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ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE





Taxonomic diversity of weed flora in pulse crops growing field at south-western part of Bangladesh

Md. Shahriar Kobir^{1*} (D), Suchana Paul¹, Pradip Hajong¹, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid² and Md. Hafijur Rahman¹

¹Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, BANGLADESH ²International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), BANGLADESH ^{*}Corresponding author's E-mail: shahriar1302027@gmail.com

ARTICLE HISTORY	ABSTRACT
Received: 25 September 2021 Revised received: 29 November 2021 Accepted: 16 December 2021	Pulses are important field crops in Bangladesh and weed infestation in pulses field is a great concern now a days. So, a rigorous field survey was conducted throughout the pulses growing season at pulses grower farmers' field of south-western part of Bangladesh to know the present status of weed infestation in pulses field. During the survey, fresh samples were
Keywords Bangladesh Pulse crop Taxonomy Weed	collected along with other related information e.g., habitat, location, collection date, flowering time, crop/plant association. Fresh samples were dried well for making herbarium specimens. A sum of 13 weed species under 12 genera and 08 families were collected and documented their uses in various ailments. Among the families, Amaranthaceae is the highest-represented family with 03 species. Among the genera, the largest genera Amaranthus represented by 2 species. <i>Cyperous rotundus, Cynodon dactylon, Chenopodium album, Amaranthus spinosus, Croton bonplandianum, Coccinia grandis</i> are the common and major weed species in pulse crop growing field in south-western part of Bangladesh. The knowledge generated from the present research would be helpful for the management practices of pulse crop associated weeds as well as for getting high economic benefits from beneficial species.

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INTRODUCTION

The undesirable plants which are interfere with the land and water resources utilization and adversely affect human wellness are called weeds (Rao, 2000). Throughout the whole world about 1570 weed species are recognized as weeds whereas 350 species from Bangladesh's crop field (Wiersema and Leon, 1999). About 25-80% yield may be reduced due to uncontrolled weed growth during the initial crop establishment (Kashem *et al.*, 2009). Moreover about \$40 billion losses happened due weed infestation into crop field (Kashem *et al.*, 2009). Beside their negative issues weeds can be used as cover crop, nutrient cycling manager and possess many ethno-botanicals uses. Weeds used as traditional medicinal floras may be the source of new drugs for human diseases (Stepp and Moerman, 2001).

Appropriate management approaches are much more essential than controlling weeds in order to conserve environment, natural balance, reduce cost of production and so on. Information related to morphology and identification, habitat, flowering behavior, viability and dormancy etc. is essential to select an effective management program (Kashem *et al.*, 2009). But elaborate taxonomic study and phenology of weed is neglected in Bangladesh especially in the southern part by the plant taxonomist. We do not have any information of the weeds of different crops in agronomy literature in greater Kushtia-Jashore region of Bangladsh (Islam, 2014; Akter *et al.*, 2018; Shabi *et al.*, 2018). Pulse crops are one of the most important field crops which are cultivated all over Bangladesh (Hazong *et al.*, 2021). Pulses play a key role in fulfilling the daily protein requirement of Bangladesh jeople (Kobir *et al.*, 2019). Moreover, about 2.2 part of the



