Weed flora of Kaam area of Al-Khums city - Libya

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Abstrac

Kaam area is located in the city of Al-Khums, about 140 km from the city of Tripoli. There are some few studies of Kaam area, Although Kaam area it has been one of the most fertile and productive areas in Libya since ancient times, currently there are no publications available on weed flora of the area. The present study aimed to determine its weed flora. The plants were identified with the help of available literature and through comparison with the already identified plant species. Data inventory has been documented in the form of family, Botanical name, life form, The total of 149 species of flowering weed plants representing by 116 genera and 40 families have been collected. Dicotyledons were represented by 34 families, 73 genera and 125 species whereas; Monocotyledons were represented by 6 families, 20 genera and 24 species. The richest families were Fabaceae (21 species) 14.9%, Asteraceae (20 species) 13.42 Poaceae,(15 species) 10.6%, Chenopodiaceae(10 species) 6,7%, Brassicaceae (6 species) 4.02%, Therophytes with 99 species were the dominant life form.

Keywords: Weeds- Kaam area- flora of Libya, life form.

الملخص:

تقع منطقة كعام في مدينة الخمس وتبعد عن مدينة طرابلس حوالي 140 كم، وهناك بعض الدراسات القليلة عن منطقة كعام، ورغم أن المنطقة من أكثر المناطق خصوبة وإنتاجية في ليبيا منذ القدم، الا انه لا يوجد حاليا أي منشورات متاحة عن الحشائش الضارة في المنطقة. وتهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى تحديد الحشائش الضارة في المنطقة. تم في هذه الدراسة التعرف على النباتات باستخدام موسوعة النباتات الليبية وغيرها من المصادر التصنيفية والفلوارت العربية ومن خلال المقارنة مع الأنواع النباتية التي تم تحديدها سابقا. من نتائج هذه الدراسة تجميع وتصنيف 149 نوعاً من نباتات الحشائش الزهرية تتبع 116 جنساً و 125 نوعاً؛ تم تمثيل الزهرية تتبع 116 جنساً و 20 فصيلة. ذوات الفلقتين تم تمثيلها بعدد 34 فصيلة و 73 جنساً و 125 نوعاً؛ تم تمثيل أحاديات الفلقة بعدد 6 فصائل و 20 جنساً و 24 نوعاً. وكانت السيادة في هذه الدراسة للفصيلة البقولية Poaceae بعدد (12نوعا) تليها الفصيلة النجيلية و90 بعدد (19نوعا) 13.42 المحدد (90 نوع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الحشائش الضارة - منطقة كعام - موسوعة النباتات الليبية - أشكال الحياة.

Introduction

Weed is a general term used to describe a plant growing in unwanted areas, also defined as any plant that is objectionable or interferes with the activities or welfare of man. weeds are

considered an important biotic constraint to food production (AL-sherif et al., 2018). This definition can apply to crops, native plants as well as non-native species. Weeds can effectively compete with crop species, can lower yields, increase labor requirements and, ultimately, increase food costs for the consumer (Klingman and Ashton, 1975). Weeds belong to all plant families, but certain families particularly Asteraceae, Poaceae, Brassicaceae and Fabaceae constitute the worldwide major weed flora. There are about 30,000 species of weeds in the world, of which 50 to 200 usually cause appreciable damage to the major food crops (Marwat et al., 2013). Weed problems in Libya have become very important not only in the coastal belt with its higher rainfall but also in the newly established irrigation projects in the desert where it was very difficult to find a single weed in the past (Eltaguri et al., 2020). As a result, no systematic research has been done on regular bases, some experiments, carried out during the late 1970s and early 1980s in the agriculture research center, particularly in Tripoli and AL-Jabal AL-Akhdar region (Omar et al., 2020). Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (1981) reported 134 of important weed species recorded in agriculture fields in Libya, Saleh (1988), published a book of weeds in Libya. Ghanuni (1998) has prepared country weed list (Eltaguri et al., 2020). Al-Zerbi (2004) conducted a study on weed species in Al-Maltitaiah region and reported a total of 69 weed species. Al-Aieb and Al-Shiekhy (2008) have surveyed weed species in GMR (Great Man-Made River) agricultural barley fields in Sirte and recorded a total of 105 weed species (Omar et al., 2020). Nasef et al. (2017) and Naseef et al. (2019) published a list of a common weed species in Libya, about 58 species were presented. Omar et al., (2020) have reported 80 weed species growing in barley fields of GMR agricultural project in Jardina - Solog region. Some of the recorded species accidentally introduced became invasive species such as weeds and were found to cause great losses for cultivated crops through competition with crops such as (Cyperus alternifolius L., Senecio vulgaris L., Conyza canadensis (L.) Cornq., Silene gallica L., Euphorbia heterophylla L., Veronica persica Poiret., Cassia occidentalis L., Amaranthus retroflexus L., Raphanus raphanistrum L., Cenchrus incertus M. A. Curtis., Bidens pilosa L. Xanthium spinosum L.) (Al-Zerbi et al., 2020).

