



HAUSTORIUM

PARASITIC PLANTS NEWSLETTER



December 1978
No. 1

Haustorium - Purpose and Scope

The recent Striga/Orobanche workshop **held** in Khartoum (see report below) provided the opportunity for **workers** on these parasitic weeds to meet and exchange results and **to** plan future collaboration. **It is hoped that** there will be further opportunities **for** such **meetings** in the future **but** it was agreed **by** all present that some form of communication would meanwhile serve a useful purpose in keeping workers in contact with each other and with research **re-****sults** which are not always readily accessible **to** all concerned.

The **EWRC** Parasitic Weeds Research Group at one time produced an irregular newsletter to serve this function, until the Group became defunct for a variety of reasons.

The Department of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University, has agreed to prepare, print and mail a newsletter, and it is intended that this newsletter will be a means of communication between **all** those concerned with parasitic weeds, worldwide, though it is suggested that the emphasis should be mainly on Striga and Orobanche species. Comment **will** be **welcomed** on whether there should be a **new** research group equivalent to *the* EWRC one, but on a more international basis, and how a newsletter or other means of communication could be established **on** a more permanent basis.

For the time being it is proposed to produce two newsletters per year in December and in June and items of relevance will be welcomed by either Lytton Musselman at Old Dominion University or Chris Parker at Weed Research Organization, Oxford. It is not intended to "publish" original data at any length but anyone wishing to draw attention to particularly interesting new results whether already published or not is invited to send them in. Comments on the form of the newsletter will also, of course, be welcomed.

If you wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Lytton Musselman at the address below.

Khartoum Striga Workshop

The government of *the* Sudan, in cooperation with the International Development Research Centre sponsored a workshop 5-8 November 1978. The major emphasis was on control of Striga and Orobanche. Particular attention was paid to the use of the synthetic strigol analogs developed by Prof. Alan Johnson which appear to be a particularly promising means of control. Breeding for resistance/tolerance was also discussed as were other aspects of biology and control. Striga hermonthica, S. asiatica, S. gesnerioides, Orobanche ramosa, and O. crenata were the species of main concern. A more detailed account of the meeting as well as recommendations for further work is being prepared by the sponsors and should appear in PANS in due course.

The well organized sessions and field trips coupled with the warm genuine hospitality of the hosts fostered a climate conducive for much exchange of information.

Special Course in Parasites

Biology of Parasitic Seed Plants - 18 June to 17 July 1979; Mountain Lake Biological Station. For further information contact: Prof. James L. Riopel, Director, Mountain Lake Biological Station, Department of Biology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

Second Symposium on Parasitic Weeds

A second symposium on parasitic weeds to be held on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina is scheduled for 16-19 July 1979. Sponsors are N.C. State University, Old Dominion University, and the USDA Witchweed Laboratory. If you are on the mailing list for this newsletter, you have received information on the meeting. Others may contact L. Musselman (address below).

Thonningia sanguinea

WRO has for the first time been approached for advice on control of Thonningia sanguinea. This is a root parasite of the Balanophoraceae and is apparently causing damage to rubber trees in Nigeria. A **single plant may** be affecting **up** to 20 trees. There **is** apparently no published information on the control of this plant nor even on its occurrence **as** a weed problem. If anyone has any information of this species, Chris Parker will be grateful to hear of it.

Killing Orobanche by Solar Sterilization

Katan ~~et al~~ (1976) reported in Phytopathology Vol. 66, pp 683-688, on the use of "Solar heating by polyethylene mulching for the control of diseases

caused by soil-borne pathogens". Covering **moist soil** with clear polyethylene for **two weeks or** more during the hottest part of the year resulted in kill of various soil-borne diseases and weeds. More recent reports from Israel show that the technique **is** also effective against Orobanche crenata. A detailed account is due to be published shortly.

Agalinis purpurea

In a recent report in Tree Planters' Notes (29[4]:24-25), Musselman et al gave an account of a heavy infestation of Agalinis purpurea (Scrophulariaceae: purple gerardia, parasitizing three year old sycamore, sweetgum and loblolly pine in northeastern North Carolina. **No growth loss** was obvious although quantitative studies were not carried out.

Literature

Striga (a noxious root parasitic weed). M. M. Hosmani, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwar (present address: College of Agriculture, Dharwad 58005, Karnataka, India), 1978. 170 pp. Price: India Rupees 15.00.

It is encouraging to find a volume devoted exclusively to Striga despite the numerous glaring printing errors. Little new information **is** presented but a valuable review of previous work is included. One is impressed in perusing the contents with the paucity of information on taxonomy, or more correctly, biosystematics. A more extensive review **is** to be found in **PANS** 24(3), p. 378.

Schmarotzer: Pflanzen die von anderen leben. H. C. Weber. Belser Verlag.

212 pages with 100 colored pictures. Price: 18.80 Deutschmark.