



Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society

NEWS LETTER

January 2008

Volume 1: Issue 1

President

Professor Khan Bahadar Marwat
Department of Agronomy
Faculty of Agriculture
NWFP Agriculture University,
Peshawar, PAKISTAN
kbmarwat@yahoo.com

President-elect

Assoc. Professor Steve Adkins
University of Queensland
AUSTRALIA
S.Adkins@UQ.edu.au

Secretary

Professor Gul Hassan
Department of Agronomy
Faculty of Agriculture
NWFP Agriculture University,
Peshawar, PAKISTAN
E-mail:
hassanpk_2000pk@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Dr. Michael Renton
Agriculture WA
AUSTRALIA
mrenton@agric.wa.gov.au

Newsletter Editor

Dr. Nimal Chandrasena
Ecosystem Restoration
1 Kawana Court
Bella Vista, NSW 2153
AUSTRALIA
Nimal.Chandrasena@gmail.com

Past President

Professor Buddhi Marambe
Faculty of Agriculture
University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka
bmarambe@pdn.ac.lk

Message from APWSS President

Dear APWSS Members and Weed
Scientists

I am pleased and honoured to launch
this inaugural Issue of the APWSS
Newsletter in this new format. We are
resurrecting this vehicle of
communication after about two years.
We believe that our Newsletter will be
interesting and informative and will
attract the attention of all weed
scientists and other scientists.

APWSS has a long history of supporting Weed Science activities in
all areas, including Education and Research. Interest and support
from fellow members from the Society enabled us to introduce the
teaching of Weed Science as a full-fledged discipline in
Universities, as well as Research in Pakistan and many other parts
of the world.

As a long-standing member and now as the President of the
Society, I feel that we could have done more than what we have
done in the past. Since members have given me chance to
represent the Society, I will not let you disappointed at any cost,
but that needs your continuous support and guidance. We have to
be more vigilant and responsive to the cause of weed science and
weed scientists in different parts of the world. To discuss the
challenges, I as a President of the APWSS, and President of the
Weed Science Society of Pakistan, welcome you all to Pakistan in
2009 for the 22nd APWSS Conference. (cont.)



Professor K B Marwat

Contents of this Newsletter:

- **Message from President, APWSS**
- **Message from President-elect, APWSS**
- **A Correction in APWSS Past History Volume**
- **A Summary of 21st APWSS Conference**
- **A Report from APWSS Treasurer**
- **A Report on 8th International Symposium on
Adjuncts for Agrochemicals, Columbus, Ohio, USA**
- **News about key events**
- **News from Members and Countries**
- **Points of View**
- **News about forthcoming Conferences**
- **Other 'Weedy' News**
- **Editor's Column**

We will launch the 22nd APWSS Conference details in our website (<http://www.wssp.org.pk>) for Weed Science Society of Pakistan soon. Through this website, you can also have access to our Pakistan Journal of Weed Science (ISI-indexed) for free. I look forward to seeing you here in Pakistan in 2009 and once again thank you for electing me as President of the APWSS Society.

I also encourage all members to support our Newsletter Editor in his task of putting together an interesting and useful Newsletter. As requested by him, kindly provide news of interest on weeds, weed research, projects and Weed Science-related activities that others may like to read and benefit from.

Khan Bahadar Marwat- A brief Profile:

Khan Bahadar Marwat is a Meritorious Professor and Dean of Faculty of Crop Protection Sciences of the North-Western Frontier Province Agricultural University in Peshawar, Pakistan. He has a Ph.D. in Botany from University of Peshawar (1984) and a second Ph.D. (Weed Science), which he obtained in 1988 from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA).

As a leader in Weed Science K. B. Marwat is a well-known figure in Pakistan. He is also the President of the Weed Science Society of Pakistan and Chief Editor of the official Journal of the Weed Science Society of Pakistan. He has supervised four Ph.D. students and there are five others currently registered for Ph.D. degrees under his supervision. Professor Marwat has published widely. He was also the founding President of Pakistan Ethnobotanical Society, Chief-Editor of Pakistan Journal of Ethnobotany.

Message from APWSS President-elect

As the President-elect of APWSS, I am very pleased to provide this brief message for our newly issued APWSS Newsletter.

The latter half of 2007 was a particularly busy one with respect to the activities of our society with our major Conference taking place, and also the launch of our 'history' book so well prepared and presented by one of our past Presidents, Aurora Baltazar. I had the pleasure of attending both the conference and the book launch. The 21st APWSS conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October and November, and was a resounding success. Many thanks to our outgoing President Buddhi Marambe and his team for their hard work in bringing this meeting together. As well as memorable scientific and social sessions, I will remember the Conference for its series of wonderful sponsored dinners. A feature of each was the presentation of local Sri Lankan dance and music.



**Assoc. Professor
Steve Adkins**

We are pleased that the next Conference will be held in Pakistan in 2009. I anticipate Conference details will be placed on a conference website in the near future.

I extend my thanks to the support I have had from the APWSS Executive in winning the bid to host the 23rd APWSS conference in Cairns, Australia in 2011. I look forward in the next two years, not only preparing for this event but also serving you in my role as Vice President. I am anticipating a very active couple of years for the society!

Steve Adkins- A brief Profile:

Steve Adkins hails from England where he completed his Ph.D. studies on the physiology of seed dormancy mechanisms of annual weeds in 1980. After postdoctoral positions in the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, and the University of Murdoch, Perth, Australia, he took up an academic position at the University of Queensland in 1988, where he has set up the Tropical and Subtropical Weed Research Unit.

Steve has been a member of APWSS for the past 20 years and has been Treasurer of the Society for the past 5 years. He has supervised over 30 postgraduate students in their M.Sc. and Ph.D. studies from 14 different countries, mostly in the Asian Pacific region.

His interests have been on weed seed biology and non-chemical weed management. He has held research projects worth ~ \$ 10 million in several Asian Pacific, European and African countries. He has also published over 250 citable articles and has been involved in the production of several books and software products for weed science teaching and research. He teaches weed science at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels at University of Queensland, where he is Associate Professor.

A Correction in APWSS Past History

As Members are aware, an APWSS Past History Volume was launched at the 21st APWSS Conference in Colombo as a special event, celebrating 40 years of existence of the Society. Dr. Aurora Balthazar prepared this Volume, which was received with much enthusiasm.

An Error has been noted on Page 27, on the 'Best Paper Awards for 1993' Conference, which was held in Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Chanya Maneechote from Thailand won The first place. The correction should read as follows:

- 'Herbicide resistance in a wild oat biotype is due to mutant acetyl CoA carboxylase' - Chanya Maneechote, J.A. Holtum and Stephen B. Powles

21st APWSS Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka- A Summary

Report of the 21st APWSS Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2-6 October 2007

Opening Ceremony

The 21st APWSS Conference was ceremonially opened at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2 October 2007. The Chief Guest of the event was Hon. Minister of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena. The Guest of Honour was the Minister of Agriculture of Sri Lanka, Mr. Hemakumara Nanayakkara.

