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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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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***Dinebra retroflexa (Vahl)Panz. var. condensata S.M.Phillips [1758]**

Family: POACEAE

Synonyms

None recorded

Vernacular names

Afrikaans (Namibia)	katstert [1304] [5083] [5115]
Afrikaans (South Africa)	katsterturfgras [5117]
Afrikaans (Southern Africa)	kattestertgras [2182]
English (Namibia)	catstail [5115]
English (Southern Africa)	catstail grass [2182], catstail vlei grass [5117] [5664]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Kenya [3], Tanzania [3], Uganda [3]
		Northeast Tropical Africa	Ethiopia
		South Tropical Africa	Angola [5126], Mozambique [3] [5480], Zambia [3] [5481], Zimbabwe [3] [5125]
		Southern Africa	Botswana [3] [5104] [5186], Cape Province [5104], Caprivi Strip [3] [5115], Namibia [5104] [5115], Natal [3] [5104], Orange Free State [5104], Swaziland [5104] [5452], Transvaal [3] [5104]
Status Unknown	Africa	Northern Africa	Egypt [2182]

ISO countries: India [2182] [5115] [5664] , Iraq [2182] , South Africa [3] [5117] [5664]

Descriptors

Category Descriptors and states

DESCRIPTION	Herb; Prostrate/Procumbent/Semi-erect; Tussock Forming/Tufted/Caespitose [5117]; Annual [2182] [5104] [5115] [5117] [5664]; Erect [5123]; Loosely Tufted [3] [2182]; Unarmed - unspecified parts; Plant Height 0.13-0.9 m [5104]
CLIMATE	Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5115] [5664]; Annual Rainfall >= 450 mm [5106] [5115]
SOILS	Limestone Parent Material [5123]; Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown); Poorly Drained [5117] [5664]; Sandy [5123]; Seasonally Waterlogged [3] [2182] [5117] [5664]; Clayey [2182] [5117] [5664]
HABITAT	Lowland [3]; Pioneer Species [5664]; Woodland [3]; Valleys [3]; Grassland/Forb-Land [3]; Wooded Grassland [2182] [5117]; Watercourses [3]; Anthropogenic Landscapes [3] [5115] [5117] [5123] [5664]; Croplands [1304] [2182] [5117] [5664]; Floodplains [3]; Pans [3]; Altitude 4-1400 m a.s.l. [5104]
PHYSIOLOGY	C4 [2182]; Shade Tolerant [2182] [5117] [5664]
CONSTRAINTS	Agricultural Weed [2182] [5117]
FURTHER DATA SOURCES	Botanical Illustration [3] [2182]; Regional Distribution Map [5664]; Botanical Photograph [2182] [5117] [5664]; Databases [5123]; Habit Illustration/Photograph [5117] [5664]; Grid Map [2182] [5115] [5117] [5123]
SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS	Nomenclature Checked

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
ANIMAL FOOD	Aerial Parts	leaves, bovines, grazing; leaves, caprines, grazing; unspecified aerial parts, cattle, grazing [1304]; unspecified aerial parts, goats, grazing [1304]
ENVIRONMENTAL USES	Indicators	rangelands [5664]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

DISTRIBUTION

Namibia:

Occurs only in the north of the country. Locally common [5115] .

Southern Africa:

Common [2182] .

Worldwide:

From tropical Africa through Egypt and Iraq to India [2182] .

Worldwide:

It occurs throughout Africa; also in the Middle East, India and South-east Asia [5115] [5664] .

DESCRIPTION

Colour:

The entire plant has shades of purple, especially later in the growing season [5664] .

Habit:

Erect to ascending [5123] .

Height:

Culms up to 0.8 m [5117] .

Height:

Up to 0.6 (0.8) m [3] .

Inflorescences:

Comprises numerous spikes which turn downwards when they reach maturity [5664] .

Inflorescences:

Up to 300 mm long, consisting of a number of spikes up to 50 mm long, arranged on the primary axis. Spikelets up to 9 mm long, glabrous, with glumes almost equal and up to 8 mm long [5117] .

Leaves:

Leaf blade open, 45 - 280 mm long and up to 8 mm wide, flattened, glabrous or sparsely hairy. Ligule a membrane [5117] [5664] .

Lifeform:

Graminoid [5104] .

IDENTIFICATION

Dinebra retroflexa is not easily confused with other grasses. *D. polycarpha* is very closely related to *D. retroflexa* and occurs in East Africa [5664] .

ANIMAL FOOD - AERIAL PARTS

Unspecified aerial parts, goats, cattle, grazing:

Probably of little grazing value owing to its low leaf production [5117] [5664] .

ENVIRONMENTAL USES - INDICATORS

Rangelands:

In southern Africa it is classified as an Increaser II i.e. grasses that are abundant in overgrazed veld [5664] .

WEED PROBLEMS CAUSED

Southern Africa:

Occurs as a weed in lands, particularly in rice fields, but it is not a threat in southern Africa [2182] [5117] [5664] .

RAINFALL

Namibia:

Above 450 mm per year [5106] [5115] .

ALTITUDE

South tropical Africa:

460 - 1,370 m [3] .

Southern Africa:

4 - 1,400 m [5104] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Namibia:

Disturbed areas [5115] .

South tropical Africa:

Grows on river sides, pan margins and low altitude river valleys. Also in disturbed ground at roadsides [3] .

Southern Africa:

Usually on disturbed soil in moist weedy places [2182] .

SOILS

Namibia:

Grows in red soil with calcrete pebbles [5123] .

Southern Africa:

Grows in clay soil (black turf) where water collects [2182] [5117] [5664] .

VEGETATION

South tropical Africa:

Grows in open woodland and in grassland [3] .

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS - MISCELLANEOUS

Namibia:

Often in moist areas [5115] .

South Africa:

Generally in moist and wet weedy areas [2182] [5117] .

FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

Flowering, South Africa:

December to May [5117] .

Flowering, southern Africa:

December to May [2182] [5664] .

LONGEVITY

Southern Africa:

Grows for one season [5115] [5664] .

CYTOLOGY

For the genus, $x = 10$ [5150] .

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Updated for southern Africa by E. Irish, checked by C. Mannheimer; Sepasal Namibia, National Botanical Research Institute, October 2005 .

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