

Assaeed, A.M. 2007. Seed Production and Dispersal of RHAZYA STRICTA. The International Association for Vegetation Science 50th. Annual Symposium, 23-27 July, 2007, Swansea, UK.

Abstract: *Rhazya stricta* Decne (Apocyanaceae) is an evergreen noxious shrub invading rangelands of Saudi Arabia. Overgrazing is observed to accelerate the spread of the species. Information on the invasion ecology of *R. stricta* is lacking. A study was conducted to: (1) determine seed production of the species and (2) evaluate the effect of wind direction on seed dispersal. Seed production was estimated from 20 mature plants in two different sites. Seed dispersion was determined using seed traps positioned at distances of 0.5, 1, 1.5 and 2.0 m from the edge of 10 mature plants in all cardinal directions. Seeds were collected from the traps at the end of the growing season. Results indicated that seed production of *R. stricta* was highly variable and varied between 10286 and 18315 seeds per plant in two different sites. Results also revealed that wind direction had no influence on dispersion of seeds; however, the bulk of seeds (50%) were dispersed near the source plant. Over 85% of the collected seeds fell within a distance of 1.5 m from the source plant.