This report was generated from the SEPASAL database (www.kew.org/ceb/sepal) 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which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources.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.
Digitaria milanjiana (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 gattaensis Chiov.
Digitaria gracilenta Henrard
Digitaria kilimandscharica Mez
Digitaria milanjiana (Rendle) Stapf var. abscondita Henrard
Digitaria milanjiana (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 milanjianum 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant origin</th>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Botanical country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>Botswana [3] [2182] [2259]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[5104] [5186], Caprivi Strip [2182] [5115], Namibia [2182] [5104] [5115] [5149], Orange Free State</td>
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</table>
ISO countries: South Africa [2182] [5104]

Descriptors

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Descriptors and states</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>Erect [2182]; Rhizomatous [3] [2182] [2259]; Perennial [3] [2182] [5104]; Stoloniferous [3] [2182] [5123]; Plant Height 0.5-2 m [5104]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]; Annual Rainfall &lt;= 600 mm [6146]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOILS</td>
<td>Sometimes Waterlogged (frequency unknown) [5123]; Saline [3]; Sandy [2259] [5123]; Clayey [2259]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HABITAT</td>
<td>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]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSIOLOGY</td>
<td>C4 [6146]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION AND</td>
<td>Wild Plants Utilised [1304]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALUE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTRAINTS</td>
<td>Weed [3]; Forest Weed [3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FURTHER DATA</td>
<td>Botanical Illustration [2259]; Additional References [5580]; Databases [5123]; Grid Map Sources [2182] [5115] [5123]</td>
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<td>SEPALAS</td>
<td>Nomenclature Checked</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATASHEET STATUS</td>
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Uses

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<th>Use group</th>
<th>Specific uses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANIMAL FOOD</td>
<td>Fertile Plant Parts</td>
<td>seeds, primates, forage [2514]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aerial Parts</td>
<td>unspecified aerial parts, mammals, grazing [2259]; unspecified aerial parts, goats, grazing [1304]; unspecified aerial parts, cattle, grazing [1304]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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].

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 or either side of it. D. milanjiana 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].

**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 Schmiditia 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].

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DATASHEET PROGRESS**

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

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**References**


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