

ECOTAXONOMIC STUDIES ON THE WEEDS OF WHEAT-FIELDS IN PESHAWAR VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

Forty eight species, distributed among twenty one families and forty four genera were recorded as the weeds of wheat-fields in Peshawar valley. There were 56.25% weeds in fields near Agriculture University, 50% in Palosai, 47.92% in Badaber in Peshawar district. At saline and non-saline fields of Yar Hussain, District Mardan, there were 45.83% weeds in each case. Medicago polymorpha, Rumex dentatus, Coronopus didymus, Anagallis arvensis, Convolvulus arvensis, Euphorbia helioscopia and Cynodon dactylon were the most common weeds in all the five sites having at least 70% distribution in 3-4 sites. A key for the identification has been provided in the appendix.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of weeds is as old as the evolution of man and crops. Any plant growing in a wrong place against the will of man is a weed. They compete with the crops for physical resources of the environment Dichanthium [2] Lolium [15], Euphorbia [4,10], Cenchrus [6], Trianthema [17], Portulaca [16], Eragrostis [8] allelopathically reduce the crops productivity. Their role as an alternate host for various pests is well known. Seed contamination and troubles in harvest and ploughing are some of the other problems due to weeds. Many harmful insects and pests might enjoy their stay on these weeds.

Weeds of tobacco and sugarcane fields have been reported [7,9,14,3,2]. Recently Hussain et al [11] reported weeds from wheat fields of Quetta. Wheat is an important grain crop in Peshawar valley. Modern technology is adapted to improve the