## FLORISTIC COMPOSITION AND ECOLOGICAL PREVALENCE OF THE WEED SPECIES GROWING IN WHEAT AND SUGAR CANE FIELDS OF DISTRICT CHARSADDA, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN

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## ABSTRACT

A total of 43 weed species belongs to 17 families and 39 genera were collected from wheat and sugarcane fields. Among them 3 genera and 3 species were monocot and 36 genera and 40 species were dicot. Family Asteraceae was the leading family represented by 11 genera (28.2%) and 12 species (27.9%). Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Papilionaceae having 4 genera (10.3%) and 4 species (9.3%) each. Poaceae having 3 genera (7.7%) and 3 species (6.97%), Polygonaceae having 2 genera (5.12%) and 3 species (6.97%). While the remaining families having 1 genera (2.6%) and 1 species (2.33%) each. According to lifeform classification Therophytes were the major lifeform class (93%) and Hemicryptophytes were 4.7% and Chamaephytes were 2.3%. Leaf size classification shows that Microphylls (37.2%) were the major leaf size class followed by Leptophylls (30.2%), Nannophylls (16.3%) and Mesophylls (16.3%). The weed species are competing with crops for nutrients, space, light and interfere by inhibiting nutrients uptake by the plants thus resulting in to considerable decrease in crop productivity.

**Key words**: Charsadda, hemicryptophyte, nannophyls, Pakistan, sugar cane fields, therophytes.

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# INTRODUCTION

Charsadda is a town and headquarters of Charsadda District, in the Pakhtunkhwa province. It is situated at an altitude of 276 m (908 ft.) and lies 29 km from the Peshawar. District Charsadda lies between  $34^{0}03'$  and  $34^{0}38'$ N latitudes and  $71^{0}28'$  and  $71^{0}53'$ E longitudes. It covers an area of 996 km<sup>2</sup>and situated at extreme end of the monsoon

