

Climbing weeds in the *Agave tequilana* Weber crop in Jalisco, Mexico. (Oral Presentation)

Irma G. López-Muraira¹, Ruben Iruegas-Buentello², Ana G. Valenzuela-Zapata³, Adriana E. Flores-Suárez⁴

¹Instituto Tecnológico de Tlajomulco, Tlajomulco de Zúñiga, Jalisco, Mexico

²Du Pont, SA de CV

³Department of Botany and Zoology, University of Guadalajara, Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

⁴Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico

Introduction

Some of the main problems associated with the climbing weeds that attack the *Agave tequilana* Weber plant are competition for water, nutrients, and sunlight; as well as damage to the spine of the fruits and reduced growth in the central leaves of the plant. Furthermore, these plants are difficult to control through herbicides

Objectives

We identify the climbing weeds associated with the cultivation of *Agave tequilana* in Tequila region, in Jalisco state, western Mexico.

Methods

Specimen of climbing habit weeds were collected during 2005 in *Agave tequilana* plantations in Amatitlán and Tequila (1260 m; 20°42'55" lat N and 103°37'49" long W) Jalisco, Mexico. *Agave tequilana* plantations are cultivated in dryland non-irrigated with annual rainfall average of 800 mm.

Results

Twenty one species of climbing weeds were found in four experimental sites; seven Asclepiadaceae, six Convolvulaceae, three Cucurbitaceae, three Fabaceae, one Malphigiaceae and one Sapindaceae. *Sechiopsis triquetra* and *Quamoclit cholulensis* are the most important because of their abundance.

Conclusion

Climbing weeds have adapted and become an obstacle to the cultivation of *A. tequilana*. They are important in the plantations and the chemical controls not adequate. *Echinopepon milleflorus* and *E. jaliscanus* are the main species that are impeding crop management because their spiny fruits.

Keywords: Weeds, agave, management, Mexico.

Selected References

1. Standley, P.C. 1924. Trees and Shrubs of Mexico. (Passifloraceae-Scrophulariaceae). Contributions from the United States National Herbarium. 23(4): 849-1312.
2. Rzedowski, G.C. y J.Rzedowski. 2001. Flora Fanerogámica del Valle de Mexico. Instituto de Ecología. 1406 pp

Presenting author: Irma G. López-Muraira; lopezmuraira@yahoo.com
