PLANT FACT SHEET

Sporobolus pyramidalis P. Beauv.

GENUS *Sporobolus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Rat's tail grass, Catstail drop seed, Catstail grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The seeds are eaten as a grain. They are cooked. They are used in flat bread.
They are also cooked and used for a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a robust grass and densely tufted. It keeps growing from year to year. It grow 1.7 m high. The leaves are long and roll inwards. They are greyish. They taper to a long fine point. The flowering shoots are 45 cm long. They are very narrow. The branches are erect and 10 cm long. They have small, dark grey-green spikelets.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows over most of tropical Africa often near water. In southern Africa it grows from sea level to 2,290 m altitude. It grows in hot arid areas. It can tolerate shade. It can grow in arid places. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,900 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 160 Sporobolus species. They are mainly in the tropics and subtropics. It has a C4 pathway.

REFERENCES

Abbiw, D.K., 1990, Useful Plants of Ghana. West African uses of wild and cultivated plants. Intermediate Technology Publications and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. p 26

Addis, G., Asfaw, Z & Woldu, Z., 2013, Ethnobotany of Wild and Semi-wild Edible Plants of Konso Ethnic Community, South Ethiopia. Ethnobotany Research and Applications. 11:121-141

Asfaw, Z. and Tadesse, M., 2001, Prospects for Sustainable Use and Development of Wild Food Plants in Ethiopia. Economic Botany, Vol. 55, No. 1, pp. 47-62

Balemie, K., & Kebebew, F., 2006, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants in Derashe and Kucha Districts, South Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 2:53

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 2. Kew.

Fl. Oware 2:36, t. 80. 1816

Flora Zambesiaca. http://apps.kew.org/efloras

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 73

Gallagher, D. E., 2010, Farming beyond the escarpment: Society, Environment, and Mobility in Precolonial Southeastern Burkina Faso. PhD University of Michigan.

Guzo, S., et al, 2023, Ethnobotanical study of underutilized wild edible plants and threats to their long-term existence in Midakegn District, West Shewa Zone, Central Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 19:30

Hahn, K., et al, 2018, The use of wild plants for food: a national scale analysis for Burkina Faso (West Africa). FVSS FoodPlants Supplement

Hussey, B.M.J., Keighery, G.J., Cousens, R.D., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G., 1997, Western Weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia. Plant Protection Society of Western Australia. p 70

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 8

JSTOR Global Plants edible

Lulekal, E., et al, 2011, Wild edible plants in Ethiopia: a review on their potential to combat food insecurity. Afrika Focus - Vol. 24, No 2. pp 71-121

Norton, et al, 1987,

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 28

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 4th June 2011]

Swaziland's Flora Database http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Yiblet, Y. & Adamu, E., 2023, An Ethnobotanical Study of Wild Edible Plants in Tach Gayint District, South Gondar Zone, Amhara Region, Northwestern Ethiopia. Hindawi, Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine Article ID 78376615, 11 page

Yimer, A., et al, 2021, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants used by Meinit Ethnic Community at Bench-Maji Zone, Southwest Ethiopia. Research Square. p 5

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ab0a167f-84d0-498f-9d64-02406e5dc0fa