

**Gas exchange characteristics and Leaf Chlorophyll content of two local hosts infected by Jarum Mas (*Striga asiatica*).**

ABSTRACT

The effect of Jarum Mas (*Striga asiatica*), a parasite, on the gas exchange capacity and leaf chlorophyll content of two local grasses was studied. Infection by *S. asiatica* reduced the host photosynthetic capacity by reducing the apparent quantum yield used for CO<sub>2</sub> fixation. In *Ischaemum indicum*, lower photosynthesis rates were also due to the reduction of RuBP-carboxylase capacity and the RuBP-carboxylase regeneration capacity of the host.

**Keyword:** Parasites; Quantum yield; Regeneration capacity; RuBP capacity.