mumps, poultices [5095]
ENVIRONMENTAL USES	Indicators	groundwater [5095]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

DISTRIBUTION

South Africa:

Northwest, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu/Natal, Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces [5104] .

DESCRIPTION

Height:

0.6-0.8 m [6544] .

Height; 0.3-1.52 m [5104] .

Inflorescences:

A 20-60 mm wide, open anthela consisting of one sessile group of spikelets and 2-5 stalked, digitate clusters of spikelets on 50-300 mm long, glabrous peduncles [6544] .

Leaves:

Originating from the basal 120 mm of the plant only. Leaf sheaths straw coloured or brown, very wide and prominent, the lowermost splitting up into dark bark fibres. Leaf blades absent or up to 10 mm long, glabrous [6544] .

Life form:

Sedge [5123] .

Lifeform:

Cyperoid, helophyte [5104] .

Stems:

Culms up to 0.6-0.8 m long and 1-3 mm thick, obtusely triangular, glabrous [6544] .

IDENTIFICATION

Most similar to *C. conglomeratus*, but is lacking leaf blades, or has blades only up to 10 mm long [6544] .

ANIMAL FOOD - AERIAL PARTS

Unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing:

In Namibia it is grazed by livestock [5123] .

MATERIALS - FIBRES

Plaiting, baskets, stems:

In the lower Ugab-valley in Namibia it was used for the manufacture of baskets, in which plant foods such as berries could be stored [5103] .

Plaiting, mats, stems:

It is used as raw material for the construction of mats. It is the best suited type available in the Berseba area (Namibia), as it is thick and reaches a length of up to 1.5 m, allowing wider mats [5084] .

Thatch, huts, stems:

It is a favoured house-building material among the Nama in Namibia [5095] .

MEDICINES - INFECTIONS/INFESTATIONS

Roots, humans, throat, infections, mumps, poultices:

Portions of the root are warmed and then placed as a poultice around the throat of someone with a sore throat or mumps [5095] .

ENVIRONMENTAL USES - INDICATORS

Ground water:

Where this plant grows, in northwest Namibia, it is considered to indicate that there is water close to the surface which you will be able to reach by digging with a stick [5095] .

ALTITUDE

East Africa:

450 m [6544] .

Southern Africa:

5-2150 m [5104] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Namibia:

Riverbank, riverbeds, fountains, floodplains, pans and estuaries [5123] .

SOILS

Namibia:

Sandy silt, stony/rocky soil and saline tolerant [5123] .

CYTOLOGY

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DATASHEET PROGRESS

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

References

- [2136] Van den Eynden, V., Vernemmen, P. and Van Damme, P. 1992. *The ethnobotany of the Topnaar*. Brussels: European Commission. 145p. En (Af).
[5083] Craven, P. and Kolberg, H. In prep. *Common names of Namibian plants*. Windhoek.

- [5084] Du Pisani, E. 1983. Past and present plant utilization in Namaland and the lower Kuiseb River Valley, South West Africa (Namibia). A preliminary report. *Khoisis Occasional Papers*. 4:1-19.
- [5095] Sullivan, S. 1998. *People, plants and practice in drylands: socio-political and ecological dimensions of resource-use by Damara farmers in north-west Namibia*. London: University College London. Unpublished PhD. thesis.
- [5103] Steyn, H.P. and du Pisani, E. 1984/1985. Grass-seeds, game and goats: An overview of Dama subsistence. *SWA Scientific Society Journal*. 39: 37-52.
- [5104] Germishuizen, G. and Meyer, N.L., eds. 2003. *Plants of southern Africa: an annotated checklist*. Strelitzia 14. Pretoria: National Botanical Institute.
- [5123] National Herbarium of Namibia. Undated. *Specimen Database (SPMNDB)*. Windhoek: National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia.
- [5150] Leistner, O.A., ed. 2000. *Seed plants of southern Africa: families and genera*. Strelitzia 10. Pretoria: National Botanical Institute.
- [5183] Prodrromus einer Flora von Suedwestafrika. 1966-1972. J. Cramer, Lehre. Ge.
- [5452] Braun, K.P., Dlamini, S.D.V., Mdladla, D.R., Methule, N.P. et al. 2004. *Swaziland flora checklist*. SABONET Report No. 27. Pretoria: Southern African Botanical Diversity Network.
- [5550] Kobisi, K. 2005. *Preliminary checklist of the plants of Lesotho*. SABONET Report No. 34. Pretoria and Roma: Southern African Botanical Diversity Network. 84p.
- [6040] SEPASAL Namibia. 2005/2006. *National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia*. Windhoek: Namibia.
- [6544] Haines, R.W. and Lye K.A. 1983. *The sedges and rushes of East Africa*. Nairobi: East African History Society. En.

SEPASAL's development has been funded by The Clothworkers' Foundation and its Internet development is funded by The Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust. Nutritional information on African wild foods is funded by Nestlé Charitable Trust.

All data © The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1999-2007 [Full copyright statement](#)

If you wish to cite SEPASAL, please read [this](#) first

To send us feedback and bug reports, please click [here](#)