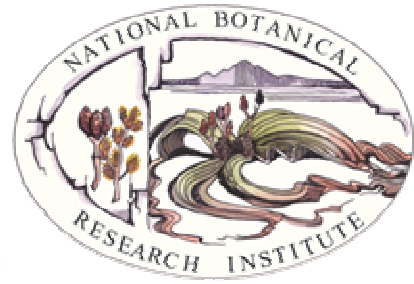


# Kew

PLANTS PEOPLE  
POSSIBILITIES



This report was generated from the SEPASAL database ([www.kew.org/ceb/sepasal](http://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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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 sphaerospermus Schrad. [5104]**

Family: CYPERACEAE

**Synonyms**

Cyperus denudatus L.f. var. sphaerospermus (Schrad.) Kük.

**Vernacular names**

Afrikaans (Namibia)	matjiesgoed [1304] [5083]
Afrikaans (South Africa)	matjiesgoed [5156]
Kwanyama (Namibia)	efinde [1304] [5083]
Kwanyama (Namibia) [leaf, singular]	ofinde [1304]
Thimbukushu (Namibia)	diraurau [5083]
Unknown (Mozambique)	shirebvu [5480]

**Partial distribution**

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	South Tropical Africa	Mozambique [5480], Zambia [5481]
		Southern Africa	Botswana [5104] [5156] [5700], Cape Province [5104] [5156], Namibia [5104] [5149] [5156] [5183], Natal [5104] [5156], Orange Free State [5104] [5156], Swaziland [5104] [5156] [5452], Transvaal [5104] [5156]

ISO countries: South Africa [5104]

**Descriptors****Category**

DESCRIPTION

**Descriptors and states**

Herb [5104] [5156]; Erect [5123]; Terrestrial [5123]; Rhizomatous [5156] [5303]; Perennial [5104] [5123] [5303]; Plant Height 0.2-0.9 m [5104]

CLIMATE

Marked Dry Season [5156]; Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]

SOILS

Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown) [5123] [5156] [5303]; Sandy [5123]; Clayey [5123]

HABITAT	Lowland [5104]; Dunes [5123]; Watercourses [5123]; Lakes/Ponds/Pools [5123]; Floodplains [5123]; Pans [5123]; Altitude 1-1800 m a.s.l. [5104]
PRODUCTION AND VALUE	Wild Plants Utilised [1304]
FURTHER DATA SOURCES	Botanical Illustration [5156]; Additional References [5349] [5638]; Botanical Photograph [5303]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map [5123] [5303]
SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS	Taxon Recently Added from Literature [6040]

## Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
ANIMAL FOOD	Aerial Parts	stems, primates, forage [2514]
MEDICINES	Pregnancy/Birth/Puerperium Disorders	leaves, humans, post partum, inhalers [1304]
	Respiratory System Disorders	roots, humans, coughs, oral ingestion [5123]

## Picture

None recorded

## Notes

## NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

### *Name derivation:*

Sphaerospermus = with rounded seeds (Greek) [5156] .

## DISTRIBUTION

### *Mozambique:*

Inhambane, Manica and Maputo Provinces [5480] .

### *Namibia:*

Owambo, Grootfontein and Otjiwarongo Districts [5183] .

### *South Africa:*

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

## DESCRIPTION

### *Flowers:*

Spikelets dull green or pale brown tinged red, 3-4 mm wide, bracts longer than inflorescence branches [5303] .

### *Height:*

0.2-0.9 m [5104] .

### *Leaves:*

3-4 mm wide [5303] .

### *Life form:*

Cyperoid, mesophyte [5104] .

### *Stems:*

3 angled under inflorescence, not winged, firm, more or less 2 mm in diameter [5303] .

## ANIMAL FOOD - AERIAL PARTS

*Stems, primates, forage:*

In South Africa baboons eat the stem-meristem (Stoltz 1977) [2514] .

## **MEDICINES - PREGNANCY/BIRTH/PUERPERIUM DISORDERS**

*Leaves, humans, post partum, inhalers:*

Leaves are burned so smoke drifts over woman after childbirth and inhalation assists in recovery (Loeb et al. 1956) [1304] .

## **MEDICINES - RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS**

*Roots, humans, coughs, oral ingestion:*

Roots chewed for coughs and against bad breath [5123] .

## **ALTITUDE**

*Southern Africa:*

1-1800 m [5104] .

## **TOPOGRAPHY/SITES**

*Namibia:*

Pans, river banks, floodplains, omurambas, dunes, marshes, islands and pools [5123] .

## **FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET**

*Flowering, South Africa:*

In the northern parts it flowers from September to April [5156] .

## **CYTOLOGY**

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

## **PROPAGATION - VEGETATIVE**

New plants root from vegetative buds on the inflorescences [5303] .

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DATASHEET PROGRESS**

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

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