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and the temperature is severe and extreme. Charsadda is a part of the fertile plain of Peshawar valley. The major crops of the area are sugarcane, tobacco, wheat, rice, maize, vegetable and orchards and various weed species are distributed in these crops. Weed is a plant growing where it is not desired or any plant that is objectionable and interferes with man's activities or welfare or a more complete definition can perhaps be "Weeds are plants growing in places where, and at time when, man wants either some other plants to grow or no plant to grow at all" (Tanveer and Asghar, 2003). It has been noticed that some weeds are poisonous and injurious to animals e.g. blue pimpernel, sun spurge and Johnson grass (Marti et al., 1990). Weeds are a supplement feed for farm animals e.g. Convolvulus arvensis, Melilotus indica, Phalaris minor and Vicia sativa (Tanveer and Asghar, 2003). Weed reduces the yield by competing with crop plants for different environmental resources. It is said that with each kg of weeds produced, one kg of wheat grains is reduced (Rao, 1992). Wild onion bulbs and wild mustard seed lower the wheat grain quality. Creeping thistle, Bermuda grass and common purslane release allelochemicals which inhibit germination of wheat (Khalid and Shad, 1987). Khan et al. (2012 and 2013) reported that weeds greatly reduce the agricultural productivity due to competition. The  $CO_2$ consumption is higher in most of the weeds as compared to cultivated crops due to relatively more leaf area of weeds (Arnon, 1987). The percent yield losses of wheat and sugarcane due to weeds in Pakistan is 17-35% for wheat and 25-35% for sugarcane. Critical weed period of weed-crop competition in wheat is 4-6 weeks after sowing (Nayyar et al., 1994) and for sugarcane it is 4-8 weeks after sowing (Makhdoom, 1988). Generally, 1 kg of weed biomass corresponds to a loss of 1 kg in crop plants biomass (Rao, 2000). It is evident from the weeds studies that the weeds are not only resulting in to low quality crop but it is considerably decreasing the biomass and productivity of the crops.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Regular field visits were conducted at four different localities of District Charsadda having an area of 996 km<sup>2</sup> during March-July, 2012 viz. Rajjar, Turangzai, Shaedan and Baborashaka in the blooming period. Weeds were collected from the wheat and sugarcane fields, dried, pressed and preserved for about three weeks to get them moisture free. The newspapers were changed daily till the plants were fully dried. At the same time, the plants were numbered and tagged with data, locality and other characteristics of species. Photographs were taken by using Sony Digital camera. The scientific names, common names, family, life form and leaf size of each species were recorded (Table-2). The weed species were classified following -(Tanveer and Asghar, 2003). The collected specimens were mounted on standard herbarium sheets. Identification was carried out with the help of available literature (Stewart, 1972; Nasir and Ali, 1970-1989; Ali and Nasir, 1989-1991; Ali and Qaiser, 1993-2013 and Cope, 1982). Voucher specimen numbers were assigned to the specimens and were deposited in the Herbarium of Center of Plant Biodiversity, University of Peshawar (UPBG).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Forty three weeds species were collected belonging to 17 different families, in which one was monocot and 16 were dicots. Poaceae was presented by 3 genera and 3 species. The remaining 16 families have 36 genera and 40 species. Family Asteraceae was the leading one with 11 genera (28.2%) and 12 species (27.9%). Followed by Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Papilionaceae having 4 genera (10.3%) and 4 species (9.3%) each. Poaceae having 3 genera (7.7%) and 3 species (6.97%), Polygonaceae 2 genera (5.12%) and 3 species (6.97%), and the remaining families were presented by 1 genera (2.6%) and 1 species (2.33%) each. The finding agree with (Malik and Hussain, 1990, Rashid et al., 1998, Murad et al., 1995, Nasir et al., 2002, Shah et al., 2006; Ullah and Rashid, 2007; Sher and Khan, 2007; Hussain et al., 2009; Hadi et al., 2009a; Hadi et al., 2009b and Shah and Hussain, 2011). All these workers have shown almost similar floristic composition of the weed flora for various crops and some of the species are of common distribution specifically in the case of wheat. The lifeform classification (Table-2) shows that 40 species were Therophytes (93%), 2 were Hemicryptophyte (4.7%) and 1 was Chamaephytes (2.3%). The result agrees with those of (Malik and Hussain, 1990, Nasir et al., 2002, Shah et al., 2006 and Shah et al., 2008). Leaf size spectra (Table-2) indicate the dominance of Microphylls with16 species (37.2%), Leptophylls with 13 species (30.2%), Mesophylls and Nannophylls each with 7 species (16.3%). The finding agrees with (Murad et al., 1995, Sher and Khan, 2007) who concluded that most species of weeds have small leaf size.

Presences of weeds were recorded in various varieties of wheat and most of the weeds like *Convolvulus arvensis* L., *Coronopus didymus* (L.) Sm., *Sisymbrium irio* L., *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill., *Anagalli sarvensis* L. and *Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertner, *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Medick., *Euphorbia helioscopia* L., *Fumaria indica* Pugsley (Plate-1 and Fig. 4), *Melilotus indica* L., *Rumex dentatus* L., *Sisymbrium irio* L., *Sonchus arvensis* L., *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill. (Plate-1 and Fig. 5), and many others are invariably known weeds of wheat fields from other partsof the country .The present findings agree with many other researcher like Hussain *et al.* (1985), Hussain *et al.* (2004), Qureshi and Bhatti (2001), Jakkar *et al.* (2005), Mohammad *et al.* (2005), Shah and Khan (2006), Marwat *et al.* (2006), Akhtar and Hussain (2007), Shah *et al.* (2008) who reported the same floristic composition from wheat fields. While some work has been carried out in Peshawar by Hussain *et al.* (1985), in Kotli by (Malik and Hussain, 1990) and in Chitral by Hussain *et al.* (2004).

Weeds are one of the major constraints to high yield in sugarcane production in Pakistan some important weeds in sugarcane fields found in the research area were *Anagallis arvensis* L. (Plate 1. and Fig. 1.), *Chenopodium album* L. (Plate 1. and Fig. 6.), *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop., *Ranunculus muricatus* L. (Plate 1. and Fig. 3.), *Convolvulus arvensis* L. (Plate 1. and Fig. 2.), *Coronopus didymus* (L.) Sm. (Plate 1.). Same finding were also concluded by Khan *et al.* (2012 in Sugarcane fields of Bannu and Qureshi (2004) in sugarcane fields of Sukkhar.

