

Some notes on common weeds of rice in Sarawak

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Abstract

Exploratory surveys were conducted in 1990-1991 to ascertain principal weeds of hill-and lowland-rice in Sarawak. An aggregation of 143 species belonging to 86 genera within 34 families were recorded. Of these, 39 species were graminoids, 36 sedges and the rest were subsets of broadleaved weeds and ferns. The most common graminoids were *Ischaemum magnum*, *Eleusine indica*, *Isachne globosa* and *Leersia hexandra*. *Fimbristylis milliacea*, *Cyperus iria*, *C. pilosus* and *Scirpus juncooides* represent the most dominant species of sedges. Among the broadleaves, *Lindernia crustacea*, *Monochoria vaginalis*, *Ageratum conyzoides* and *Ludwigia hyssopifolia* were most prevalent. These species, inter-alia, appeared to be a major constraint to rice cultivation in Sarawak.

Introduction

Weeds have always been recognized as one of the major constraints limiting yield and quality of rice in Sarawak and elsewhere. The long hour spent on weeding by farmers are testimonies of gruesome struggle to arrest the weed menace in rice farms. There is a paucity of information on weed flora of rice fields in Sarawak. The present study was initiated to provide an inventory list of prevailing weed species of rice farms throughout the state.

Materials and Methods

Exploratory surveys were conducted in several localities in all Divisions of Sarawak in 1990. Species listings and their status of dominance and importance were assessed. Speciation was based on the nomenclature of Soerjani et al. (1987).

Results and Discussion

One and forty three species of weeds belonging to 86 genera within 34 families were recorded. Of these, 39 species were graminoids, 36 seeges and the rest were subsets of broadleaved weeds and ferns. Fourteen most common and dominant species recorded were: **Graminoids** : *Ischaemum magnum*, *Isachne globosa*, *Leersia hexandra* and *Eluesine indica*; **Sedges**: *Fimbristylis milliacea*, *Cyperus iria*, *C. pilosus* and *Scirpus juncooides*; **Broadleaves and ferns**: *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Ludwigia hyssopifolia*, *Monochoria vaginalis*, *Lindernia crustacea*, *Nephrolepis biserrata* and *Athyrium malaccense*

Agruably, minimal disturbance coupled low usage of herbicides in Sarawak's rice fields appeared to help maintained high diversity of weed species. Weed manace remains a major constraint to rice cultivation on Sarawak.

Reference

Soerjani, M., Kostermans, A.J.G. & Tjitrosoepomo, G., 1987. 'Weeds of rice in Indonesia' p.716. Balai Pustaka Jakarta.