Professor Buddhi Marambe, President of APWSS 2005-2007, delivered the Welcome Address. Professor Harischandra Abeygunawardena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and Professor Rohan Rajapaksha, Executive Director of the Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) of the Government of Sri Lanka, also delivered addresses at the opening ceremony.

Dr. Aurora Baltazar, the Editor of the 40-years commemorative volume of the APWSS, presented copies of the publication to the guests at the inaugural session.

Conference Proceedings

The sessions of the Conference were held at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- One hundred and eighty nine (189) participants from 19 countries attended the Conference.
- Total number of papers presented was 134, inclusive of 107 oral presentations, and 25 posters.
- There were 27 Technical Sessions; Oral presentations were made in three parallel sessions

The proceedings of the Conference were issued in two volumes. B. Marambe, U. R. Sangakkara, W. A. J. M. De Costa and A. Abeysekera edited the publication carrying Technical papers. B. Marambe edited papers of Plenary sessions. All the registered conference participants were provided with a free copy of the Proceedings, a commemorative volume of the 40-years history of APWSS, a special souvenir to mark the 21st APWSS Conference and 40-years of APWSS.

Plenary Papers

Three plenary sessions were held where presentations were made by the following:

- Dr. David Jhonson- 'Weed management issues in rice in the era of biotechnology',
- Dr. Ricardo Labrada- 'Weedy and wild rices: their impact and management',
- Professor Buddhi Marambe- 'Alien invasions, international trade, and national legislations',
- Professor K. U. Kim- 'Haustorium bioassay method for evaluating allelopathic potential',
- Professor Yoshiharu Fujii- 'Risk assessment of alien plants and their control – a report of the Japanese national project',
- Ms. Anuruddhika Abeysekera- 'Weed control techniques in Sri Lanka',
- Dr. Pal Singh- 'Integrated Weed management in agroforestry', and
- Mr. Hiran Weerasekera- 'Herbicide Industry in Sri Lanka'

Field Excursions

The third day of the conference was devoted for field excursions. A large number of members opted to visit Kandy in the central hills of Sri Lanka and the surroundings, while others opted for the Beach Tour at Beruwala, a popular tourist destination, located on the south-western coast of the country.

Receptions

The Conference hosted the welcome reception and the closing dinner at the Galle Face Hotel. Messrs Kumiai Chemical Industry Co., Japan, in collaboration with the Lankem Ceylon Limited, Sri Lanka, hosted a special dinner on the second day at the Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo. Messrs Opex Holdings Pvt. Ltd. hosted a dinner on the 4th day of the Conference at the Trans Asia Hotel, Colombo.

Sponsors

Conference activities were part-sponsored by the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Messrs Kumiai Chemical Industry Co., Japan, Lankem Ceylon Limited, Sri Lanka, Excel Crop Care Ltd., India, Chemical Industries Colombo Ltd., Sri Lanka, and Opex Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Sri Lanka.

Best Paper Awards

The Young Scientist Awards were made with the generous sponsorship from Messrs Excel Crop Care Ltd., India. The awards, named as "Excel Young Scientist Awards", were handed over to the young and deserving scientists who were selected based on the quality of the papers presented at the Conference. The Winners and their Papers are given below:

- **A. Modhej** (Iran) - Integrated weed management in canola (*Brassica napus* L)
- **I. Rashid** (India) - Effect of seedling emergence time on the performance of mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.): an alien invasive species in Kashmir Himalaya
- **B. Kanrar** (India) - Laboratory simulated studies on the persistence behaviour of Penoxsulam 24SC - A new class of rice herbicide in soils of different agroclimatic zones of India.

Mr. Abhijit Bose of the Excel Crop Care Ltd., India, presented the awards to the winners at the closing ceremony of the Conference, held on 6 October 2007.

Travel Awards

The APWSS Executive Committee gave three Travel Awards to deserving scientists, each award to the value of US \$ 400. The winners were selected from among the applicants as per guidelines set by the Ex-Co of the APWSS. These awards were also presented to the winners at the closing ceremony of the Conference, held on 6 October 2007. The Winners and their Papers are given below:

- **Z. Mavunganidze** (Zimbabwe)– 'An evaluation of weed management options for cotton-based farming systems in Muzarabani, Zimbabwe' (*the candidate was unable to attend the conference*)
- **P. Saravanane** (India)- 'Allelopathic potential of invaded weeds on diverse weed spectrum of potato',
- **M. Saeed** (Pakistan)- 'Chemical weed management in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L) in rainfed area of Pakistan'

Ex-Co meeting and Election of the host country for 23rd APWSS Conference

The Executive Committee Meeting of the 21st APWSS was held at the Galle Face Hotel together with the country representatives, where the President and the Secretary of the APWSS 2005-2007, presented the progress of activities. The Treasurer presented the annual balance sheet.

Members were informed that six bids had been received to host the 23rd APWSS Conference. The venue to hold the 23rd Conference was elected after short presentations made by the bidding countries, namely Australia, Korea, India, Pakistan, Japan and Indonesia. Indonesia later withdrew from the bidding process, and the country representatives voted through secret ballot to elect the host country to hold the 23rd APWSS Conference. Australia emerged as the winner.

General Meeting and the Election of Officer bearers for APWSS 2007-2009

The General Meeting of the APWSS was held thereafter where members were elected to be office bearers for APWSS 2007-2009. Professor K.B. Marwat, President-elect chaired the meeting.

The following now comprise the Executive Committee of APWSS:

President	Professor K. B. Marwat, Pakistan
Vice-President	Associate Professor Steve Adkins, Australia
Secretary	Professor Gul Hassan, Pakistan
Treasurer	Dr. Michael Renton, Australia
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Nimal Chandrasena, Australia
Past President	Professor Buddhi Marambe, Sri Lanka

Contribution of the 21st APWSS to the Society

The 21st APWSS held in Colombo, Sri Lanka contributed US \$ 1400 to the society as membership fees of participants, who have paid the full registration fee for the next 2 years.

Closing Session

After 5-days of successful deliberations, the 21st APWSS was officially closed by the closing announcement made by the out-going president Professor Buddhi Marambe. Several participants and representatives of the principal sponsors made remarks at the closing sessions thanking the organizers for conducting a successful conference.

Mr. Abhijit Bose of Messrs Excel Crop Care Ltd., India, pledged to continue awarding the Excel Young Scientist Award at the 22nd APWSS Conference.

Professor K. B. Marwat, invited the weed scientists to Lahore, Pakistan in 2009 to attend the 22nd APWSS Conference. The proceedings ended with the awards ceremony, a cultural show and fellowship dinner, which were held at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A Report from the APWSS Treasurer

At the Executive Meeting of the APWSS on 5/11/07 a report of the financial activities of the APWSS in 2005/07 was presented by the Society Treasurer, Dr Steve Adkins.