Table-1.	Life	form	and	leaf	size	of	weeds	of	wheat	and	sugarcane
	field	s of D	istric	t Cha	arsad	da,	Khybe	r Pa	akhtunl	khwa	Pakistan.

	Life form class							
S. No.	Lifeform class	No. of species	%age					
1.	Therophytes	40	93%					
2.	Hemicryptophytes	2	4.7%					
3.	Chamaephytes	1	2.3%					
	Leaf class							
S.	Leaf class	No. of	%age					
No.		species						
1.	Microphylls	16	37.2%					
2.	Leptophylls	13	30.2%					
3.	Nannophylls	7	16.3%					
5.	Mesophylls	7	16.3%					

Plate No. 1



1. Anagallis arvensis L.



3. Ranunculus muricatus L.



5. Sonchus asper (L.) Hill.



2. Convolvulus arvensis L.



4. Fumaria indica (Hausskn.)



6. Chenopodium album L. Pugsley.

**Table-2.**Checklist showing family, genus, species, lifeform and leaf size of weeds of wheat and sugarcane fields of District Charsadda, Pakistan

S#	Family	Genus	Specie	English Name	Local Name	Life form	Leaf size				
	A. Monocot										
	Poaceae	Phalaris L.	<i>P. minor</i> Retz. Naila, 01 (UPBG)	Little seed canary grass	Ghondoky/ Dumbighass	Th	N				
1.		Poa L.	<i>P. annua</i> L. Naila, 02 (UPBG)	Annual meadow grass	Barikghass/ wakha	Th	L				
		Avena	A. sativa L. Naila, 03 (UPBG)	Oat	Jamdar	Th	Mic				
			B. Dicot								
2.	Apiaceae	<i>Scandix</i> L.	<i>S. pecten-veneris</i> L. Naila, 04 (UPBG)	Shepherd's needle	Kali ziri	Th	L				
	Asteraceae	Artemisia L.	A. vulgaris L. Naila, 05 (UPBG)	Mugwort	Tarkha	Ch	Mic				
		<i>Centaurea</i> L.	<i>C. iberica</i> Trev ex Spring. Naila, 06 (UPBG)	Centaurea	Kareeza	Th	Mic				
		Cirsium Mill.	C. arvense L. Naila, 07 (UPBG)	Canada thistle	Laih/kareza	Th	Mic				
		Conyza Less.	<i>C. canadensis</i> (L.) Cronq. Naila, 08 (UPBG)	Horseweed	Janglihaloon	Th	L				
3.		Launaea Cass.	<i>L. procumbens</i> L. Naila, 09 (UPBG)	Creeping Launaea	Kareza	Н	L				
5.		Lactuca L.	<i>L. sativa</i> L. Naila, 10 (UPBG)	Lettuce	Shodapai	Th	Mes				
		<i>Matricaria</i> L.	<i>M. recutita</i> L. Naila, 11 (UPBG)	Chamomile	Babuna	Th	L				
		Parthenium L.	<i>P. hysterophorus</i> L. Naila, 12 (UPBG)	Santa Maria Feverfew	ZangaleyTar kha	Th	Mes				
		Sonchus L.	S. arvensis L.Naila, 13 (UPBG)	Field snow thistle	Kareza	Th	Mic				
			<i>S. asper</i> (L.) Hill. Naila, 14 (UPBG)	Leaved sow thistle	Diamidodak/ kareza	Th	Mes				

