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Floristic and Biodiversity of Asteraceae Weeds of Cereals in Algeria

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Aim of the study: The main purpose of this study is to present the floristic and biological characteristics of Asteraceae weeds of cereals in Algeria. For each species, we have determined its biological type, its chorology, its economic interestand the ecosystem services it underpins.

Material and Methods: Asteraceae species in cereal fields were surveyed by stratified sampling. In each field the level of infestation was scored, for each species we noted index of abundance - dominance (+ to 5) according to the scale of Braun-Blanquet (Guinochet, 1973), and the frequency was calculated. Species were identified following the « Nouvelle flore d'Algérie » (Quezel & Santa, 1962-63).

Results: The synthetic analysis of the floristic surveys shows the dominance of Asteraceae family, it is represented by 23 species, belonging into 20 genera. Santa and Quezel (1963) consider it to be the most important botanical family in Algeria, since it contains 408 species which are divided into 109 genera. The biological type for all listed species shows that annuals dominate, nearly 90%. This high annual rate indicates crop habitats often disturbed by agronomic interventions. Most micro-thermal or micro-eurythermal are winter annuals that cycle through very quickly, taking advantage of autumn and winter rains to germinate.The most abundant and frequent Asteraceae species were *Sinapis arvesis* L.,*Calendula arvensis* L.*, Anacyclus clavatus* Desf.,*Scandix pecten –veneris* L., *Cichorium intybus* L., *Scolymus hispanicus* L. and *Sonchus oleraceus* L.. Among the less frequent species, we quote: *Carduncellus pinnatus* (Desf.) DC., *Lactuca scariola* L., *Centaurea acaulis* L. and *Midicago hispida* Gaertn.The Chorological spectra show the importance of cosmopolitan element and influence of Euro-Asian species. Some of this Asteraceae species are medicinal, aromatic or melliferous plants; it is a reservoir of genes, very important for the improvement of plants and biotechnological processes.

Keywords: Asteraceae, floristic, biodiversity, cereal fields, Algeria.