# Predominant Weeds of Some Cereal Crops in the Scrub Savannah Region of Nigeria

\*JAFUN, F.B. & S.D. ABDUL Biological Sciences Programme Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, P.M.B. 0248, Bauchi, Nigeria

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#### ABSTRACK

Satu kajian telah dikendalikan untuk menentukan populasi spesies rumpai yang tumbuh di ladang-ladang bijirin (jagung, padi dan betari) di sesetengah tempat kawasan savanah semak-samun Nigeria semasa musim penanaman 1996-1998 dengan tujuan penyediaan maklumat untuk pengurusan rumpai yang berkesan. Enam puluh kawasan di Gubi, Miri, Inkil, Lukshi dan Birshin Fulani dipilih untuk kajian tersebut. Sampel-sampel rumpai dikutip dalam kuadran 50 cm x 50 cm dan dikenal pasti menggunakan teks standard dan koleksi herbarium Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria. Di kawasan kajian,66 spesies rumpai yang tergolong pada 58 genera dalam 18 keluarga dikenal pasti. Daripada jumlah tersebut, 41 (62.12%) spesies adalah daun lebar, 17 (25.76) rumpai rumput dan 8 (12.12%) sendayan. Rumpai dominan adalah spesies Cyperus, Commelina, Kyllinga, Digitaria, Echinochloa, Imperata, Cynodon, Leucas dan Chloris. Taburan spesies rumpai adalah mengikut jenis tanaman dan kawasan pengumpulan.

### ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted to determine the weed species populations inhabiting cereal farms (maize, rice and sorghum) in some parts of the scrub savannah region of Nigeria during the growing seasons of 1996-1998 with the aim of providing information for effective weed management. Sixty sites in Gubi, Miri, Inkil, Lukshi and Birshin Fulani were selected for the study. Weed samples were collected within 50cm x 50 cm quadrants and were identified using standards texts and collections of the herbarium of the Abubakar Tafawa Belawa University, Bauchi, Nigeria. In the survey sites, 66 weed species belonging to 58 genera within 18 families were identified. Of these, 41 (62.12%) species were broad-leaves, 17 (25.76%) were grass weeds and 8 (12.12%) were sedges. The dominant weeds were Cyperus, Commelina, Kyllinga, Digitaria, Echinochloa, Imperata, Cynodon, Leucas and Chloris species. The distribution of weed species varied with crop type and site of collection.

#### INTRODUCTION

Maize (Zea mays L.), sorghum (Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench) and rice (Oryza sativa L.) are the major cereals grown in the scrub savannah region of Nigeria. The yields of these cereals are generally low despite their importance as staple foods and the interest of farmers in production. The factors associated with low yields include erratic rainfall, diseases, low soil fertility, weed infestation and use of un-improved local varieties.

Of these factors, weed infestation is considered a major limitation to cereal production in this area. Although no accurate data on losses caused by weeds in this area are available, crop losses of between 40-66% (Weber et al., 1995; Udensi et al., 1999) and as high as 100% (Akobundu 1987) have been reported for the Northern Guinea savannah.

Despite the recent development of highly intensive cereal based production systems, weeds and the labour required for weed control are still the most important production constraints in this area. The objective of weed control in cereals is to reduce weed population to levels that do not affect yield, quality and harvesting.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding Author

To achieve this effectively and economically will require a strategy based on the knowledge of the type and distribution of weeds in different localities. However, very little is known about the weed populations affecting cereals in this area. A study of weeds of the northern Guinea Savannah by Weber et al. (1995) was limited to Kaduna and Katsina States. Okafor and Adegbite (1991) only carried out a survey of weeds of cowpea fields in Bauchi area.

The objective of this study is to identify the various weeds affecting cereals in some parts of scrub savannah region of Nigeria. The results will provide baseline data for developing weed management strategies.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A survey of common weed flora of cereal farms was carried out from 1996-1998. The study areas were Inkil, Gubi, Miri, Lukshi and Birshin Fulani. These areas were selected because they are intensively cultivated. The study areas are located in the scrub savannah of Nigeria at an elevation of 609.45m and latitude and longitude of 10° 22'N and 9° 47'E respectively. The area has an average annual rainfall of 905 mm distributed over a growing period of between 150-180 days, which is followed by a pronounced dry season from October to April.