total cultivable land is covered by pulse crop (BBS, 2019). The pulse crop is grown under varying types of soil in Jashore region like plain land and slightly undulated area which facilitates a wide range of habitats for weed prevalence. To make a complete weed flora species diversity documentation including their habitat, flowering period and ethno-botanical uses in pulses growing field in Jashore region this study had conducted and hence it may be beneficial to undesired plant management approaches and to get higher commercial benefits.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A rigorous field survey was conducted throughout the pulses growing season at pulses grower farmers' field of greater Kushtia-Jashore region (Figure 1) during the survey, fresh samples were collected along with other related information e.g., habitat, location, collection date, flowering time, crop/plant association by frequent field visit (once in a week). Fresh samples were dried well for making herbarium specimens. The collected weed specimens, fresh or dried, were identified by matching with herbarium specimens or published literature (Ahmed *et al.*, 2008a, 2008b, 2009) or consulting with experienced personnel. All the specimens are preserved in Agronomy laboratory as herbarium at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Jashore. The major literature consulted was "Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh (Siddiqui *et al.*, 2007) and other taxonomy related books (Sarwar and Prodhan, 2011). The information related to ethno-botanical uses were collected from the published literature (Hastings, 1990; Kumar and Sane, 2003; Uddin, 2006; Ahmed *et al.*, 2008a; 2008b; Dansi *et al.*, 2008; Ahmed *et al.*, 2009; Khan *et al.*, 2013; Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2014; Kumar *et al.*, 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pulse crops like lentil, field pea, grass pea and chickpea in Bangladesh grow in Rabi season and 10, 07, 07 and 11 different weed species were found from lentil fields, field pea fields, grass pea fields and chickpea fields, respectively. Black gram is cultivated in Kharif-2 and mung bean is cultivated in year rounds. From black gram fields 08 weed species were collected and from mung bean fields 09 weed species were collected. From the survey it is revealed that some of these weeds are very common and major weeds in the pulse crop growing field of south-western part of Bangladesh (Table 1) in different crop association. Then it can be concluded that association of weed-crop is not only crop wise but also environment and soil basis (Patterson, 1995).



Figure 1. Map showing studied areas in Bangladesh.

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Lentil	Chickpea	Black gram	Mung bean	Field pea	Grass pea
Cyperus rotundus L.	C. rotundus L.	C. rotundus L.	C. rotundus L.	C. rotundus L.	C. rotundus L.
Cynodon dactylon L.	C. dactylon L.	E. crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	C. dactylon L.	C. dactylon L.	C. dactylon L.
Chenopodium album L.	C. album L.	C. dactylon L.	E. crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	C. album L.	C. album L.
Echinochloa crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	E. crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	Lindernia crustacea (L.) Muell.	A. viridis L.	E. crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	C. bonplandianum Baill.
Physalis heterophylla Nees.	P. heterophylla Nees.	A. sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	Coccinia grandis (L.) Voigt.	L. crustacea (L.) Muell.	A. sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.
Amaranthus spinosus L.	A. spinosus L.	A. spinosus L.	C. bonplandianum Baill.	Solanum americacanum Mill.	L. crustacea (L.) Muell.
Lindernia crustacea (L.) Muell.	L. crustacea (L.) Muell.	C. bonplandianum Baill.	P. niruri L.	C. bonplandianum Baill.	S. americacanum Mill.
Solanum americacanum Mill.	S. americacanum Mill.	Phyllanthus niruri L.	A. sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.		
Croton bonplandianum Baill.	C. bonplandianum Baill.		C. album L.		
Alternanthera sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	A. sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.				
	Amaranthus viridis L.				

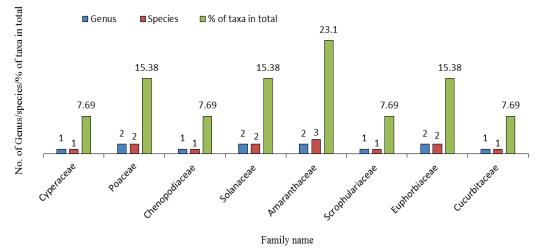
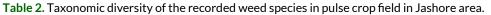


Figure 2. Family-wise distribution of the recorded weed species.