Libya occupies an area of about 1.7 million km2, but most of which is desert. The most important areas for plant diversity are the coastal strip and mountains of the Mediterranean coastline which is 1900 km long, the longest of any African country bordering the Mediterranean coastline (Al Sheef, 2015). Kaam area is located in the city of Al-Khums, about 140 km from the city of Tripoli. There are some few studies of Kaam area, In 2005, Al Sheef conducted a taxonomic study of the plants of the Kaam area In this study, 342 plant species belonging to 229 genera belonging to 64 families were collected. In 2017, Bahri surveyed the Wadi Kaam areas and collected 158 plant species belonging to 40 families (Bahri, 2017) In 2020, Al Sheef surveyed the medicinal plants in the Kaam region, the results revealed presence of 118 species. Almushghub et al., 2022 carried out study deals with the vegetation analysis of Wadi Kaam and 152 species belonging to 117 genera and 38 families were recorded. Sherif et al , 2023 surveyed the plant species diversity of Al- Khoms - Misrata province, a total number of 375 different plants have been collected representing 62 families, 241 genera, and 375 species.

Although Kaam area it has been one of the most fertile and productive areas in Libya since ancient times, currently there are no publications available on weed flora of the area. This work represents an original approach who aims to determine the weed flora in Kaam areas.

Study area

The Kaam area is located in Al-Khums in the north-western of Libya, between latitude 32° 2'3.21" and 32° 32' 53.41" N, and longitude 13° 49 '52.23" and 14° 26'47. 85, about 140 km from Tripoli (Figure 1) (Salim, 2016). The Kaam area is considered one of the most fertile agricultural areas, ancient and modern, and evidence for this is the presence of more than ten historical dams dating back to the era of the Romans and the presence of many artifacts in the region. The mountain area reaches a height of 100-800 m. The length of Kaam valley is 80 km and it deviates to the northeast to pour into the sea. Among the most important trees in the Kaam area are *Acacia cyanophylla*, *Casuarina sp*, *Eucallyptus camaldulensis*, and *Pinus halepensis* (Ministry of Agricujture, 1971).

The climate of the area follows the climate of the Mediterranean region, which is cold & rainy at the winter with an a verge rainfall, ranges between 100-300 mm annually, and hot - dry at the summer with a mean of 18°C (Sherif et al., 2023).

Two kinds of soil represent mainly the north-western valleys of Libya, including Wadi Kaam Valley alluvial soil: deposits cover most of the valley land, which is the result of flood accumulation over a continuous-time, ranging from clay and sandy, with proportions of gravel, stones, dissolved salts, calcium carbonate and gypsum (Almushghub et al., 2022).

Materials and methods

The study was in 2016-2017, the field trips were more frequently made from September to May. The plant specimens were collected in flowering or fruiting conditions then identified with the help of available literature, first, the family of the plant was determined by the use of a key to the families of flora of Libya (Erteb, 1994), the genus and species were identified by the utilization of available taxonomic literature (Ali and Jafri, 1976-1977; El-Gadi, 1988-1989; Jafri and El-Gadi, 1977-1986) (Boulos, 1972, 1999, 2000, 2002). and by comparing with the already identified plant specimens of the herbarium, of the Botany Department, Faculty of Science at EL-Mergib University. Plants with botanical name, family and life form, were listed in (Table 4,5).



Fig. 1. Showing location of the study area.

Results and Discussion

From this study a total of 149 species of flowering weed plants representing 116 genera and 40 families have been collected (Table 4, 5).

Dicotyledons were represented by 34 families, 73 genera and 125 species whereas. Monocotyledons were represented by 6 families, 20 genera and 24 species (Table 1).

Table (1): Different taxonomic groups present in the study area

Palnt group	No. of families	No. of Genera	No. species
Dicotyledons	34	73	125
Monocotyledons	6	20	24
Total	40	93	149

The richest families were Fabaceae (21 species) 14.9%, Asteraceae (20 species) 13.42 Poaceae, (15 species) 10.6%, Chenopodiaceae (10 species) 6,7%, Brassicaceae (6 species) 4.02%, whereas 4 families were recorded in (5 species) 3.35%, (Polygonaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Boraginaceae, Apiaceae), whereas 4 families were recorded in (4 species) 2.68%, 6 families were recorded in (3 species) 2.01%, 5 families were recorded in (2 species) 1.34%, whereas 16 families were recorded as mono species 0.67% of the total recorded families (Table 2). In comparison with the largest families in the flora of Libya fabceae is the largest family in the study area while Asteraceae is the largest in the flora of Libya. The second-largest family in the study area was Asteraceae whereas Asteraceae is the largest in the flora of Libya. The family poaceae come in third place in the study area whereas it is the second in the flora of Libya. Brassicaceae has 6 species that come in fourth place in the study area as well in the flora of Libya (Table 2).