Four farms each devoted to rice, maize or sorghum were randomly selected in each location and were tagged for sample collection. There was no interference in the management practices of the farmers. Weed samples were collected within 50cm x 50 cm quadrants from 10 locations in each farm. Collected weed samples were counted and identified using standard texts (Rains 1968; Akobundu and Agyakwa 1987; Terry and Michieka 1988). Identification was later confirmed at the herbarium of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

Frequency of occurrence was calculated as the percentage of farms in which a certain weed species was present. The relative occurrence of weed species in relation to crop and site of collection was also estimated.

Data obtained were subjected to two way analysis of variance to determine whether there were significant differences in weeds occurrences between sites of collection and crop type.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sixty six weeds species belonging to 58 genera within 18 families were identified (Tables 1 and 2). This flora represents about 73% of the total number of weed species identified in the Northern Guinea savannah of Nigeria (Weber et al., 1995). This value is low compared to the 275 plant species recorded around Kano town by Hussain and Karatela (1989). Forty of the genera identified were mong the 60 genera recorded by Weber et al. (1995). An earlier study by Okafor and Adegbite (1991) in cowpea fields in the Bauchi area recorded 21 weed genera, which were all recorded in this study. Weed species identified consisted of 41 (62.12%) broad-leaves (Table 1), 17 (25.76%) grasses and 8 (12.12%) sedges (Table 2). A similar study by Kandasamy et al. (2000) in India recorded a proportion of 46.7% broad-leaves, 43.5% grasses and 9.8% sedges. Jung et al. (1999) recorded 9 species of grasses, 44 species of broad-leaves and 3 species of sedges in apple orchards in Korea. About 101 weed species belonging to 32 families were reported from vegetable farms in Kangwon alphic region of Korea (Kim et al. 1999). These trends tend to suggest that the distribution of weed species varies with location and crop under cultivation. About 47.69% of all species recorded belonged to the families of Poaceae, Cyperaceae and Asteraceae with the family Poaceae having the highest number of representative species (17). A striking feature of the flora in the cereal farms was the dominance of Commelina, Kyllinga, Imperata, Digitaria, Echinochloa, Cyperus, Cynodon, Leucas and Chloris species which constituted about 13.64% of the total weed species and were found in more than 70% of the fields. Commelina and Digitaria species regarded as the most common weeds of Bauchi area by Okafor and Adegbite (1991) were also found to be dominant in this study. However, there was a significant increase in the number of dominant weeds in the study area. This increase could be attributed to the rapid changes towards intensive land use and cropping patterns. Earlier studies have shown that the distribution and abundance of weed species in cereal crops depend on the system of cultivation, infestation in previous crops and recurrent bush fires (Tottman and Wilson 1990; Garrity et al. 1997).

## PREDOMINANT WEEDS OF SOME CEREAL CROPS IN THE SCRUB SAVANNAH REGION OF NIGERIA

TABLE 1
Broad-leaf weed species and the frequency of occurrence (% fields infested)
of cereal farms in the scrub savannah region of Nigeria

Family	Genus	Species	Occurrence (% of farms	
			(70 07 100 100	
Amaranthaceae	Amaranthus	hybridus	8.76	
	Amaranthus	spinosus	6.63	
	Alternathera	sessiles	4.81	
	Celosia	leptostachya	3.57	
Asteraceae	Ageratum	conyzoides	42.78	
	Acanthospermum	hispidum	51.09	
	Aspilia	africana	27.71	
	Chrysanthemum	americanum	17.54	
	Bidens	pilosa	24.92	
	Tridax	procumbens	34.78	
	Synedrella	nodiflora	15.76	
Caesalpiniaceae	Cassia	obtusifolia	15.29	
	Daniella	oliveri	7.68	
Commelinaceae	Commelina	benghalensis	82.54	
	Aneilema sp	0	9.46	
Cleomaceae	Cleome	afrospinosa	6.73	
Convolvulaceae	Evolvus sp		2.97	
	Ipomoea	septaria	19.32	
	Ipomoea	dichroa	13.17	
Euphorbiaceae	Acalypha	hispida	16.70	
IEEE/AT	Euphorbia	heterophylla	13.08	
	Euphorbia	hirta	5.76	
Labiatae	Hyptis sp		21.50	
	Leucas	martinicensis	78.18	
Malvaceae	Abuliton sp		17.91	
Nyctaginaceae	Boerhavia	erecta	32.11	
7 - 0	Boerhavia	diffusa	4.43	
Papilionaceae	Aeschynomene	virginica	16.24	
	Crotalaria	cuspida	4.90	
	Desmodium sp		9.10	
	Indigofera sp		18.10	
Portulacaceae	Talinum	triangulare	2.31	
nobe-market surface	Portula	olerocea	8.55	
Rubiaceae	Oldenlandia	corymbosa	43.36	
	Borreria sp	AT sinks restrict the Science of	16.37	
	Mitracarpus	villosus	22.37	
Solanaceae	chwenkia	americanum	41.68	
Scrophulariaceae	Buchnera	hispida	9.67	
- Primit market	Striga	hermonthica	62.33	
	Scoparia	dulcis	10.56	
Tiliaceae	Corchorus	olitorius	31.43	