The total income received during this period was US \$2,000 from membership fees (Vietnam) and US \$1,602 from bank account interest. Expenditures were US \$1,800 for production of the Society History Book and bank account keeping fees US\$176. The net balance created was US \$ 1626. Therefore, the current capital and reserves of the Society stood at **US \$34,144** on 5/11/07 (Table 1).

Account Type	Aus \$	@ US \$ (Aus \$= 0.95 US \$)	Totals
Term Deposit	13,619.13	10,895.30	10,895.30
Cheque Account	3,787.86	3,030.29	3,030.29
Term Deposit	-	20,218.15	20,218.15
			34,143.74

Report on 8th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals was held in Columbus, Ohio, USA, August 6-9 2007

Submitted by J A Zabkiewicz, Plant Protection Chemistry _{NZ} Rotorua, New Zealand

Jerzy (George) Zabkiewicz, Research Director
Plant Protection Chemistry NZ
PO Box 6282, 49 Sala Street, Rotorua, New Zealand
ph +64 7 343 5491

E-mail: JAZ@ppcnz.co.nz

The 8th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals was held in Columbus, Ohio, USA over August 6-9 2007. This triennial gathering was attended by over 350 delegates from all over the world. It was also the occasion when the International Society for Agrochemical Adjuvants (www.isaa-online.org) was finally formalised after operating as an *ad hoc* group for the past 20 years.

The Symposium was a combination of platform and poster presentations, together with a trade show and field excursions. A total of 90+ presentations were given and proceedings issued as a CD. The conference covered a wide range of adjuvant-related areas, on herbicide, fungicide, insecticide and soil conditioning studies as well as market and regulatory issues, new adjuvants and their properties, new formulations, mode of action, target character and operational issues.

Topics relevant to weed control fell into several main categories. There was a strong emphasis by industry delegates on the discovery of new adjuvants, either with different properties, or from renewable sources. Not unexpectedly, most were for use with glyphosate against various weed species, followed by the 2,4-D type phenoxy herbicides. In particular pH stable organosilicones and vegetable oil based derivatives appeared to show much promise. These developments are being driven by increasingly stricter environmental and regulatory requirements, and the complete elimination of alkyphenyl ethoxylate products from agrochemical use is only a matter of time.

The focus on plant surface and formulation residue, involving the solid:liquid interface and further interactions, was quite pronounced. Several presentations dealt with the nature and variability of formulation deposits and behaviour on different target surfaces as well as the mechanisms involved in herbicide uptake. It is clear that the process is more complex than previously thought. Uptake mechanisms can now involve the cuticle diffusion pathway, stomatal infiltration and an "aqueous pore" pathway, the nature of which is still under active investigation and debate.

The fact that more attention is being paid to plant leaf character and cuticle composition, instead of just the physical properties of the spray formulation marks a significant change in direction from field trial extrapolation to detailed laboratory investigations. Several papers presented known or current mechanistic concepts and quite sophisticated empirical, as well as process based models, which are being developed. In contrast to earlier symposia, there were far fewer presentations of empirical field trial results comparing different spray formulations, although the highly competitive glyphosate market is still providing the impetus for such studies. Furthermore, other presentations dealt with more sophisticated, but faster means of assessing herbicide effects, such as the use of whole plant chlorophyll fluorescence measurements.

ISAA 2010 will be held near Munich in Germany. The programme chair is Dr Peter Baur, Bayer AG, Frankfurt, Germany.

News about Key Events

Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu, India hosts FAO-Weed Risk Assessment Regional Workshop & Training for Asia in September 2007.

A Regional Training Workshop for Asia on Weed Risk Assessment was held Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu, India during 25th to 28th September, 2007 (see Photos overleaf). The event was jointly organized by FAO and the Department of Agronomy of the Annamalai University. Dr. R. M. Kathiresan, Professor of Agronomy, was the local co-ordinator. Dr. Stephen Johnson, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Australia, and Dr. Ricardo Labrada Romero, Weed Officer, FAO, were the facilitators. Travel costs for international participants were sponsored by FAO-Rome. The Annamalai University sponsored the cost of their accommodation and food. Representatives from several Asian Countries (Japan, China, Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam) attended the Workshop.

Information on the event can be obtained from R. M. Kathiresan (rm.kathiresan@sify.com).

FAO holds International Workshop on Rice-Allelopathy – CHINA, October 2007

FAO, Chinese Weed Science Society and Chinese Allelopathy Society jointly organized an International Workshop on Rice Allelopathy during 9-10 October 2007, at Huandotide Hotel, Haikou, Hainan province, China. FAO sponsored the travel of international experts from Korea, India, Japan and Vietnam. and the local hospitality was extended by the Chinese Weed Science Society and Chinese Allelopathy Society. Bio-assay procedures and breeding techniques for incorporation of allelopathic traits from allelopathic rice cultivars were discussed and participants were given hands on training.

Dr. Ricardo Labrada, Weed Officer, FAO-Rome stressed on the importance and progress of research on Rice Allelopathy. Professor .K. U. Kim from Korea, Dr. D. V.Chin from Vietnam, Dr. Kato Naguchi from Japan and Professor. R. M. Kathiresan from India, the invited experts, dealt on various bio-assay procedures in rice-allelopathy. Dr. Steve Duke and Dr. Frank Dayan of Natural Products Research Center, USDA-ARS, USA and Dr. Francisco Macias of Cadiz Allelopathy Group, Spain also participated.



Photograph shows the organizers Dr. R. M. Kathiresan (standing 3rd from R), Dr. R. Labrada (seated 2nd from R), Dr. S. Johnson (seated 3rd from R), Executives from Indian Council of Agricultural Research Dr. J. G. Varshney (standing 3rd from L), Dr. W. R. Reddy and Dr. N. T. Yaduraju (seated 2nd from L).



Photograph shows a Workshop Session in progress

India holds National Training Program on Advanced Instrumentation for the analysis of pollutants in food and water, 20-26th November 2007

The National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur hosted India's National Training Program on 'Advance Instrumental Training for the Analysis of Pollutants in the Food Commodity and Water'. The seven-day national training program received an overwhelming response from researchers, students, and technical officers from all over India. Forty-two candidates were recently trained.

It is well known that pollutants such as heavy metals and pesticides have toxicological significance, which pose potential risk when present in soil, water, food and other components of environment. The analysis of pollutants requires sophisticated equipments and trained personnel, because residues are invariably present in micro-quantities and are generally estimated at ppm or ppb level using sensitive methods.



Photograph shows opening session of the Workshop. L to R are: Dr. Sushilkumar, Senior Scientist; Dr. (Mrs.) Shobha Sondhia, Course Coordinator and Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRC for Weed Science.

The identification of residues must also be confirmed beyond doubt since mistaken identify can lead to wrong interpretations of the results.

During the program training focused on herbicide chemistry; current advances in herbicide application and use; risk of environmental pollution due to pesticides herbicides and heavy metals, phyto-remediation techniques and herbicide residue management. Analytical protocols were given to the trainees for the analyses of herbicide residues, heavy metals, phytoremediation and analysis of biochemical parameters of water, using various advanced instruments, including GC, HPLC, AAS, UV-VIS Spectro-photometry and TLC. The training was in line with Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and European guidelines.

