

Identification of Some *Triticum* Species by the Inflorescence Features

A. E. Hassan, M. M. Sakr, A-G. I. O. Baz, and S. M. H. Gowayed
Dept. of Agric. Botany, Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal Univ. Ismailia, Egypt.

ABSTRACT

Eight *Triticum* species were obtained from different sources (six species imported from CIMMITY, Mexico, one species from ICARDA, Syria and one species from NSGC, USDA-ARS Aberdeen USA). The grains of different *Triticum* species were sown under the same conditions in the Experimental Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal University, Ismailia Governorate on November 2003 season for studying the inflorescence morphology. The following results were obtained:-

Morphological characters of spike, rachis, spikelet (glume, lemma, palea), pollen grains and grains were varied among species.

Absent of rachis hairs was characteristic of *T.spelta*, *T.monococcum* and *T.paleocolchicum* and present in other species. Arrangement of basal internode of inflorescence in relation to the neck internode was oblique in *T. paleocolchicum*; whereas, it was vertical in the other species. Separation of spikelets with axial parts at the maturity stage was observed in *T.dicoccoides* compared with the other studied species. Furthermore, presence of sheath on basal internode of the neck region was recorded in *T.paleocolchicum*;; whereas, it was absent in the other species. Moreover, membranous spikelet glumes texture, linear shape of glumes and maximum glume length were characteristic for *T.polygonicum*; absent glume keel was observed in *T.dicoccoides* compared with the other species. Furthermore, presence of lemma horn was recorded in both *T.aestivum* and *T.monococcum* and absent in the other species. Palea splitting at maturity stage was observed in *T.monococcum* only compared with the other species. Moreover, the pollen grain shape was ovate in *T.timopheevii*, rear-shaped in *T.dicoccoides* and spherical in the other species. Presence of operculum on pore was observed in both *T.aestivum* and *T.spelta*. In addition, the all studied parameters among *Triticum* species differed according to the studied species.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Triticum* (20 species) known as wheat belongs to the family Poaceae, the subfamily Festucoideae, the tribe Triticeae (Jones and Luchsinges, 1987).

Wheat, in cultivated area and production output, is the largest single food crop on earth. None, other occupies as much arable land surface as does wheat it is used directly for human food, in bread making, for pasta and for producing alcoholic beverages.

As regard to spike inflorescence, Mandaville (1990) observed that the spike of *Triticum aestivum* was 5-12 cm long, 1-1.5 cm width (excluding awns , if present). Spikelets inserted alternating in steps on a flattened, ciliate-margined rachis; approximate to subimbricate, dense, oblong and 1-2 cm long. Glumes slightly shorter than the lemma, keeled off center and toothed or awned toward one side at the apex. Lemmas awnless (in beardless varieties) or with an awn to 7 cm long. Also, Elings (1991) observed that the awn and spike length, awn and spike colour and spikelets number per spike were varied between *Triticum* species. In addition, Watson and Dallwitz (1992) and Slafer and Miralles (1993) observed that rachis of *Triticum* was hollowed, spikelet bearing axes with substantial rachis, it was solitary not second distichous, sessile 9-16 mm long, compressed laterally, disarticulating above the

glumes, or falling with the glumes, not disarticulating between the floret. Glumes were two, more or less equal, shorter than the adjacent lemmas, or long relative to the adjacent lemmas, lateral to the rachis, without conspicuous tufts or rows of hairs, not pointed (obtuse, truncate or bidentate via the lateral nerves), not subulate and awned (or mucronate) or awnless. Lemma hairy, or hairless, non-carinate, or carinate. Palea present, relatively long, entire, or apically notched, 2-nerved, 2-keeled and their keels somewhat winged. Anther 2-4.5 mm long, not penicillate. However, Slafer and Miralles (1993) studied the number of fertile floret and grains per spike and individual grain weight varied among the three cultivars of bread wheat Belay *et. al.* (1997) studied the patterns of morphological diversity in thirty- four tetraploid wheat (*T.turgidum*) and found that the glume pubescence, beak awn and spike density varied according to attitude and morph-agronomic traits. Furthermore, Szwed-Urbas *et al.* (2002) studied the differentiation of biometric features in the *T.durum* collection in 1996-2000 experiments were conducted on 230 genotypes of spring durum wheat. The following characteristics have been taken into consideration the length of spike rachis, number of spikelets and spike, weight of grain per spike and weight of 1000 grains.

