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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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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 1 taxon***Digitaria milanjana (Rendle) Stapf [1808]**

Family: POACEAE

Synonyms

Digitaria boivinii Henrard
 Digitaria bulbosa Peter
 Digitaria endlichii Mez
 Digitaria endlichii Mez subsp. meziana Henrard
 Digitaria exasperata Henrard
 Digitaria fusca Chiov.
 Digitaria gallaensis Chiov.
 Digitaria gracilentia Henrard
 Digitaria kilimandscharica Mez
 Digitaria milanjana (Rendle) Stapf var. abscondita Henrard
 Digitaria milanjana (Rendle) Stapf subsp. eylesiana Henrard
 Digitaria mombasana C.E.Hubb.
 Digitaria polevansii Steut subsp. peterana Henr.
 Digitaria setivalva Steut
 Digitaria stapfii Henrard
 Digitaria swynnertonii Rendle
 Panicum milanjanum Rendle
 Panicum sanguinale L. var. scabriglume Hackel

Vernacular names

Afrikaans (Namibia) panvingergras [1304] [5083] [5115]
 Afrikaans (South Africa) makarikari-vingergras [2259], milanjevingergras [2259], panvingergras [2259]
 English (Namibia) milanje finger grass [2259], woolly fingergrass [5115]
 English (South Africa) makarikari finger grass [2259], milanje finger grass [2259], milanje grass [2259]
 English (Southern Africa) malinje finger grass [2182]
 English (Zimbabwe) milanje finger grass [2259], milanje grass [2259]
 Thimbukushu (Namibia) sindesinde [5115] [5123], thingandu [5083]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	Southern Africa	Botswana [3] [2182] [2259] [5104] [5186], Caprivi Strip [2182] [5115], Namibia [2182] [5104] [5115] [5149], Orange Free State

			[2182], Transvaal [2182] [2259] [5104]
Introduced	Australasia	Australia	New South Wales [1808]
Status Unknown	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Kenya [2259], Tanzania [2259], Uganda [3] [2259]
		Northeast Tropical Africa	Ethiopia [3]
		South Tropical Africa	Angola [2259], Malawi [3] [2259], Mozambique [3] [2259] [5480], Zambia [3] [2259] [5481], Zimbabwe [3] [2259] [5125]
		West-Central Tropical Africa	Congo [3] [2259]

ISO countries: South Africa [2182] [5104]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Erect [2182]; Rhizomatous [3] [2182] [2259]; Perennial [3] [2182] [5104]; Stoloniferous [3] [2182] [5123]; Plant Height 0.5-2 m [5104]
CLIMATE	Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]; Annual Rainfall <= 600 mm [6146]
SOILS	Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown) [5123]; Saline [3]; Sandy [2259] [5123]; Clayey [2259]
HABITAT	Woodland [3] [2259] [5123]; Grassland/Forb-Land [3] [5123]; Wooded Grassland [3] [2182]; Termitaria [2259]; Anthropogenic Landscapes [3] [2182] [2259]; Croplands [2259]; Vlei/Dambo/Seasonally Flooded Grassland [2259]; Flats [5123]; Altitude 300-1400 m a.s.l. [2182]
PHYSIOLOGY	C4 [6146]
PRODUCTION AND VALUE	Wild Plants Utilised [1304]
CONSTRAINTS	Weed [3]; Forest Weed [3]
FURTHER DATA SOURCES	Botanical Illustration [2259]; Additional References [5580]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map [2182] [5115] [5123]
SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS	Nomenclature Checked

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
ANIMAL FOOD	Fertile Plant Parts	seeds, primates, forage [2514]
	Aerial Parts	unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing [2259]; unspecified aerial parts, goats, grazing [1304]; unspecified aerial parts, cattle, grazing [1304]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

DISTRIBUTION

Africa:

Tropical and sub-tropical Africa [2182] .

Mozambique:

Maputo and Tete provinces [5480] .

DESCRIPTION

'Roots':

Rhizomes branched, slender and elongate [2182] .

Growth form:

Graminoid [5104] .

Height:

0.5-2 m [5104] .

Height:

0.5-1.3 m [2182] .

Inflorescences:

Racemes 3-12, digitate, 80-250 mm long. Spikelets 2.5-3.2 mm long, 0.8 mm wide [2182] .

Leaves:

Leaf blades 60-300 mm long, 2-8 mm wide [2182] .

Stems:

Culms usually straight and erect [2182] .

IDENTIFICATION

Digitaria can be distinguished from most other grasses by the position of the glumes. They partly cover the surface of the spikelet, and are not situated one on either side of it. *D. milaniana* differs from related species in the genus by having rough spikelets. This can be felt by stroking the racemes downwards [2259] .

Spikelet similar to *D. eriantha* but hairs yellowish or brown, and nerves of lower lemma scaberulous [2182] .

ANIMAL FOOD - FERTILE PLANT PARTS

Seeds, primates, forage:

In Tanzania baboon eat the seeds (Norton et al 1987) [2514] .

ANIMAL FOOD - AERIAL PARTS

Unspecified aerial parts, cattle, goats, grazing:

In northern Namibia it is grazed by cattle and goats [1304] .

Unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing:

In southern Africa it is a palatable grass [2259] .

ANATOMY

K-MS-NADP [6146] .

WEED PROBLEMS CAUSED

South Tropical Africa:

A weed in plantations and roadsides [3] .

CONSTRAINTS - MISCELLANEOUS

A weed in plantations and roadsides [3] .

ALTITUDE

Southern Africa:

300-1400 m [2182] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Southern Africa:

Common in disturbed areas such as old lands still in good heart and on roadsides [2259] .

Southern Africa:

Occurs on a wide range of habitats, often in disturbed areas [2182] .

SOILS

Namibia:

Damp soil next to water [5123] .

Southern Africa:

Usually on sandveld soils but has been recorded on dolerite and other clays [2259] .

VEGETATION

Namibia:

Mixed woodland, open woodland and grassland. In grassveld associated with *Brachiaria*, *Digitaria* and *Schmidtia* and in woodland with *Catophractes alexandri*, *Bauhinia* and *Grewia* [5123] .

South Tropical Africa:

Miombo woodland, disturbed savanna, saline grassland, weed in plantations and roadsides [3] .

Southern Africa:

Favours open savanna woodland, extending into grassland vleis [2259] .

FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

Flowering, southern Africa:

December to March [2259] .

Flowering, southern Africa:

January and February [2182] .

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

K-MS-NADP anatomy with C4-NADP-ME physiology [6146] .

PROPAGATION FROM SEED

Southern Africa:

Easily seeded in pasture [2259] .

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

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