The training program is offered at cost a total of US \$1750 and is open for participants from developing countries. Interested participants can contact Director, NRC for Weed Science, Maharajpur, Jabalpur – 482 004, M.P., India or visit the institute's website: <http://www.nrcws.org> for announcements of training programs.

Those who require additional information on the event could also contact Dr. Jay G. Varshney (varshneyjg@gmail.com) or Dr. Prasad Babu, Senior Scientist (mbbprasadbabu@gmail.com).

News from Members and Countries

News from Australia

Implementation of Regional Weed Management Plans in New South Wales (NSW)

In NSW, the Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is responsible for coordinating the weed management efforts across the State. Assisted by DPI, weed managers and weed officers of various Local Government Authorities (Local Councils), Catchment Management Authorities and government agencies have developed Regional Weed Management Plans (WMPs) for several priority weeds that have been targeted for management.

There are now fully developed WMPs for the following weeds:

- Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*),
- Primrose Willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*),
- Asthma Weed (*Parietaria judaica*),
- Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*),
- Privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*),
- Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*), and
- A suite of grasses- Tussock Paspalum (*Paspalum quadrifolium*), Chilean Needle Grass (*Nasella neesiana*), Serrated Tussock (*Nasella trichotoma*) and Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia* sp.).

Implementation of the above WMPs is in progress. Information on the above plans and related activities can be obtained by visiting the Website: www.sydneyweeds.org.au.

In NSW, 'noxious weeds' weeds are classified for management purposes into 5 categories, under the Noxious Weeds Act (1993) and its Amendment in 2002. The categories are as follows:

- **Class 1** - State Prohibited Weeds. "*The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant*". The control objective is to prevent the introduction and establishment of these plants in NSW.
- **Class 2** - Regionally Prohibited Weeds. "*The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant*". The control objective is also to prevent the introduction and establishment of these plants in parts of NSW.
- **Class 3** - Regionally Controlled Weeds. "*The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed*". The control objective is to reduce the area and the impact of these plants in parts of NSW.
- **Class 4** - Locally Controlled Weeds. "*The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority*". The control objective is to minimise the negative impact of these plants on the economy, community or environment of NSW.
- **Class 5** - Restricted Plants. "*The requirements in the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 for a notifiable weed must be complied with*". The control objective is to prevent the introduction to NSW and also their spread within NSW or from NSW to another jurisdiction.

Based on the above categorization, Alligator Weed, Salvinia and *Ludwigia peruviana* are Class 3 weeds; Water Hyacinth, a Class 2 weed and *Ludwigia longifolia*, a Class 4 weed.

Two new Aquatic Weed Projects commence in NSW

Two new projects targeting aquatic weeds are currently underway in NSW. One of the projects is focusing on GIS-based mapping and risk assessment of Alligator Weed infestations in the Sydney basin and the Hunter Valley region, where 'core' infestations within NSW occur. The Project is funded under the 'Defeating Weed Menace' Programme by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF) of Australia, and is supported by NSW DPI.

The information gathered is expected to provide a new baseline of the extent and distribution of Alligator Weed in these regions. This data, combined with an appraisal of the effectiveness of control efforts over the past two decades, is likely to facilitate better planning and future management of the infestations.

A risk assessment matrix is also being developed, which would allow more effective management of Alligator Weed in Local Government Areas and in the regions. The National focus of the risk assessment is to prioritize the risks and modes of spread outside the core infestation areas, and actions that are required to arrest further spread.

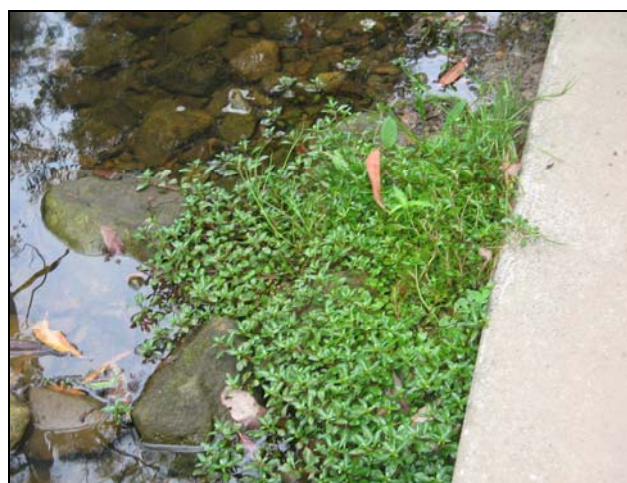
Those requiring additional information should contact Dr. Nimal Chandrasena (nimal.chandrasena@gmail.com) or the National Coordinator, Weeds of National Significance-Aquatic Weeds- Andrew Petroeschovsky (andrew.petroeschovsky@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

The NSW DPI's Regional Weed Committees have also just commenced a second project of similar GIS-based mapping of five other major aquatic weeds in the Sydney basin. The targeted species are: Salvinia, Water Hyacinth, *Ludwigia peruviana*, *Ludwigia longifolia*, and Senegal Tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*). Information on this new project could be obtained from Project Manager Kelly Saunderson via www.sydneyweeds.org.au.

A new *Ludwigia* species found in Sydney- another escapee from Aquarium Industry?

Recently, a new *Ludwigia* species- Creeping Primrose Willow- *Ludwigia repens*- was found in a waterway within the Lane Cove National Park, in Sydney, NSW. *Ludwigia repens* is a popular aquarium plant in USA, it is possible that the species may have been imported to Australia and may have escaped from an aquarium.

The current infestations are small and limited to the National Park, which is located in a highly urban environment in Sydney. Given that two other species, Primrose Willow (*L. peruviana*) and Long-leaf Willow Primrose (*L. longifolia*) are major aquatic weeds in the Sydney and Hunter regions of NSW, there is concern about the potential for spread of the new species.



APWSS Member Peter Harper (peter@bettersafe.com.au) provided this news item and the photograph of *L. repens*.

Crop Weeds of Australia (Educational Version) An identification & information tool

Crop Weeds of Australia is an interactive CD-ROM for identifying crop weeds in Australia. The Lucid identification system, which provides the platform for this product, is a useful knowledge management tool to help you identify crop weed species and link you to a comprehensive source of information on nearly 150 species. A major feature of this tool is that you can navigate through the content in any way you want to meet your own, specific information and identification needs. The combination of images and text descriptions provides help during the identification process, and a customised search engine provides a rapid means of getting to specific topics to be found on the CD.

A team from The School of Land and Food Sciences and The Centre has developed this educational version for Biological Technology (CBIT) at The University of Queensland, in association with the CRC for Australian Weed Management. The innovative Lucid™ software has been developed by CBIT. Crop Weeds of Australia is a valuable teaching and learning tool for tertiary weed management courses.

