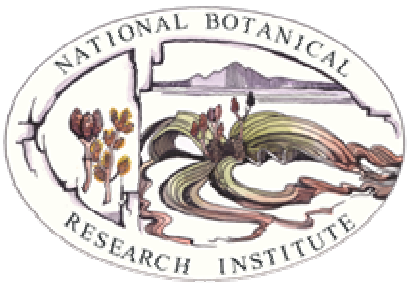

This report was generated from the SEPASAL database (www.kew.org/ceb/sepasal) in August 2007. This database is freely available to members of the public.

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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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 1 taxon

Dactyloctenium giganteum Fisher & Schweick [2182]

Family: POACEAE

Synonyms

None recorded

Vernacular names

(Mozambique)	brewnda [5480], chimbue [5480], ipatandia [2259]
(South Africa)	rathathe [2259]
Afrikaans (Namibia)	reusehoenderspoor [5083] [5115] [5116]
Afrikaans (South Africa)	reusehoenderspoor [2259]
Afrikaans (Southern Africa)	sterretjiegras [2182]
English (Namibia)	giant crowfoot [5115] [5116] [5118]
English (South Africa)	giant crowfoot [2259]
English (Zimbabwe)	giant's crow's foot [2259]
German (Namibia)	Grosse Schirmgras [5083] [5115] [5116]
Hlengwe (Zimbabwe)	chiPanzulu [2259]
Jul'hoan (Namibia)	phuka [5083] [5115]
Rumanyo (Namibia)	kankumbue [5083] [5115]
Tonga (Zimbabwe)	nsonko [2259]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Tanzania [3] [2259]
		South Tropical Africa	Malawi [3] [2259], Mozambique [3] [2259] [5480], Zambia [3] [2259] [5481], Zimbabwe [3] [2259] [5125]
		Southern Africa	Botswana [3] [2182] [2259] [5186], Cape Province [2182], Caprivi Strip [3] [2182] [5115] [5116], Namibia [3] [2182] [2259] [5104] [5115] [5116], Natal [3] [2182] [2259], Swaziland [5452],

			Transvaal [3] [2182] [2259]

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Status Unknown	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Kenya [3] [2259]
		South Tropical Africa	Angola [3] [2259]

ISO countries: South Africa [3] [2182]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Prostrate/Procumbent/Semi-erect [3] [5116]; Tussock Forming/Tufted/Caespitose [3] [2182] [5116]; Annual [2182] [5115]; Erect [3] [2182] [5116]; Stoloniferous [3]; Plant Height <= 1.6 m [3]
CLIMATE	Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]; Annual Rainfall >= 450 mm [5664]
SOILS	Alluvial Soils [3]; Sandy [3] [5116] [5117] [5664]
HABITAT	Coastal Regions [2259]; Lowland [3] [2259]; Forms Monospecific Stands [5117] [5664]; Grassland/Forb-Land [2182] [5117]; Wooded Grassland [2182] [5117]; Watercourses [2182] [5118]; Anthropogenic Landscapes [2182] [5118] [5664]; Croplands [3] [5664]; Rangelands/Pastures [2182]; Vlei/Dambo/Seasonally Flooded Grassland [3]; Altitude 10-1100 m a.s.l. [5104]
PHYSIOLOGY	C4 [6146]; Shade Tolerant [2182] [5116] [5117] [5664]
PRODUCTION AND VALUE	Wild Plants Utilised [5118]
CONSTRAINTS	Weed [2182]; Agricultural Weed [3] [5117] [5664]
FURTHER DATA SOURCES	Botanical Illustration [3] [2182] [5116]; Regional Distribution Map [2259] [5664]; Botanical Photograph [2182] [5117] [5664]; Databases [5123]; Habit Illustration/Photograph [5117] [5664]; Grid Map [2182] [5115] [5116] [5117] [5123]
SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS	Taxon Recently Added from Literature [6040]

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
FOOD	Seeds	entire seeds [2514]
ANIMAL FOOD	Aerial Parts	unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing [2259] [5116] [5117] [5118]; unspecified aerial parts, game mammals, grazing [2259] [5117]; unspecified aerial parts, mammals, hay/straw [2259] [5116] [5117]; unspecified aerial parts, birds, grazing [2259]; unspecified aerial parts, birds, grazing [2259]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

The generic name is derived from the Greek 'dactylos' which means 'finger' and 'ktenion' which means 'little comb', alluding to the digitate flowerhead of comb-like spikes. 'Giganteum' is the Greek for 'a giant' or 'very large', and alludes to the size of the inflorescence of the plant [2259] [5116] .

VERNACULAR NAMES

(Mozambique), ipatandia:
A common name used in the Porto Amelia region (Cabo Delgado province) [2259] .

DISTRIBUTION

Africa:
Tropical east Africa [2182] .
Namibia:
Northeast [5115] .

DESCRIPTION

Height:
0.48-1.14 m [2182] [5104] .
Height:
Up to 1.2 m [5116] [5664] .
Height:
Up to 1.6 m [3] .
Inflorescence:
Spikelets 4.0-6.2 mm long. Spikes 3-9, 35-110 mm long. Lemma keels scabrid. Awns 0.7-2.0 mm long [2182] .
Leaves:
Leaf blade is folded open, with a prominent midrib and scattered hairs on the margin. The leaf sheath is pressed flat. Ligule a membrane with a margin of short hairs [5117] [5664] .
Leaves:
Leaf blades 110-450 mm long, 5-12 mm wide [2182] .
Seeds:
Grains triangular, apex truncate to concave [2182] .

IDENTIFICATION

The stout spikes with short, rigid awns distinguish the genus from most other grasses with a digitate flowerhead. D. aegyptium and D. giganteum appear to be closely related. They are both annuals and grow in disturbed areas, with a similar distribution range in Africa. D. aegyptium is usually less robust and has smaller anthers than D. giganteum [2259] .

ANIMAL FOOD - AERIAL PARTS

Unspecified aerial parts, game mammals, birds, grazing:
In Mozambique it is grazed by game and in Zimbabwe it is grazed by zebra, buffalo and ostrich [2259] .
Unspecified aerial parts, hay/straw:
Makes good hay if cut in the early flowering stage [5116] [5117] .
Unspecified aerial parts, mammals, game mammals, grazing:
A palatable pasture grass with a high yield, well utilised by livestock and game, particularly in the young stage [5117] .

WEED PROBLEMS CAUSED

South tropical Africa:
Frequently a weed of irrigated land at low altitudes [3] .

CONSTRAINTS - MISCELLANEOUS

In some areas it may be a fire hazard in the dry season [2259] .

ALTITUDE

South tropical Africa:
20-1100 m [3] .
Southern Africa:
10-1100 m [5104] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

South tropical Africa:
In sandy dambos and vleis, in riverbank alluvium and common on disturbed ground at roadsides and in old cultivated fields [3] .
Southern Africa:
In open veld or disturbed areas on riverbanks or near water. In disturbed places such as cultivated lands, road reserves or trampled areas [2182] [5117] [5664] .

SOILS

Namibia:
Limited to sandy soils [5116] .
South tropical Africa:
Sandy soils, Kalahari sands and in riverbank sandy alluvium [3] .

VEGETATION

Southern Africa:
It may form dense dominant stands during seasons of good rains [5117] [5664] .

FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

Flowering, southern Africa:
November to May [2182] [5117] [5664] .

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

C4-PCK pathway with K-PS-PCK anatomy [6146] .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DATASHEET PROGRESS

Updated for southern Africa by E. Irish; checked by C. Mannheimer; SEPASAL Namibia, National Botanical Research Institute, March 2006 .

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