family No. of % species 14.9 Fabaceae 21 Asteraceae 20 13.42 Poaceae 15 10.6 Chenopodiaceae 10 6.7 Brassicaceae 4.02

Table 2. Shows the dominant families

Genera with the highest number of species were *Euphorbia* (4 species), *Amaranthus* (4 species), *Chenopodium* (3 species), *Medicago* (3 species), *Plantago* (3 species), *Urtica* (3 species) and *Bromus* (3 species).

The analysis of life form spectrum of the species based on Raunkiae system (Ph) = Phanerophyte, (Ch) = Chamaeophyte, (He) = Hemocryptophyte, (Ge) = Geophyte and (Th). The results of analysis showed the absolute dominance of Therophytes with 99 species, followed by Hemicryptophytes with 21 species, Geophytes with 14 species Chaemephytes with 9 species, and Phanerophytes with 6 species (Table 3).

Table 3. Shows life forms and number of plant species collected from the aerea

Life Form	No. of species	%
Therophytes	99	66.4
Hemicryptophytes	21	14
Geophytes	14	9.39
Chamaephytes	9	6
Phanerophytes	6	4.02

Table 4. The Genera and species in each family of Dicotyledons.

Family	Weed species scientific name	Life forms
		1011115
Amaranthaceae	Amaranthus blitoides S.Watson	Th
	Amaranthus hybridus L.	Th
	Amaranthus retroflexus L.	Th
	Amaranthu sviridis L.	Th
Apiaceae	Bupleurum lancifolium Hornem	Th
	Daucus capillifolius Gilli.	Ch
	Pituranthos tortuosus (Desf.) Benth.	Ch
	Pseudorlaya pumila (L.) Gramde	Th
	Torilis nodosa (L.) Gaertn.	Th
Asclepiadaceae	Calotropis procera (Aiton) W. T. Aiton	Ph
Asteraceae	Anacyclus monanthos (L.) Thell.	Th
	Anthemis secundiramea Biv	Th
	Atractylis cancellata L .	Th
	Calendula arvensis L .	Th
	Cardus getulus Pomel, Nouv.	Th
	Carthamus lanatus L .	Th
	Chrysanthemum coronarium L .	Th
	Cichorium pumilum	Th
	Conyza Canadensis (L.) Cornq.	Th
	Cynara cardunculous L.	Не
	Echinops galalensis Schweinf	Th
	Lactuca saligna L.	Th
	Launaea resedifolia (L.) O.Kuntge	Th
	Onopordum arenarium (Desf.) Pomel	Не
	Pallenis spinosa (L.) Cass .	Не

Reichardia tingitana (L.) Roth .	Th
Senecio gallicus Chiax .	Th

	Silybum marianum (L.) Gaertn.	Th
	Sonchus oleraceusL.	Th
	Xanthium spinosum L.	Ch
Boraginaceae	Echium angustifolium Mill.	Ch
Ü	Echium plantaginium L.	Th
	Elizaldia calycina (Roem&Schultes) Maire	Th
	Gastrocotyle hispida (Forsk) Bunge	Th
	Heliotropium europaeum L.	Th
Brassicaceae	Brassica tournefortii Gouan	Th
	Enarthrocarpus clavatus Del. ex Goder.	Th
	Eruca longirostris Uechtr.	Th
	Hussonia pinnata (Viv.) Jafri.	Th
	Rapistrum rugosum (L.) All.	Th
	Sisymbrium irio L.	Th
Caryophyllaceae	Silene apetala Willd.	Th
	Spergula fallax (Lowe) E.H.L.Krause	Th
	Spergularia marina (L.) Griseb.	Th
	Vaccaria pyramidata Medik.	Th
Chenopodiac	Atriplex halimus L.	Ph
	Bassia muricata (L.) Aschers.	Th
	Beta vulgaris L.	Th
	Chenopodium album L.	Th
	Chenopodium ambrosioides L.	Th
	Chenopodium murale L.	Th
	Kochia indica Wight	Th
	Kochia scoparia (L.)Schrad	Th