Declared Plants (Noxious Weeds) of Australia

Declared Plants of Australia is an interactive tool for identifying noxious weeds in Australia. Using the Lucid™ identification system This tool allows you to easily select features of the plant you wish use when trying to identify a specimen, and provides images, text and a number of functions that will help you in the identification process. The CD provides extensive information about over 300 declared plants and includes over 600 other species of commonly occurring weeds.

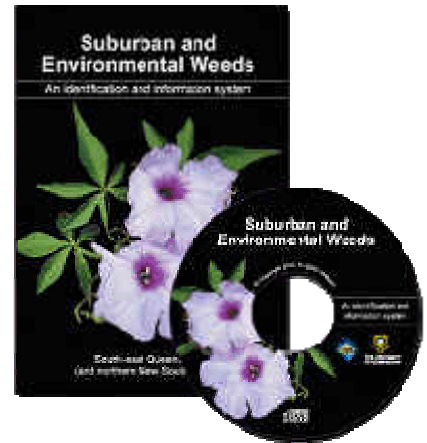
This tool is being produced through collaboration between the Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT) and The Tropical and Subtropical Weeds Research Unit (TSWRU) at the University of Queensland, and is also being supported by the Council of Australian Weed Societies (CAWS).

Suburban and Environmental Weeds

Suburban and Environmental Weeds is another interactive identification and information system on CD-ROM covering weeds commonly found in the suburban areas of South-east Queensland and North-east New South Wales. It includes an abundance of information that can be accessed in a variety of ways and should be of interest to advisors, researchers, students, weed control officers and anyone interested in learning more about weeds.

This CD has been produced through collaboration between the Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT), The Department of Botany and The Tropical and Subtropical Weeds Research Unit (TSWRU) at the University of Queensland. Support has also been provided by The Brisbane City Council (BCC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Authors: Sheldon Navie and Steve Adkins



The Environmental Weeds of Australia (Coming Soon)

An interactive identification and information resource for over 1000 invasive plants

This electronic product includes:

- A Lucid3 key to over 1,000 major environmental weeds of Australia
- Detailed descriptions of weed species
- Links to website information
- A detailed glossary
- Thousands of images

Environmental Weeds of Australia will be an invaluable resource to all those involved with research, training and management of environmental weeds in Australia, especially State and local weed control officers, Bushcare and Landcare volunteers. This product also provides an extremely valuable teaching resource for students (University, TAFE and Secondary schools). The expected release date is early 2008. If you would like to be informed when Environmental Weeds of Australia is available, send an email to Enquiries@cbit.uq.edu.au.

News from Bangladesh

Hidden power of rice varieties to suppress weed in Bangladesh

Rice genotypes vary in their morpho-physiological characteristics, which compel farmers to select varieties according to their need. Weeds are vital enemies of rice, causing more than 40% yield loss in Bangladesh. Control of weeds is a burning concern of rice farmers of the country.

Mechanical or manual control of weeds is very costly and time consuming. Chemical control on the other hand, leads to environmental pollution. Biological control by using weed-suppressive allelopathic varieties is the best option for the densely populated country, the Bangladesh. With this background, researches have been done to screen out the allelopathic rice varieties, which can suppress weed growth by root exudation or decomposition of plant debris.

Mr. Abdul Jalil Mridha, Senior Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRI), Gazipur, Bangladesh in his PhD research under the supervision of Prof. Dr. S.M. Rezaul Karim, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh has screened out 13 out of 139 rice varieties, which possess high allelopathic potential.

This research has led to finding varieties that have suppressed the growth of barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crusgalli* L.) by 60 to 80%. In this study, screening of the varieties was conducted using Relay Seeding Technique under laboratory conditions. Later, the findings were confirmed by repeating the study under greenhouse conditions using the Double-pot technique (see Photograph overleaf), where the effects of competition are excluded.

The ranking of the varieties in respect of allelopathic potential as measured by the average percent inhibition of barnyard grass growth were as follows: Kaktara > Woo Co Chin Yu > WITA12 > Dular > Lalpaika > BRRIdhan27 > WITA3 > FARO8 > BR26 > BRRIdhan39 > IR64 > WITA8 > Dharial.

Photograph shows the Double-Pot experimental set up that was used in the study. The rice varieties under investigation were grown in the small pot at the top, and the weeds being tested were grown in the larger pot. A saucer was placed underneath.

Bangladesh Agricultural University is one of the largest Agricultural Universities in Asia. It is situated at Mymensingh city, which is 120 km north of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. It has 6 Faculties (Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, Agricultural Engineering & Food Technology, Fisheries), and has more than 5000 students studying undergraduate and post-graduate (M.S & Ph.D.) courses.

More information on this news can be obtained from Professor Karim (rkarimbau@yahoo.com).



Double-Pot Technique

News from China

An new alien invasive weed - *Flaveria bidentis* in China

Hongjun Zhang, from the Institute for Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture, China, reports on a new alien weed invader- *Flaveria bidentis* (L.) Kuntze, which is increasingly becoming a problem in China. This species of the Asteraceae family, originates from South Africa and was found for the first time in 2001 in suburbs of Tianjin city and a few cities in Hebei province of China. Now it is infesting arable fields, roadsides, and other areas and has been reported as becoming a dominant weed in some agricultural fields.

There are no effective measures available yet for farmers to take to control of the infestations, and the species could become troublesome for the development of sustainable agriculture. Research done during last two years shows that the alien weed germinates in late spring and grows throughout summer and reproduces very fast.



A photo of *Flaveria bidentis*.

It tolerates environmental stresses of salinity, cold temperature, and barren soil. It could also excrete allelopathic chemicals, i.e. sulfated flavonoid that inhibits the growth of some susceptible species.

Herbicides- Picloram, Triclopyr, MCPA-sodium and Glyphosate were found to be effective in controlling the weed. More information on this new weed threat can be obtained from Hongjun (hongjun-zh1975@163.com).

News from India

First occurrence of a weed rice species (*Oryza rufipogon*) in West Bengal

A new 'weedy rice' species (*Oryza rufipogon*) has been observed in the Gangetic Inceptisol region of West Bengal for the first time. This 'weedy rice' looks similar to cultivated rice, and is known as a serious problem in different countries of Asia.

In this case, the 'weedy rice' composed of 35% of a crop, and the average yield loss was to the tune of 60%. The weedy rice was found in an experimental field of the Viswavidyalaya Farm, Kalyani, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Nadia, West Bengal during the Kharif season of 2007. It is commonly known as Khao Nok (Thailand), Sharei (Korea), Jhora dhan (Bangladesh), Lua Lon (Vietnam), Padi Angin (Malaysia), Akamai (Japan) etc. in various Asian countries.

- Dr. Y. Fuzi, Japan identified the species.
- Characters: Height 155 cm; No. of tillers 15; No. of panicles 59; Length of panicle 22 cm.; Awn length 7 cm.; Grain panicles 86; Percent filled grain -7%;
- Special characteristics: Seed shattering and host of rice bug

Professor R. K. Ghosh and Mr. K. Barui, Senior. Research Fellow, from the Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, BCKV, Mohanpur- 741252, Nadia, West Bengal, India provided this information and the Photographs.