TABLE 2
Grasses/sedges weed species and the frequency of occurrence (% field infested) of cereal farms in the scrub savannah region of Nigeria

Family	Genus	Species	Occurrence (% of farms)	
Cyperaceae	Cyperus	esculentus	60.14	
	Cyperus	rotundus	52.50	
	Cyperus	tuberosus	35.22	
	Cyperus	sphacelatus	20.29	
	Kyllinga	squamulata	76.63	
	Mariscus	alternifolium	44.20	
	Mariscus	umbellatus	25.40	
	Setaria	verticillata	4.96	
Poaceae	Brachiaria	deflexa	21.19	
	Andropogon	gayanus	10.60	
	Chloris	pilosa	71.20	
	Eluesine	indica	29.10	
	Pennisetum	polystachion	35.60	
	Eragrotis	cilianensis	19.60	
	Setaria	verticillata	27.28	
	Imperata	cylindrical	73.17	
	Paspalum	orbiculare	7.98	
	Digitaria	longiflora	75.65	
	Panicum	maximum	58.30	
	Scleragrotis sp		16.48	
	Rottboellia	cochinchinensis	44.73	
	Cynodon	dactylon	66.01	
	Echinochloa	colona	86.43	
	Ageratum	conyzoides	51.06	
	Euclasta sp		25.84	
	Dactyloctenium	aegyptium	57.23	

The distribution of weed species according to crop type and area of collection is presented in Tables 3, 4 and 5. Weeds species distribution varied significantly (P≤0.05) with cereal crop type and site of collection. Rice farms with 38 species which is equivalent to 58.46% of overall species identified had the highest number of species per crop type (Table 3), while sorghum with a record of 32 species (49.23%) had the lowest number of weed species (Table 5). Of the 38 species from rice farms, 8 were sedges, 10 grasses and 20 broad-leaves, with Cyperus species and Echinochloa colona being the most dominant species. On maize farms, 14 grass species, 2 sedges and 25 broad-leaves were identified. Similarly, sorghum farms recorded 11 grass, 20 broad-leaves and 1 sedge species. Cynodon

dactylon and Striga hermonthica were the most dominant species in maize and sorghum farms respectively. Nineteen of the species identified were common to rice and maize farms, while 12 species were common to all three crops.

Results of this study provide evidence that there is an increase in the number of dominant weeds and that the distribution of weeds species varies with the area of collection and crop types. Further studies need to be carried out on the determinants of weed communities and the implication in the management of theses weeds.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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TABLE 3
Weed flora of rice farms in the scrub savannah region of Nigeria