		<i>Silybum</i> Adanson	<i>S. marianum</i> (L.) Gaertner Naila, 15 (UPBG)	Gaertner Milk thistle	Kandiali/ kareza	Th	Mes
		<i>Taraxacum</i> L.	<i>T. officinale</i> Weber. Naila, 16 (UPBG)	Dandelion	ZeerGulay	Th	Mic
	Brassicaceae	Capsella Medik.	<i>C. bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik. Naila, 17 (UPBG)	Shepherd's purse	Chamberaka	Th	Mic
4.		Coronopus J.	<i>C. didymus</i> (L.) Smith Naila, 18 (UPBG)	Swine cress	Skhabbotay	Th	L
		Eruca Mill.	<i>E. sativa</i> Mill. Naila,19 (UPBG)	Arugula	Aroka	Th	Mic
		Sisymbrium L.	S. irio L. Naila, 20 (UPBG)	London rocket	Khubkalan/ Alam	Th	Ν
5.	Cannabaceae	Cannabis L.	C. sativa L. Naila, 21 (UPBG)	Marijuana	Bang	Th	Mic
	Caryophyllaceae	Arenaria L.	<i>A. serpyllifolia</i> Bourg. Naila, 22 (UPBG)	Thyme leaf/ sandwort	_	Th	L
c		Cerastium L.	<i>C. glomeratum</i> Thuill. Naila, 23 (UPBG)	Sticky mouse-ear/ Chickweed	_	Th	Ν
6.		Spergula L.	S. arvensis L. Naila, 24 (UPBG)	Spergula/ Sand weed	Kallribooti	Th	L
		Stellaria L.	<i>S. media</i> (L.) Vill. Naila, 25 (UPBG)	Chickweed	Phullanbooti	Th	Ν
		Chenopodium L.	C. album L. Naila, 26 (UPBG)	Goose foot	Bathu	Th	Mic
7.	Chenopodiaceae		<i>C. ambrosioides</i> L. Naila, 27 (UPBG)	Wormseed	Sarmey	Th	Mic
			<i>C. foliosum</i> (Moench) Asch. Naila, 28 (UPBG)	Leafy goosefoot	Angoor	Th	L
8.	Convolvulaceae	Convolvulus L.	C. arvensis L. Naila, 29 (UPBG)	Field bindweed	Lehli/prewat a	Th	Mic
9.	Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia L.	<i>E. helioscopia</i> L. Naila, 30 (UPBG)	Sunspurge	Chhatridodak / mandaro	Th	Ν
10.	Fumariaceae	<i>Fumaria</i> L.	<i>F. indica</i> Pugsley Naila, 31 (UPBG)	Fumitory	Shahtra/papr a	Th	L

11.	Papaveraceae	Papaver L.	P. rhoeas L. Naila, 32 (UPBG)	Common poppy	Redigul	Th	Mic
	Papilionaceae	Lotus L.	<i>L. corniculatus</i> L. Naila, 33 (UPBG)	Birds foot Trefoil	Korkamanay	Th	L
12.		<i>Lathyrus</i> L.	<i>L. odoratus</i> L. Naila, 34 (UPBG)	Sweet pea	prewata	Th	Mes
		<i>Melilotus</i> (L.) Mill.	<i>M. indica</i> L. Naila, 35 (UPBG)	Sweet clover	Lewanay/Se ngi	Th	Mic
		<i>Vicia</i> L.	<i>V. sativa</i> L. Naila, 36 (UPBG)	Common vetch	Kharawara/ Rewari	Th	Ν
13.	Plantaginaceae	Veronica L.	<i>Veronica anagillis-aquatica</i> L. Naila, 37 (UPBG)	Water speedwell	ShenGulay	Th	Mic
	Polygonaceae	Polygonum L.	<i>P. aviculare</i> L. Naila, 38 (UPBG)	Knotweed, Prostrate	Bandakay	Th	L
14.			<i>P. plebejum</i> R. Brown Naila, 39 (UPBG)	Knotweed	Adranak	Н	Ν
		Rumex L.	R. dentatus L. Naila, 40(UPBG)	Dock	Shalkha/Jan glipalak	Th	Mes
15.	Primulaceae	Anagallis L.	A. arvensis L. Naila, 41(UPBG)	Blue pimpernel	Mangotegul/ billibooti	Th	L
16.	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus L.	<i>R. muricatus</i> L. Naila, 42(UPBG)	Rough seed butter cup	Ghorsumbi	Th	Mes
17.	Urticaceae	Urtica L.	U. dioica L. Naila, 43 (UPBG)	Nettle, Stinging	Seezonkay	Th	Mic

**Keys:** Life-form classes: 1. H = Hemicryptophytes, 2. Th= Therophytes, 3. Ch= Chamaephytes. Leaf-size classes: 1. L = Leptophylls, 2. Mic = Microphylls, 3. Mes. = Mesophylls, 4. N = Nannophylls.

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