More information can be obtained from R.K. Ghosh (rkgbckv@rediffmail.com).



Photographs of *Oryza rufipogon* found at BCKV.



Photographs of inflorescence and seeds *Oryza rufipogon* found at BCKV.

News from New Zealand Jan 2008

Submitted by:

Dr. Anis Rahman, NZ Country Representative
Team Leader, Plant Protection,

Ruakura Research Centre, [AgResearch](http://www.agresearch.co.nz)

East Street, Private Bag 3123, Hamilton, New Zealand

E-Mail: anis.rahman@agresearch.co.nz; www.agresearch.co.nz

1. Developments with NZ Plant Protection Society (NZPPS)

The NZPPS is now a full member of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS). This gives NZPPS members access to awards like the CAWS medal for leadership, the Annual Student Travel Award and the Annual Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award. Details of these are available from the CAWS website <http://home.vicnet.net.au>

Another award that became available from NZPPS since joining CAWS is the "Most Weedwise Nursery" award. The inaugural 2007 award was presented recently to Kerikeri Plant Production Nursery, which specialises in growing a range of native species and deliberately avoid including any invasive species in their collection.

In 2007 NZPPS also instituted a 'New Zealand Plant Protection Medal' for outstanding services to plant protection through research, education, implementation or leadership. The inaugural medal was presented to Dr Howard Wearing at the 60th Conference of the Society for his years of IPM research on horticultural crops.

NZPPS currently has 365 Ordinary Members; 16 Student Members; 1 Associate Member and 25 Sustaining Members, i.e. a total of 416 members, and a very healthy financial sheet.

2. The 60th Annual Conference of NZPPS

NZPPS celebrated its 60th Anniversary by holding its annual conference on the picturesque Marine Parade in Napier, preceded by a Symposium entitled, 'Future Challenges in Plant Protection: Repositioning NZ's Primary Industries for the Future'. On this special occasion the society also released a commemorative CD containing a compilation of papers presented at its conferences from 1948 – 2007.

The 2008 Conference and the symposium will be held ; at the Copthorne Hotel, Paihia, in the Bay of Islands, from 11 – 14 August. The topic for the one day pre-conference symposium is 'Surveillance for Biosecurity'. Further details, when available, will be posted on the Society's website at www.nzpps.org

NZPPS is also planning to host the 17th Australasian Weed Conference in Christchurch from 26 – 30 September 2010 to bring the Australian and New Zealand weed scientists together for the first time in New Zealand.

3. Plant – SyNZ database is now live

The Plant-SyNZ database links New Zealand plants with their insect and mite herbivores. The database can be searched by plant or by herbivore name and produces reports that list the herbivores associated with a plant or the plants on which they live.

There are now 6863 host associations with 1517 plants and 2584 invertebrates. This information would be of importance to people with interests in biodiversity, biosecurity, ecology and education. The database can be accessed from <http://www.crop.cri.nz/home/plant-synz/index.jsp>

News from Pakistan

Two new Weed Science Ph.Ds from North West Frontier Province Agriculture University

The following two candidates defended their thesis and got PhD degrees in Weed Science from NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar in 2007:

- Dr. Mohammad Azim Khan- "Interference of Holy Thistle (*Silybum marianum* Gaertn.) with Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) at different densities". Professor K. B. Marwat supervised this work.
- Dr Ijaz Ahmad Khan- "Effect of Wild Oat (*Avena fatua*) Densities of Wheat seeded at Varying Rates". Professor Gul Hassan supervised this research.

Young Weed Scientist wins Research Scholarship from Australia

In addition, Mr. Ikramullah Khan, Lecturer in Weed Science, NWFP Agricultural University won the University of Queensland Research Scholarship (UQRS) and University of Queensland Research Award (UQIRA). Further information on the above could be obtained from Professor Marwat (kbmarwat@yahoo.com).

Summaries of Thesis:

Interference of Holy Thistle (*Silybum marianum* Gaertn.) with Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) at Different Densities

Mohammad Azim Khan (ahmadzaipk@yahoo.com)

Department of Weed Science, NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar, Pakistan

Competition between Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and Holy thistle (*Silybum marianum* Gaertn.) having contrasting evolutionary background were studied in two seasons during 2003-04 and 2004-05 at Agricultural Research Farm, NWFP Agricultural University Peshawar, Pakistan.

Silybum being wide spread weed in North-west Pakistan was selected as model weed in this study to decipher its impact and competitive ability with wheat at various seeding rates. The results showed that *Silybum* is an aggressive weed and reduce the grain yield of wheat even if present at density of 1 m⁻² in wheat fields. However the yield reduction is dependent on wheat seeding rate and *Silybum* density i.e. higher the *Silybum* density, greater will be the yield losses of wheat.

Presence of *Silybum* decreased all the yield components of wheat where the greater reduction was recorded in tillers which showed that competition between wheat and *Silybum* starts in the earlier stages of the crop. There is an accepted concept in weed science that time of emergence of the crop and weed is an important factor that determines the yield losses due to weeds i.e. the earlier emergence of weeds, the greater yield losses will occur. However, in our experiments, the *Silybum* emerged later than wheat in both the seasons but the *Silybum* growth was much more in year 2 as compared to year 1. Bigger vegetative growth of *Silybum* in year 2 was due to environmental conditions. As the total rainfall was higher and average temperature was lower in year 2. These climatic variations favoured the *Silybum* growth, therefore the grain yield reduction was also changed. Yield losses were higher at lower seed rates rather than at higher seed rates. It was observed that yield losses in year 2 were greater than year 1. This might be due to unusual rainfall (316 mm) in year 2 as compared to 140 mm in year 1. Because higher rainfall and low temperature enabled the *Silybum* to escape suppression by increasing seeding rates and thus achieved greater growth in year 2.

Thus, simple model of weed density and crop cannot be fitted well to predict the yield losses in wheat and environmental factors need to be accounted in crop/weed competition models. It was concluded that higher seed rate could not decrease the yield losses due to weeds and other methods of weed management should be used in coincidence with higher seed rate. Maximum yield losses at seed rate 100, 120, 140 and 160 kg ha⁻¹ were 26, 18, 15 and 7% during year 1 and 37, 31, 28 and 29 % during year 2. Seeding rate 120 kg ha⁻¹ proved the best in term of wheat grain yield while in term of weed suppression, seeding rate 160 kg ha⁻¹ is the best but it is weather dependent.

Thus, we can conclude from the experiments, that the time of emergence of an important but other factors like rainfall and temperature should be included in predicting the yield losses of crop because change in weather conditions favour the growth of one species and disfavour the other species due to their different requirements for growth and development. The *Silybum* growth, fresh and dry biomass was greater in year 2 than in year 1 and thus yield losses were greater in year 2. Hence it was concluded from the results of two years of experimentation that presence of *Silybum* density even at 1 m⁻² cause substantial yield losses and thus must be controlled because it produced substantial amount of seeds even at highest wheat seed rate, which cause the dissemination of seeds for the future.