Family	Genus		Species	Occurrence by			Location (%)		
				Miri	Gubi	Inkil	B/Fulani	Lukshi	
Amaranthaceae	Amaranthus	NE L	hybridus	6.21	41.87	3.37	Burnell	nin ige/	
	Amaranthus		spinosus	58.13	11.80	8.59	15.88	9.27	
	Alternathera		sessiles	35.10	30.08	28.22	17.70	17.05	
	Celosia		leptostachya	3.21	4.43	3.56	43.35	4.26	
Asteraceae	· Ageratum		conyzoides	10.67	10.70	53.09	10.01	13.17	
	Acanthospermum		hispidum	26.59	21.26	33.10	25.10	30.19	
	Aspilia		africana	7.56	17.70	28.22	30.08	35.10	
	Chrysanthemum		americanum		1.46	-		8.81	
	Bidens		pilosa	15.08	13.25	12.73	12.89	3.13	
	Synedrella		nodiflora	20.26	27.93	11.05	39.84	-	
Commelinaceae	Commelina		benghalensis	31.09	41.15	17.13	44.53	31.24	
	Aneilema sp			3.13	2.89		5.08	3.25	
Convolvulaceae	Evolvulus sp		septaria	17.54	24.92	51.09		42.26	
	Ipomoea		H H H		4.14	58.06	11.38	23.02	
Cyperaceae	Cyperus		esculentus	32.57	55.46	32.12	39.86	58.61	
/1	Cyperus		rotundus	58.06	62.15	32.39	40.61	51.92	
	Cyperus		tuberosus	20.20	14.63	18.41	36.99	31.67	
	Cyperus		sphacelatus	10.39	5.71	19.65	8 2 4 7	1000	
	Kyllinga		squamulata	57.62	65.03	70.67	51.92	68.03	
	Mariscus		alternifolium	41.87	24.26	33.10	30.19	25.10	
	Mariscus		umbellatus	6.21	3.37	14.46		3.64	
	Setaria		verticillata	10.01	10.67	35.01	13.17	100	
Euphorbiaceae	Acalypha		hispida	26.15	17.93	-	5.88	32.39	
	Euphorbia		heterophylla	1.74	5.91	14.51	40.67	22.08	
Poaceae	Brachiaria		deflexa	21.19	9.18	38.70		0.69	
	Chloris		pilosa	71.20	33.60	48.14	62.11	59.33	
	Pennisetum		polystachion	38.60	13.86	27.31	7.89	41.23	
	Paspalum		orbiculare	7.98	26.43	-	18.93	13.54	
	Imperata		cylindrical	44.20	73.17	16.48	66.01	57.23	
	Digitaria		longiflora	65.60	47.14	75.65	38.13	53.01	
	Panicum		maximum	29.20	55.23	30.91	36.55	64.38	
	Roettboellia		cochinchinensis	41.06	18.97	58.32	60.23	39.87	
	Cynodon		dactylon	53.13	79.67	74.89	55.23	63.22	
	Echinochloa		colona	76.51	93.80	69.73	54.21	83.28	
Portulaceae	Talinum		triangulare	0.00	1.76				
	Portula		oleraceae	1.84	1.16	8.87	5.02		
Rubiaceae	Mitracarpus		villosus	7.68	19.32	21.50	27	7.68	
Tiliaceae	Corchorus		olitorius	19.05	34.12	28.07	37.22	16.76	

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TABLE 4
Weed flora of maize farms in the scrub savannah region of Nigeria

Family	Genus	Species	Species Occurrence By I				Location (%)		
			Miri	Gubi	Inkil	B/Fulani	Luksh		
Amaranthaceae	Celosia	leptostachya	3.28	4.21	7.51	5.39	8.83		
	Amaranthus	spinosus	15.74	1.92	9.15	7.68	24.62		
Asteraceae	Bidens	pilosa	8.28	13.04	15.53	9.34	2.76		
	Tridax	procumbens	41.07	10.08	3.25	16.57	35.11		
	Acanthospermum	hispidum	33.56	11.73	39.04	28.67	25.94		
Caesalpiniaceae	Cassia	obtusifolia		10 100	limoh.	6.59	7		
AND THE STATE OF	Daniella	oliveri			2.60	1.73	2		
	Cleome	afrospinosa	-	0.85	-	4.1	6.59		
Commelinaceae	Commelina	benghalensis	30.31	9.30	15.68	37.12	22.60		
	Aneilema sp		1.61	-		1.09	3.88		
Convolvulaceae	Evolvulus sp		2.98	3.64	- 0	2.09	1.85		
	Ipomoea	dichroa	6.93	13.86	10.22	12.61	26.27		
Cyperaceae	Cyperus	esculentus	34.98	20.16	37.62	26.17	32.23		
Euphorbiaceae	Acalypha	segetalis	-	1.06	1.70	1.58	5.24		
The state of the s	Euphorbia	hirta	9.79	15.76	28.25	37.52	34.17		
	Leucas	martinicensis	25.84	4.60	-	12.20	9.63		
Labiatae	Hyptis sp			4.45	1.64	3.21	3.01		
Nyctaginaceae	Boerhavia	erecta	33.41	19.92	34.66	35.07	18.34		
Pri see	Boerhavia	diffusa	3.03	1.56	0.93	-	-		
Papilionaceae	Crotalaria	cuspida	2.32	-		3.03	1.61		
1,010.7	Indigofera sp	and promise	-			0.97	1.13		
Poaceae	Euclasta sp		13.14	8.22	8.91	2.23	14.67		
	Pennisetum	polystachion	8.55	2.98	1.93	3.64			
	Setaria	verticillata	2.09	1.85	1.01	0.01	4.03		
	Paspalum	orbiculare	6.13	2.23	2.41	1.70	6.11		
	Imperata	cylindrical	21.47	16.11	18.22	4.98	0.11		
	Digitaria	longiflora	13.43	18.07	25.28	43.34	14.31		
	Panicum	maximum	39.38	34.09	46.53	37.33	23.18		
	Rottboellia	cochinchinen	62.12	23.12	61.67	25.28	62.76		
	Cynodon	sis	58.12	76.62	67.21	53.10	39.33		
	Eragrotis	dactylon	45.35	25.11	15.16	24.08	41.18		
	Scleragrotis sp	cilianensis	4.41	7.23	29.57	17.50	23.53		
	Chloris sp	on the state of th	18.63	30.09	42.13	28.41	37.16		
	Brachiaria	pilosa	5.20	9.61	1.25	12.57	2.59		
	Eleusine	deflexa	28.48	31.23	25.02	21.14	13.86		
	ano with the	indica	20.10	31.23	23.02	41.17	13.00		
Rubiaceae	Oldenlandia	corymbosa		11/2017		the study	3.88		
Scrophylariaceae	Striga	hermonthica	55.16	19.93	60.33	47.21	34.76		
oci opiiyiai iaceae	Buchnera	hispida	2.04	1.11	00.55	1.31	3.46		
	Alectra sp	nispiaa	14.13	2.82	rudicion.	3.67	6.41		
	ruccins sp		14.13	2.02	BIN E	5.07	0.41		

