

I am an international student from Pakistan with an excellent academic record. I joined the University of Queensland to undertake my PhD studies after obtaining a prestigious and highly competitive International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) on 01 July 2015. So far, I have successfully planned my experiments and past my confirmation milestone with excellent outcome. In addition, I have already published a review article in a high impact scientific journal based on my PhD review of literature. Before coming to UQ, I completed my Masters in Agronomy (Weed Science) by coursework and research with distinction (Medal for first position) at the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad, Pakistan. I have also published 18 research and review articles in peer reviewed journals with high impact factors.

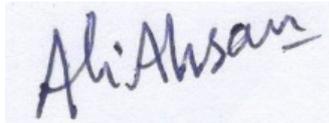


Currently, I am working on one of the most problematic, noxious and invasive weed species in Australia and around the world, parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.). In Australia it is a Weed of National Significance and a Class 2 weed in Queensland. It causes huge economic losses by decreasing pastures production and quality, some crop losses and can cause health issues to livestock and people. I am working on the invasive biology, interference, and management of this noxious weed in agro-ecosystems. I shall explore the role of seed ecology, stress tolerance, allelopathic capacity, and its competitive ability during the course of my research undertaking laboratory, glasshouse, and field research components. *A better understanding of the mechanism(s) contributing towards parthenium weed invasion will enable us to devise improved management strategies for this weed in Australia and overseas.*

I shall use the CAWS Travel Award to attend one of the most prestigious events of weed science at global scale, 7<sup>th</sup> International Weed Science Congress-2016 (June 19-25) in Prague, Czech Republic (<http://www.iwsc2016.org>). The conference is organized by the International Weed Science Society. It is one of the most important Conferences in the area of weed science in terms of international participation, research exposure, and audience. I am privileged to be accepted for a poster presentation in this Conference. My research abstract for presentation is entitled “Eco-physiological drivers of parthenium weed invasion: an overview” has been accepted by the scientific committee of the Congress and I have received an invitation letter for participation. I will not only be able to present my work but will also

gain from the dynamic scientific interaction. Being a PhD student, the novel research themes presented by international researchers in my field will help me to improve research skills and planning ability. Beside educational excellence, I shall get the chance to network with researchers from different backgrounds which will boost my inter-personal communication skills and career development.

**Best regards,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ali Ahsan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Ali Ahsan Bajwa

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