Effect of wild oat density on wheat seeded at various rate

Ijaz Ahmad Khan (ahmadzaipk@yahoo.com)

Department of Weed Science, NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar, Pakistan

Weed crop competition is a complex field of study. The extent of competition is governed by a number of factors including crop and weed species, cultivars and crop density. Weed management has long been a vital practice and will remain important in the future to ensure the profitability of farming operations and also to feed the growing population. Farmers continuously deal with weeds in crops and their importance is reflected in the form of manual labor, tillage, and herbicides used for weed control. Two separate experiments were carried out at Malakandher Research Farm, NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar, Pakistan fro two seasons i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06.

The first experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block (RCB) design with split plot arrangement. Four seed rates viz. 100, 130, 160 and 190 kg ha⁻¹ were assigned to main plots, while wild oats densities 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 seed m⁻² were kept in sub-plots. Data were recorded on tillers m⁻², days to heading, plant height (cm), number of spikes m⁻², days to maturity, leaf area (cm²), tiller⁻¹ of wheat, spike length (cm), spikelets spike⁻¹, 1000 grain weight (g), biological yield (kg ha⁻¹), protein content (%) in wheat grain, grain yield (kg ha⁻¹) and various parameters of wild oats. Statistical analysis of the data showed that in both the years most of the parameters ere statistically affected by wild oats densities and seed rates, while the interaction of seed rates with wild oats densities was non-significant fro all the parameters investigated. Maximum number of tillers m⁻², spike m⁻², spike length, spikelets spike⁻¹, 1000 grain weight, leaf area and protein content (%) in wheat grain and grain yield were recorded in wheat monoculture (0 wild oats density plot).

The results further revealed that wild oats is an aggressive weed and reduce the grain yield of wheat even if present at a density of 5 plants m⁻² in wheat fields. However, the yield reduction is dependent on wheat seeding rate and wild oats density i.e. higher the wild oats density, greater will be the yield losses in wheat. In both years wild oats significantly reduced the yield and yield components of wheat. Yield losses were higher at lower seed rates rather than at higher seed rates. Minimum losses were recorded at 160 kg ha⁻¹ seed rates in both years.

The second experiment was comprised of the investigation of morphologically different wheat cultivars for their competitive ability against wild oats. The experiment comprised of six wheat cultivars i.e. Khattakwal, Ghaznavi-98, Fakhr-e-Sarhad, Dera-91, Saleem-2000 and Pirsabak-85. In all of the cultivars, the wild oats was sown at a constant density of 10 plant m⁻². Data were recorded on tillers m⁻², plant height (cm), number of spikes m⁻², days to maturity, leaf area tiller⁻¹ (cm²), spikelets spike⁻¹, spike length (cm), grain spike⁻¹, 1000 grain weight (g), biological yield (kg ha⁻¹), grain yield (kg ha⁻¹) and various parameters of wild oats. Most of the parameters were significantly affected by wild oats infestation. During both the years maximum number of tiller m⁻², leaf area (cm²), yield and yield components were produced by Saleem-2000 and Ghaznavi-98, plant height (cm) and biological yield were however the highest in Khattakwal cultivar.

It was concluded from the results of two years of experimentation that Saleem-2000 and Ghaznavi-98 suppressed the growth of wild oats the most, exhibiting that the plant height was not the only indicator of aggressiveness among the wheat cultivars. Whereas, tillers m⁻² were the most important parameter in suppressing wild oats and increasing grain yield of wheat. The higher number of tillers meant an earlier closing of canopy and depriving the wild oats from solar radiation.

News from Sri Lanka

Studies on *Lantana camara* and weed inhibition

A research is being carried out at the Department Plant Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka by Dr. Sudeera Ranwala and her Research Assistant, Shwetha de Silva, to investigate the potential for weed inhibition by the invasive plant *Lantana camara* (Gandapana). *Lantana* is ranked as one of the most troublesome invasive plants in many countries, including Sri Lanka, India and Australia. The National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka is sponsoring the research under Grant number RG/2005/AG/06.

Allelochemicals of *Lantana* have already been isolated and documented by many scientists. Lantadene A and B are the most common and Salicylic acid is recorded as one of the major toxins. Preliminary studies involved investigations on effects of mature *Lantana* leaves on germination and growth of some rice weeds, such as *Ludwigia decurrens*, *L. hyssopifolia*, *Ischaemum rugosum*, *Vernonia cinerea*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Limnocharis flava* and *Commelina benghalensis*. Laboratory and glass house experiments were conducted using crude *Lantana* extracts and leaf residues.

Investigations have shown successful inhibition of some of the rice field weeds tested. Both *L. hyssopifolia* and *L. decurrens* have been suppressed in the presence of *Lantana* extracts. *Lantana* residues significantly inhibited seed germination of *L. hyssopifolia*. In addition, the growth of *L. decurrens* was also considerably hindered when exposed to *Lantana* allelochemicals. Furthermore, growth suppressive effects on other weeds, such as *Vernonia cinerea*, *Commelina benghalensis* and *C. diffusa* have also been identified. Studies carried out in India on *Commelina benghalensis* provide supporting evidence of *Lantana*'s herbicidal/phytotoxic effects on this weed.

At present field trials are in progress. Positive outcomes expected by the current study could lead to identifying the potential of *Lantana* residues for weed suppression more widely, as a novel 'biological herbicide'. It is anticipated that the studies could assist overcome current environmental issues on synthetic agrochemicals to some extent, as well as provide a better way of management of this invasive species.

Shwetha De Silva provided this News Item. Those interested in this work could contact her at chouette.nom@gmail.com.

Points of View

Peter Michael, a past President of APWSS provided the following 'Point of View'.

In recent years so much research energy has been devoted to the potential threat to natural biodiversity of new plants introduced to Australia that work on plants already established as weeds has been neglected.

I am thinking especially of well-known plants with thorny fruits like *Emex australis* (three-cornered jack), *Tribulus terrestris* (caltrop) and *Cenchrus longispinus* (spiny burr grass), *Alternanthera repens* (khaki weed), the nuisance plant *Bidens* in all its forms, whose fruits stick to every conceivable piece of clothing, and the sharp fruits of *Soliva* in turf, a menace to anyone with bare feet.

In 1990, a Workshop on *Emex*, *Tribulus* and *Cenchrus* in vineyards was held in Mildura, Victoria (published in Plant Protection Quarterly 5(3) pp. 84-131, 1990) where the problems confronted by the dried fruit industry were clearly stated. These plants are, however, of great significance to the general public in very many different situations—country towns, sporting fields, showgrounds, footpaths, bicycle and walking tracks, footpaths—over a large part of Australia.

Who knows how long this season's crop of burrs of three-cornered jack and caltrop will remain harmful to us or capable of puncturing a bicycle tyre? Who has seriously tried to eliminate *Bidens* from an area of parkland or along walking tracks by constant vigilance and action? Is it possible?