#### PREDOMINANT WEEDS OF SOME CEREAL CROPS IN THE SCRUB SAVANNAH REGION OF NIGERIA

TABLE 5
Weed flora of sorghum farms in the scrub savannah region of Nigeria

Family	Genus	Species	Occurrence By Location (%)				
			Miri	Gubi	Inkil	B/Fulani	Lukshi
Amaranthaceae	Amaranthus	spinosus	43.81	21.67	25.43	21.87	33.52
Asteraceae	Acanthospermum	hispidum	29.4221	.90	10.61	19.80	20.53
	Synedrella	nodiflora	9.78	22.44	27.90	11.12	5.61
Caesalpiniaceae	Cassia	obtusifolia	2.58	-	3.23		1.82
perturbation lens to	Daniella	oliver	1.38		-		1.13
	Cleome	afrospinosa		2.13			
Commelinaceae	Commelina	benghalensis	3.29	3.07	5.39	3.53	6.98
Cyperaceae	Cyperus	esculentus	34.98	20.16	37.62	26.17	32.23
Labiatae	Hyptis sp		13.36	3.76	15.23	QUIL -	11.21
	Leucas	martinicensis	29.19	13.74	26.38	7.89	32.01
Malvaceae	Abuliton sp		3.75	8.19	2.04	16.93	-
Papilionaceae	Aeschynomene	virginica			5.05	THE BU	0.82
	Crotalaria	cuspida	33.49		-	-	-
	Indigofera sp	المتراد والأرادي	4.51	5.01	23.01	1.92	4.09
Poaceae	Brachiaria	deflexa	35.04	25.41	60.12	38.20	51.32
	Eragrostis	cilianensis	37.47	8.19	20.44	12.12	16.93
	Andropogon	gayanus	25.48	28.41	43.12	50.93	25.48
	Scleragrotis sp		2.33	11.84	7.24	2.82	-
	Eleusine	indica	54.20	7.33	36.73	16.10	39.20
	Dactyloctenium	aegyptium	5.94	6.26	9.45		4.36
	Digitaria	longiflora	49.95	40.16	36.03	77.81	26.85
	Rottboellia	cochinchinen	4.91	31.22	72.63	51.16	21.35
	Cynodon	dactylon	61.09	23.53	27.83	7.92	50.20
	Panicum	maximum	1.39	3.32		2.97	2.78
	Chloris	pilosa	8.03	37.42	13.01	12.70	34.59
	Ageratum	conyzoides	33.76	45.11	57.03	28.67	46.43
Rubiaceae	Oldenlandia	corymbosa	6.42	2.51	-	9.47	4.13
Solanaceae	Schwenkia	américanum	4.43	3.16	-	6.27	3.67
Scrophulariaceae	Striga	hermonthica	87.42	51.09	58.82	63.83	75.03
	Buchnera	hispida	2.71		7.81	3.31	1.56
	Scoparia	dulcis	9.27	4.39	3.55	7.89	-
Tiliaceae	Corchorus	olitricus	18.03	51.18	40.71	29.16	13.34

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