A new threat in cotton fields in the West Mediterranean Region of Turkey: *Ipomoea* spp.

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Turkey is among foremost cotton producing countries. The West Mediterranean Region of Turkey has still kept its importance as a cotton producing area in spite of cotton acreage has decreased. Cotton fields in Turkey have very diverse weed species although there are about ten common species which can be said associated with cotton production systems (ULUDAG & UREMIS 2000). However, shift in weed flora due to several reasons such as introduction of alien species occur. A new *Ipomoea* species has been detected in the Antalya province in the West Mediterranean Region. This is the second record of an *Ipomoea* sp. in cotton fields in Turkey followed by a record from the South Anatolia Region (ULUDAG & KATKAT 1991). *Ipomoea* L. with 500 species worldwide (MABBERLEY 2008) comprises of the largest genus in the number of species of family Convolvulaceae. The genus, which is called morning glories, occurs throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of the world, and comprises from annual herbaceous plants to small trees. Three species of *Ipomoea* have been recorded in the Flora of Turkey: *I. stolonifera*, *I. sagittata* and *I. purpurea*; they all are alien to Turkey, which have origins from Americas. *I. stolonifera* and *I. sagittata* were established in natural areas with high water table. *I. purpurea* is an ornamental plant but there are records about its escape to the natural and agricultural habitats. Another *Ipomoea* species was found in the cotton fields in the western Mediterranean part of Turkey few years ago and its large spread has been reported (Antbirlik/ Keskin, personal comm.).

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identification has not yet been verified although it is assumed as Ipomoea lacunosa, another alien species to Turkey. No control method has been suggested, which makes this weed more important for the agricultural areas. Identification, distribution and containment studies are immediate research works for these species.

**Keywords**: Ipomoea lacunosa, I. stolonifera, I. sagittata, I. purpurea, cotton, alien.

**References**

