

Reports and observations by Stephen Mifsud (MaltaWildPlants.com)

Code: F07-007a	Report date: 19th Nov 2007
Report Category :	Report of a new species for the Maltese islands
Species :	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Richter.
Date of Observation :	4th November 2007
Location :	undisclosed
Remarks :	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> is a low-growing grass with 2-5 digitate inflorescence spikes, where each spike is composed of numerous flower spikelets arranged in 2 parallel rows. The fruit is covered in white woolly hair. Two populations of several hundreds of specimens were found in tufts near to each other on a garigue habitat, in a rather damp soil, but this can be due to the numerous rainy days during end of October of this year. This species is only recorded in Sicily, West Italy and Crete in Europe [1]. This is hence the first record for the Maltese islands. It is described in origin as a very old tropical and sub-tropical species. [2] In some work, it is given as <i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) P.Beauv [1].



- [1] Digital version of the Flora Europaea, Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh
 [2] Flora d'Italia (Vol.3), Sandro Pignatti.

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