

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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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***Setaria sphacelata (Schumach.) Stapf & C.E. Hubb. var. sericea (Stapf) Clayton [1808]**

Family: POACEAE

Synonyms

Setaria tenuispica Stapf & C.E. Hubb.
 Setaria aurea A.Br. subsp. palustris Vanderyst
 Setaria cana de Wit
 Setaria almaspicata de Wit
 Setaria anceps Stapf var. sericea Stapf
 Setaria flabelliformis de Wit
 Setaria planiflora Stapf

Vernacular names

East Africa nandi setaria [6573]
 English (East Africa) common setaria [6710]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country	
Native	Africa	East Tropical Africa	Kenya [6710], Tanzania [6573], Uganda [6573]	
		South Tropical Africa	Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe	
		Southern Africa	Botswana, Namibia s.l., Transvaal	
		West Tropical Africa	Ghana, Sierre Leone	
		West-Central Tropical Africa	Zaire	
		Asia-Temperate	Arabian Peninsula	North Yemen
	Introduced	Africa	Northern Africa	Morocco
			Western Indian Ocean	Madagascar
		Asia-Temperate	Eastern Asia	Taiwan
			Western Asia	Israel
Asia-Tropical	Malesia	Papua New Guinea, Philippines		

Australasia	Australia	New South Wales [1780] [1808], Queensland [1780] [1808], Western Australia [1780] [1808]
Northern America Pacific	Southeastern U.S.A. Southwestern Pacific	Florida Fiji

ISO countries: India , United States , South Africa [[6573](#)]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Herb; Terrestrial; Rhizomatous; Perennial [6710]
PHYSIOLOGY	Grazing/Browsing Resistant [6710]
SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS	Nomenclature Checked
CLIMATE	Annual Rainfall >= 500 mm

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
ANIMAL FOOD	Aerial Parts	leaves, grazing [6710]; unspecified aerial parts, fodder; unspecified aerial parts, silage; forage [6573]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

For southern Africa this variety is treated as part of the *Setaria sphacelata* complex under the species *sphacelata* [[6040](#)].

DISTRIBUTION

Occurs in Uganda, Tanzania; tropical and South Africa. Introduced elsewhere in the tropics [[6573](#)].

DESCRIPTION

Leaves:

Basal leaf-sheaths entire, and conspicuously flabellate [[6573](#)].

Stems:

Culms 4-10 noded, up to 2 m high and 3-6 mm in diameter at the base [[6573](#)].

Inflorescences:

Panicle 70-250 mm long [[6573](#)].

Leaves:

Leaf-blades 3-10mm wide, glabrous [[6573](#)].

Habit:

Tufted, usually unbranched [[6710](#)].

Height:

Culms 40 -120cm tall [[6710](#)].

Inflorescences:

Panicle 50-300 mm long, dense, cylindrical; bristles evident below spikelet. Each spikelet subtended by 5-11 bristles of various lengths, bristles orange or brown, spikelet 1.5 -3.4 mm long, elliptic in clusters of 1-4 [6710] .

ANIMAL FOOD - AERIAL PARTS

Forage:

Provides good forage [6573] .

ALTITUDE

Distribution in Kenya is below 3200 m a.s.l [6710] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Common in hills, swamps, riverbanks and savannah [6710] .

SOILS

Rare in pockets of volcanic soils [6710] .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DATASHEET PROGRESS

Data added from an Illustrated Manual of Kenya Grasses 1987, by Maryam Imbuni, KENRIK, National Museums of Kenya, April 2007 .

References

- [1780] Lazarides, M. and Hince, B., eds. 1993. *CSIRO handbook of economic plants of Australia*. East Melbourne, Victoria: CSIRO. 330p. En.
- [1808] Simon, B.K. 1993. *A key to Australian grasses. 2nd ed.* Brisbane: Queensland Department of Primary Industries. 206p.
- [6040] SEPASAL Namibia. 2005/2006. *National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia*. Windhoek: Namibia.
- [6573] Kamal, M. Ibrahim and Kabuye, H.S. Christine. 1987. *An illustrated manual of Kenyan grasses*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. En.
- [6710] Hatch, S.L, Morden, C.W and Woie, B.M. 1984. *The Grasses of the National Research Station, Kiboko (Kenya)*. S.M. Tracy Herbarium, Department of Range Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. 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](#)