Botanical name	Common name	English name	Family	Flowering period Habitats	
C. rotundus L.	Mutha/ Vadailla	Purple nutsedge	Cyperaceae	May-September	Road sides, waste places, open or slightly shaded grounds
C. dactylon L.	Durba	Bahama grass, Bermuda grass	Poaceae	July-December	Cultivated lands moist or dry waste places, roadsides, lawn, and riversides
C. album L.	Bathua	Lambsquarter	Chenopodiaceae	Dec-Mar	Rabi crops fields, levees, irriga- tion channel
E. crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	Shama	barnyard grass, Jungle rice	Poaceae	May- September	Paddy fields, wastelands, fallow lands and shallow marshes
P. heterophyllaNees.	Foska Begun	Clammy ground cherry	Solanaceae	Feb-Apr	Crop fields, roadsides
A. spinosus L.	Katanotey	Spiny pigweed	Amaranthaceae	Year-round	Waste lands, roadsides, fields, gardens
L. crustacea (L.) Muell.	Chapra	Brittle false, pimpernel	Scrophulariaceae	Feb-Apr	Roadsides and levee of crop fields
S. americacanum Mill.	Tit Begun	Black nightshade	Solanaceae	Sep-Dec	Crop fields, roadsides, fallow lands
C. bonplandianumBaill.	Bon Morich	Bonplant's croton	Euphorbiaceae	Year-round	Roadsides, levee of crop fields, dry & sandy exposed areas
A. sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	Chanchi	Sessile Joyweed	Amaranthaceae	Year-round	Wet paddy fields, ditches to dry roadside banks, gardens or other disturbed grounds
A. viridis L.	Shaknotey	Pigweed	Amaranthaceae	Year-round	Waste & disturbed grounds, roadsides
P. niruri L.	Hajar/Sato dana	Gale of the wind	Euphorbiaceae	Aug-Oct	Paddy fields, roadsides, levee of crop fields, fallow lands
C. grandis (L.) Voigt.	Telakucha	Scarlet-fruited gourd	Cucurbitaceae	Jan-Sep	Roadsides, fallow & waste lands

An enumeration of the recorded weed species was presented with botanical name, common name(s), English name, family, flowering time and habitat in (Table 2). In this present paper, the occurrence of 13 weed species belongs to 12 genera and 08 families had been reported (Tables 2 and Figure 2). Among the families, Amaranthaceae is the highest-represented family with 03 species followed by Poaceae, Solanaceae and Euphorbiacea (two species in each). Cyperaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Scrophulariaceae and Cucurbitaceae were represented by single species (Figure 2). Among the genera, the largest genera Amaranthus represented by 2 species followed by Cyperus, Cynodon, Chenopodium, Echinochloa, Physalis, Lindernia, Solanum, Croton, Alternanthera, Phyllanthus and Coccinia represented by single species (Figure 2). Cyperus rotundus was the predominant species in lentil and chickpea growing field in Jashore region which is followed by *Cynodon dactylon* (Nag and Rahman, 2013). Within the six years of previous study the predominance species have been changed. This may be happened as favorable weather condition had changed for that weed. Among the families (Figure 2), Amaranthaceae is the highest percentage of taxa (23.1%) in total followed by Poaceae, Solanaceae and Euphorbiaceae (15.38% each). Cyperaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Scrophulariaceae and Cucurbitaceae were represented by the lowest percentage of taxa (7.69%). Cyperaceae had the highest percentage of taxa in lentil and chickpea growing field of Jashore region which was followed by Poaceae (Nag and Rahman, 2014) which is more or less similar to our present study.

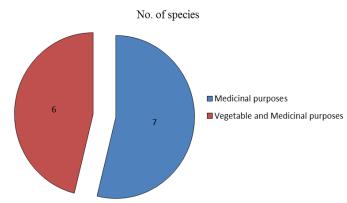


Figure 3. Ethno-botanicals use of recorded weed species.

The habitat diversity varied from crop fields along with its levees to roadsides, fallow lands, play grounds, waste lands, edges of drains, dry lands, shallow water bodies, etc. (Table 2). Based on the phenology (flowering times), identified weed species belong to eight distinct groups i.e., flowering occurs during the month of May-Sep (2 species), July-Dec (1 species), Dec-Mar (1 species), Feb-Mar (2 species), Year-round (4 species), Aug-Oct (1 species), Jan- Sep (1 species), Sep-Dec (1 species) (Table 2). This information of habitat and flowering period of different weed species that grown in the pulses field of south-western part of Bangladesh will help us to maintain weed population below the economic threshold limit by choosing appropriate management practices before/during flowering (Hasanuzzaman, 2015). The study revealed that the weeds from the crop fields and wastelands possess multiple medicinal and vegetable uses. The ethno-botanical uses of the reported weeds are much diversified (Table 3) and also recorded in different ethno-botanical references.

