

Reviewer's Comment:

Abstract

- **The results are not well organized. The study deals with *Alectra vogelii*, the author should more emphasis on *A. vogelii* than on *Striga asiatica*.**

My proposition is the flowing:

Results: Of the 118 officers 36 % were aware of *A. vogelii* compared to 91 % that were aware of *Striga asiatica* witchweed, while *Striga forbesii* and *S. gesnoiroides* were hardly known (<2 %). Predominant sources of information for *A. vogelii* were meetings (24 %), brochures (17 %), college (3 %) while the rest were less than 2 %. For *S. asiatica* the predominant source was meetings (55 %), followed by brochures (32%), college (21%) and radio (16 %). Field days, newspapers, books, internet and projects were seldom sources (< 6%). The control measures known for both species were resistant variety, sanitation, rotation and manure application. Fewer personnel were aware of these as control measures for *A. vogelii* than against *S. asiatica*. Generally supervisory staffs were more aware of control measures for both species than frontline staff.

- **Line 96:** The survey was conducted amongst extension personnel ~~and farmers~~.
- **Lines 116 and 117:** and the type of information they received. ~~The questionnaire was however not designed to indicate the type of information received through a specific method of reception.~~ The sample

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

- **Line 144:** ~~Awareness of various parasitic weed species~~ of *A. vogelii*
- **Lines 147-148:** Figure 1. Of the 118 respondents, ~~much more extension personnel (91 %) were aware of *S. asiatica* witchweed than *A. vogelii* (36 %).~~ fewer extension personnel (36 %) were aware of *A. vogelii* than *S. asiatica* (91 %).
- **Line 149:** The other two species
- **Line 154:** Table 1 shows the means of accessing information on *A vogelii* and *S. asiatica* by the officers
- **Lines 157-165:** In terms of source of information for *A. vogelii* for frontline staff, the most important source of information was brochures followed by meetings and college. However, knowledge were low (5-15 %). In comparison, the predominant source of information on *A. vogelii* for supervisory staff was brochure, followed by meetings. In general, more supervisory staff had access to knowledge than frontline staff. Even then, more information was on *S. asiatica* than *A. vogelii*. However, of the 39 frontline personnel, 27 % were aware of *S. asiatica* from college days, compared to 10% for supervisors. Notably, of the 79 supervisory staff 80 % were aware of *S. asiatica* through meetings, compared to 44 %.
- **Line 175:** awareness of control measures for ~~A- *S. asiatica*~~ was much higher
- **Line 181:** Table 2 (Lines 195-196) should be put after Line 180, in the part concerning the results.
- **Lines 184 3.2.1** General awareness of *A. Vogelii* ~~and *S. asiatica* and their~~ its control measures

- **Lines 186-194:** The results of this study have shown that the awareness of *A. vogelii* (36 %) is considerably much lower, considering the greater efforts being taken to promote legumes in Malawi [12, 2]. Regarding type of information, the results indicate that officers were less knowledgeable on *A. vogelii*, compared to *S. asiatica*, an observation in line with the status quo in Malawi. There have been less circulars, seminars and conference presentation on this legume witchweed. Thus, extension personnel at all levels are more aware of *S. asiatica* as a parasitic weed, including associated control measures compared to *A. vogelii*. This concurs with current literature which shows much research and outreach on *S. asiatica* compared to *A. vogelii*.
- **Line 204:** measures are few and that ~~that~~ much of the knowledge on control is packaged from regional
- **Line 210-213:** ~~About 12 % of all staff indicated awareness of resistant variety as control measure for *S. asiatica*, and yet there is no resistant variety available. It is likely that information that the combined use of hybrids, fertilizer and manures can result in improved yields under *S. asiatica* infestation (37, 21, 35] may be misunderstood to mean there are resistant varieties.~~
- **Line 215:** The only legume variety with resistance to *A. vogelii* was released in 2011}.
- **Line 221:** The results on sources of information concur with a previous study with *Striga* spp. on
- **Lines 311-312:** 10. Baptist, NG. Essential amino acids of some common tropical legumes and cereals. British Journal of Nutrition, 1954; 8: 218-222. **This reference is too old, please provide a most recent one.**