	Salsola kali L.	Th
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	Suaeda vera Forssk. ex J. F. Gmel.	Ch
Cistaceae	Helianthemum lippii var . sessiliflorum (Desf.) Murb.	Th
Convolvulaceae	Convolvulus althaeoides L .	Th
	Convolvulus arvensis L.	Не
	Cressa cretica L.	Th
Cuscutaceae	Cuscuta pedicellata Ledeb.	Th
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia exigua L.	Th
	Euphorbia helioscopiaL.	Th
	Euphorbia peplus L.	Th
	Euphorbia terracina L.	Th
	Ricinus communis L.	Ph
Fabaceae	Argyrolobium uniflorum (Dence.) Jaub . & Sapach	Ch
	Astragalus cabrinus L.	Не
	Astragalus peregrinus Vahl	Th
	Coronilla scorpioides (L.) Koch	Th
	Hippocrepis bicontorta Lois.	Th
	Hippocrepis multisiliquosa L.	Th
	Lathyrus clymenum L.	Th
	Lotus edulis L.	Th
	Lotus halophilus Boiss&Spruner.	Th
	Medicago polymorpha L.	Th
	Medicago tornata (L .) Mill.	Th
	Medicago truncatula Gaertn.	Th
	Melilotus indicus (L.) All	Th
	Melilotus sulcatus Desf.	Th
	Ononis serrate Forsk.	Th
	Scorpiurus muricatus L.	Th

	Trifolium tomentosum L.	Th
	Trigonella marititma Delile ex poiret	Th
	Trigonella stellate Forsk.	Th
	Vicia monantha Retz.	Th
	Vicia sativa L.	Th
Frankeniaceae	Frankenia pulverulenta L.	Не
Fumariaceae	Fumaria densiflora DC .	Th
Geraniaceae	Geranium molle L .	Th
Illecebraceae	Paronychia Arabica (Linn.) Dc.	Не
Lamiaceae	Marrubium vulgare L .	Ch
	Salvia lanigera Poir.	Th
	Salvia verbenaca L .	Не
Malvaceae	Malva parviflora L.	Th
	Malva sylvestris L.	Не
Oxalidaceae	Oxalis pes – caprae L.	Ge
Papaveraceae	Glaucium corniculatum (L.) Rud	Th
	Papaver hybridum L.	Th
	Papaver rhoeas L.	Th
Plantaginaceae	Plantago albicans L.	Не
	Plantago lanceolata L .	Не
	Plantago major L.	Не
Polygonaceae	Emex spinosus (L). Campd	Th
	Polygonum aviculare L .	Не
	Polygonum equisetiforme Sibth. And Sm.	Не
	Rumex pictus Forsk.	Th
	Rumex vesicarius L.	Th
Portulaceae	Portulace oleraceae L.	Th

Primulaceae	Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea (L.) Gouan	Th
Ranunculaceae	Adonis dendata Delile	Ge
Resedaceae	Reseda alba L.	Th
Rubiaceae	Galium aparine. L.	Th
	Galium verrucosum Huds.	Th
	Sherardia arvensis L.	Th
Scrophulariaceae	Kickxia aegyptiaca (L.) Nabelek ssp. Aegyptiaca	Не
	Linaria tarhunensis Pamp.	Th
Solanaceae	Nicotiana glauca R.C. Graham	Ph
	Solanum nigrum L. var. nigrum	Не
Tamaricaceae	Tamarix nilotica (Ehrenb.) Bunge	Ph
Utricaceae	Urtica dioica L.	Ch
	Urtica pilulifera L.	Th
	Urtica urens L.	Th
Verbenaceae	Lantana camara L.	Не
Zygophyllaceae	Nitraria retusa (Forssk.) Asch.	Ph
	Zygophyllum album L.	Ch

Table 5. Genera and species in each family of Monocotyldons

Family	Weed species	Life forms
Alliaceae	Allium ampeloprasum L.	Ge
	Allium roseum L.	Ge
Cyperaceae	Cyperus rotundus L.	Ge
Juncaceae	Juncus acutus L.	Не

Liliaceae	Asphodelus fistulosus L.	Ge
	Asphodelus microcarpus Salzm. & Viv.	Ge
	Muscari comosum (L.) Mill.	Ge
	Scilla Preuviana L.	Ge
Poaceae	Aeluropus lagopoides (L.) Trin. ex Thwaites	Ge
	Arundo donax L	Ge
	Avena barbata Pott ex Link	Ge
	Bromus diandrus Roth	Th
	Bromus rigidus Roth	Th
	Bromus rupens L.	Th
	Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.	Ge
	Dactyloctenium aegyptium (L.). P. Beauv	Th
	Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn	Th
	Hordeum murinum ssp murinum L.	Th
	Imperata cylindrical (Linn) Raeuschel	Ge
	Lolium rigidum Gaud.	Th
	Phalaris minor Retz.	Не
	Phragmites australis (Cav) Trin. Ex Stend	Th
	Poa annua L.	Не
Typhaceae	Typha domingensis (Pers.) Poir. ex Steud.	Не

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