

CYPERACEAE

CYPERACEAE NEW TO THE FLORA OF NATAL

Since the publication of Ross's Flora of Natal (1972) two species of Cyperaceae new to the province have been recorded:

Courtoisia cyperoides (Roxb.) Nees (*Vorster* 2702; 2703) was found in April 1975 in the Mkuze Game Reserve along the borders of pans, growing on wet mud.

Material of *Mariscus squarrosus* (L.) C.B. Cl. (*Vorster* 2700) was collected at the same time and place. Another specimen, *Arnold* 865, was collected about 20 km from Cathedral Peak on the road to Estcourt in March 1975. In naming these specimens I

follow Hooper in Fl. W. Trop. Afr. ed. 2, 3:294 (1972), who reduced *M. aristatus* Rottb. to a synonym of *M. squarrosus*.

Both these species are widely distributed throughout the hot, dry areas of Africa and Asia. Although they occur mostly in areas of low rainfall, they never occur far from seasonal pans usually growing intermingled with each other on wet mud along the shores. Both species are known from Botswana, South West Africa and the drier parts of Transvaal, and *M. squarrosus* also from the high, dry parts of Lesotho.

P. VORSTER