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Table 3. Ethno-botanical	lises of the recorded	1 weed species
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Out of 13 weed species, a total of 07 species has the medicinal properties/uses while 06 species used both as vegetable and medicinal purposes (Figure 3). Several weeds contain medicinal active ingredient like glycosides, resins, flavonoids, fatty acids, steroids, tannins, alkaloids that can be used in curing many diseases of human (Immannuel and Elazabeth, 2009). Moreover, weed species provide allelopathic, medicinal and food values (Bhattachariya and Borah, 2008).

Conclusion

A sum of 13 species under 12 genera and 08 families were collected and documented their use in various ailments. Among the families, Amaranthaceae is the highest-represented family with 03 species. Among the genera, the largest genera Amaranthus represented by 2 species. Cyperous rotundus, Cynodon dactylon, Chenopodium album, Amaranthus spinosus, Croton bonplandianum, Coccinia grandis are the common and major weed species in pulse crop growing field in Jashore. The flowering period of these weeds will be helpful for the management of weed population. A good number of these weeds have various economic, ethnomedicinal and other uses.

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Botanical Name	Ethno-botanical uses
C. rotundus L.	Young tubers eaten as food (sometimes), tubers used in leprosy, thirst, fever, blood diseases, biliousness, dysentery, pruritus, pain, vomiting, urinary concertinas, stomach disorder and irritation of the bowels.
C. dactylon L.	The plants contain trieterpenoids, proteins, carbohydrates and many organic acids. It is used as uretic. Leaf juice is used in inflamed tumours, whitlows toothache, eczema, menstruation and to stop bleeding
C. album L.	Vegetable; Medicinal uses – Hepatic disorders, spleen enlargement, dysentery, piles & hiccup, laxative, aphrodisiac & tonic, jaundice, urinary diseases
E. crus-galli (L.) P.Beauv.	Used in internal haemorrhage.
P. heterophylla Nees.	Medicinal uses – Ear problems, inflammations, cancer, skin diseases, urinary purgative
A. spinosus L.	Vegetables; Medicinal uses – Bronchitis, biliousness, blood diseases, burning sensation, hallucination, piles, leprosy, mouthwash, toothache
L. crustacea (L.) Muell.	Medicinal uses – Dysentery, ring worm, indigestion
S. americacanum Mill.	Medicinal uses – Skin disease, jaundice & hears diseases
C. bonplandianum Baill.	Medicinal uses – Jaundice, abscesses, headache, venereal sores, cough, fever, vomiting, cholera, venereal sores, scabies
A. sessilis (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	Vegetables; Medicinal uses – Lactagogue, febrifuge, intestinal cramps, cooling hair wash, eye diseases, body cool, ulcer
A. viridis L.	Vegetables; Medicinal uses – Demulcent, diuretic and also in snakebites, skin diseases, blood pressure
P. niruri L.	Medicinal uses – Gonorrhoea& other ailments of genito-urinary tract, jaundice, dysentery, bruises & wounds, scabby infections,stomach-ache
C. grandis (L.) Voigt.	Vegetables; Medicinal uses – Psoriasis, ringworm, itching, small pox, skin diseases, ulcer, scabies, diabetes, asthma, bronchitis, dysentery, vomiting, cough and cold

The information related to ethno-botanical uses were collected from the published literature (Hastings, 1990; Kumar and Sane, 2003; Uddin, 2006; Ahmed *et al.*, 2008a; 2008b; Dansi *et al.*, 2008; Ahmed *et al.*, 2009; Khan *et al.*, 2013; Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2014; Kumar *et al.*, 2019).

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