

Lecture 6: II. The Red Sea Region
4th Year Students (Flora لا ئحة قديمة)

By Professor Abdel-Hamid Khedr
Botany and Microbiol. Dept.
abdelkhdr@gmail.com

The Nile is a complex system including various forms of water bodies (lakes, marshes, streams, canals, drains, etc.) and landforms (highlands, plains, valleys, etc.).

The Nile region of Egypt may be ecologically divided into three main sub regions:

- A. The Nile Delta
- B. The Nile valley
- C. The Nile Fayium

A-The Nile Delta:

Habitat types and flora in the Nile region:

Four main types of habitat can be recognized in the Nile Delta:

Aquatic habitat, Canal bank habitat, cultivated land and salt marsh habitat

a) The aquatic habitat of the Nile system

I- Submerged plant species

Potamogeton crispus, *P. pectinatus*.

Najas armata, *N. minor*, *Ceratophyllum*

b) Floating plant species

Eichhornia crassipes (Nile Lily, Ward El-Nil or Water Hyacinth).

Pistia stratiotes

Nymphaea caerulea and *N. lotus*. Both are common in the Nile Delta but rare in or absent from the Nile Valley. *N. caerulea* is the Sacred Lotus of ancient Egypt. Its tuberous roots are edible and the flowers are showy and fragrant.

c) The canal bank habitat

Cyperus Papyrus and *Typha domingensis*. *Phragmites australis* is the most serious reed in the Egyptian swampy habitats.

The plants of the canal bank habitat may be categorized into three types:

(a) bank retainers; (b) "aggressive" species (smotherers); and (c) sand controllers. *Ficus sycomorus*, *Melia azedarach*, *Morus alba*, *M. nigra*, *Alhagi maurorum*, *Arthrocnemum macrostachyum*, *Arundo donax*, *Chenopodium ambrosioides*, *Pluchea dioscoridis*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Desmostachya bipinnata*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Panicum maximum* and *Suaeda vermiculata*.

d)The cultivated lands

Weeds of winter crops in all regions of Egypt are *Anagallis arvensis*, *Brassica nigra*, *Chenopodium album*, *C. murale*

summer crops include *Amaranthus angustifolius*, *A. ascendens*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Corchorus olitorius*,.



Eichhornia crassipes ورد النيل



الزقيم فى الأمام *Pistia stratiotes*
البشنين فى الخلف *Nymphaea lotus*



البردى *Cyperus papyrus*