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## Insect damage to and mortality of seedlings of *Chenopodium album* L. and *Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) Á.Löve

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During 1997–1999, the damage and mortality caused by insect herbivores to pigweed (*Chenopodium album*) and wild buckwheat (*Fallopia convolvulus*) were studied in an early fallow field at Prague-Ruzyně. The highest abundances of *Ch. Album* and *F. convolvulus* (83 and 3.5 plants/m<sup>2</sup>, resp.) were recorded in 1999, the lowest (11.6 and 0.3 plants/m<sup>2</sup>, resp.) in 1998. Mortality was low in 1997 (9.6% and 1.4%, resp.) and 1999 (4.0% and 2.5%, resp.), but high in 1998 (25% and 10%, resp.) due to concurrent drought. In accordance with previous studies on *Thlaspi arvense*, herbivory and concurrent drought may increase the mortality of *Ch. Album* and *F. convolvulus* seedlings, and thereby alter the species composition of the weed community during secondary succession.

**Keywords:**

pigweed; *Chenopodium album* L.; wild buckwheat; *Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) Á. Löve; flea beetle; *Phyllotreta* spp.; herbivory; phytophagous insect; secondary succession; fallow

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