Perhaps we could test the statement by Theophrastus (370- 285 B.C.E.) in his Enquiry into Plants Book VIII Section VII par.2---here translated by Sir Arthur Hort- that " chick-pea destroys weeds, and above all and soonest caltrop "

Peter W. Michael February 1 2008

Editor's Note:

The aim of having a column, such as this is to stimulate discussion. Therefore, I invite you to provide feedback on this 'Point of View'. However, in commenting, I urge you to be thoughtful and not to just say that you agree or disagree. If you have a point of view, please exemplify or argue the case, so that we all share and benefit from Member's views. Who knows, if most Members feel strongly about these issues in the same way as Peter Michael does, that should guide how our Society should respond to weeds and problems caused by them.

Please send your contributions and feedback on this opening 'Point of View'. I also urge others who have a 'Point of View' to share that with others, to stimulate further discussions.

News about Forthcoming Conferences

27-28
February
2008

The Biennial Conference of Indian Society of Weed Science- '**Weed Management and Modern Agriculture: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities**', organized by the Indian Society for Weed Science, in collaboration with Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar will be held during 27-28 February 2008. The venue will be Bihar Veterinary College, Patna, India.

- The principal contact person for this Conference is: Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur 482 004 (M.P.) India; Tel: 0761-2353138, 2353934, 2353101; Fax: 0761-2353129; E-mail : varshneyjg@gmail.com; isws_2007@yahoo.co.in
- The Local Organizing Secretary is Dr. Devendra Singh, Principal Investigator, AICRP-Weed Control, Department of Agronomy of Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur- 848 125 (Bihar). Tel: 06274-240971; Mobile-09430047826; E-mail: devendrasingh_aicrpweed@yahoo.com

5-8 May
2008

XVIII Congress Latin America Weed Science Society (ALAM) and the XXVI Congress of the Brazilian Weed Science Society (Joint Meeting).

More information can be obtained by email: 26cbcpd@cnpms.embrapa.br

18-22 May 2008 The 16th Australian Weeds Conference- '*Weed Management 2008 – Hot Topics in the Tropics*', organized by the Council of Australian Weed Societies Inc. and the Weed Society of Queensland will be held during 18-22 May 2008 at the Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, in Queensland. Further information should be obtained from the following:

- Program Enquiries: 16awc@eventcorp.com.au;
- Registration Enquiries: travel@eventscentral.com.au
- Web: www.16awc.com.au

23-27 June 2008 The 5th **International Weed Science Society Conference** is to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from 23-27 June 2008.

Program Enquiries: <http://iws.ucdavis.edu/5intlweedcong.htm>

Other 'Weedy' News

1. Ph.D. Scholar from Pakistan needs Placement

Muhammed Zafar, a Ph.D. Scholar from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan indicates that he is the recipient of a Fellowship award from the Higher Education Commission of the Government of Pakistan to for research in a technologically advanced country. The duration of this Fellowship is six months.

Mr. Zafar wishes to avail himself of this opportunity. Detail of this program and Fellowship package can be obtained from him. A Placement letter from a host institute is a pre-requisite to apply for this program. APWSS Members or any others who wish to provide an opportunity for Mr. Zafar are encouraged to contact him directly by e-mail: zafar_uaf@yahoo.com.

2. Opportunity for Post-Doctoral position to work on Climate Change and Weeds from Macquarie University, Sydney

The interaction between climate change and invasive pest species poses a significant threat to Australia's biodiversity. The need for research on both the independent impacts of climate change and invasive species, as well as their interaction, has been clearly identified by both national and state governments, and is identified as a priority under the National Action Plan on Biodiversity & Climate Change (2004-2007).

Professor Lesley Hughes and Dr Michelle Leishman from Macquarie University in Sydney are currently working on a collaborative research project with Dr Paul Downey from NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC) to assess exotic plant species responses to climate change, identify potential hotspots of invasion, and provide a risk assessment framework to enable prioritization of exotic plant management under future climate.

The research aims to investigate the potential impact of climate change on invasive plant species in Australia using an integration of bio-climatic modelling, field surveys and experiments manipulating CO₂ and temperature. The project supports PhD student Rachael Gallagher, who is looking at invasive vines over a latitudinal gradient, a Masters student (scholarship currently being advertised), and a post-doctoral position to undertake bio-climatic modelling of a range of alien plants in Australia (also currently being advertised).

It is hoped that this research will contribute substantially to our understanding of plant invasion under future climates, enabling identification of exotic plant species most sensitive to climate change and potential hotspots of invasion.

For further information, please contact Michelle Leishman.

Dr Michelle Leishman
Department of Biological Sciences
Macquarie University NSW 2109, Australia
Tel +61 2 9850 9180
E-mail michelle.leishman@mq.edu.au

Editor's Column

As stated previously by the President of APWSS, this **Issue 1 (January 2008)** of the APWSS Newsletter is a 'new start' for the Society after a few years of not having this important vehicle to exchange useful and interesting 'weedy' information.

However, to make this Newsletter successful and worthwhile for readers, Country Representatives and individual members need to contribute items that can be of benefit to the larger membership and a wider audience. I believe this Issue is a modest start in that regard.

As Newsletter Editor, I am requesting all Members to send information from particularly the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as from other regions that they think might be of use. If contributions are regularly made, and are of high quality, I am sure that the Newsletter will prosper, and so will the Society.

Some members from India and Pakistan have requested that we should have a quarterly Newsletter, along the lines of other eminent societies. Needless to say, this would depend on the interest and enthusiasm of the Membership and the quality and type of the information that we can usefully share.

I will undertake to produce four Newsletters this Year 2008, and sincerely hope that this can be continued.

I thank Dr. Peter Michael for writing a 'Point of View' at short notice. I also thank others who have contributed to this new beginning for the APWSS Newsletter.

Most of the material in the Newsletter is directly from contributions, with little or no editing. If there are errors and omissions in this Newsletter that I have not seen, I apologize, and urge Members to point them out, so that serious errors can be corrected.

The next Newsletter will be in April 2008. I am therefore requesting that all contributions to the next Newsletter and any other feedback on the current Issue be sent as soon as possible.

I encourage Country Representatives to provide interesting news from their respective Weed Societies and activities. I also welcome ideas on what might be of interest to a broader membership and suggestions to improve the quality of the Newsletter.

I would encourage all those who receive this Newsletter to become Members of the Society, if you are not a Member already. Those who attended the last Conference have already paid their subscription and are Members.

Also, kindly distribute the Newsletter as widely as possible, so that we promote collaboration among Weed Scientists particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region, and also amongst our Industry Partners.

How we manage 'colonizing species (weeds) is likely to be a critical issue in the years to come. Hence, there is a great need to better understand these plants, their biology, ecology and adaptations. To tackle issues related to managing weeds, effective collaboration and partnerships need to be built through communication. I hope that through this Newsletter we have entered a new phase of building such partnerships, not just in our region, but also with the wider world.

Thank you

Dr. Nimal Chandrasena

Newsletter Editor, APWSS

Nimal.chandrasena@gmail.com