As to the pollen grains, Erdetman (1966) and Dahlgren and Clifford (1982) noticed that the pollen

grains in the monocotyledon families had a single colpus-like aperture, a sulcus at distal pole as conceived from the center of the original tetrad. Also, they observed that the pollen grains in *T.aestivum* were monopore, operculate, surrounded by well-defined annular thickening. Moreover, Davis and Heywood (1991) and Moore *et al.* (1991) showed that the monocolpate of the pollen grains were provided with a single furrow which develops on one side of the grain remote from the point of contact in the tetrad, this is characteristic of monocotyledon families. Also, they reported that the pollen grains shape was useful in identification, thus pollen grains were described by the shape of their outline in polar and equatorial views.

Concerning the grains, Townsend and Guest (1968), Zohary (1972) and Lersten (1987) found that the grain was free between lemma and palea or adherent, oblong, elliptic and obovate shaped, hairy at the apex and deeply grooved adaxillary embryo about 1/5 length of caryopsis. Belay *et al.* (1997) studied that thirty-four tetraploid wheat (*T.dicoccoides*) landrace populations and noted that the grain colour, shape and length were varied according to the *T.dicoccoides* cultivars and geographical distribution.

The present research was performed to study the inflorescence characters of *Triticum* species and their application in identification of some *Triticum* species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Authentic grain samples of studied *Triticum* species were obtained from different sources as follows:-

Triticum aestivum L. from ICARDA (International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas) Syria; *T.spelta* L., *T.monococcum* L., *T.timopheevii* Zbuk., *T.dicoccoides* Korn. Ex Asch. & Graebn., *T.durum* Desf. And *T.polonicum* L. from Center International de Mejoramiento de Maiz Y Trigo, int. (CIMMYT) Mexico; *T.paleocolchicum* (L.) Menabde from National small Grains Collection (NSGC) USDA-ARS Aberdeen USA. The grains of different *Triticum* species were sown under the same conditions in the Experimental Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal University, Ismailia Governorate on November 2003 season. The plant samples were collected to study the following characters:-

1- Spike:

Awn length (cm), spike length (cm), number of spikelets/spike and spike weight (gm).

2- Rachis:-

Degree of axil erection, presence of hairs, axial internodes homogeneity, average internode length (mm, arrangement of basal internode of

inflorescence in relation to the neck internode, arrangement of spikelets on the rachis, spikelets intensity, separation of spikelets with axial parts at the maturity stage, presence of furrows on basal internode of the neck region and presence of sheath on basal internode of the neck region.

3- Spikelet:-

a- Lower glume:

Glume texture, glume position in relation to the other flower parts, presence of keel, keel length, glume shape in outline, glume apex, presence of hairs on glumes, average maximum length of glume (mm) and average maximum width of glume (mm).

b- Lemma:

Lemma shape in outline, lemma apex, presence of horn, average maximum length (mm) and average maximum width (mm).

c- Palea:

Palea shape in outline, palea apex, palea splitting at maturity stage, average maximum length (mm) and average maximum width (mm).

d- Anther:

Average maximum length (mm), average maximum width (mm) and average horn length (mm).

e-Spermoderm pattern of the pollen grains:-

Pollen grains fixed in 2.5 % glutaraldehyde for 24 h. at 4 °C post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide for 1 h. at room temperature (Harley and Ferguson 1990) the specimens of studied taxa were dehydrated with ascending concentration of acetone till dried critical point and finally sputter coated with gold. The examination, measurements and photographing were done through Jeol Scanning Electron Microscope (JSM-T 330A) equipped with image recording and processing system (Semafore). The obtained data were pollen grain shape, pollen grain diameter (µm), pollen grain area (µm²), diameter of ectoaperture pore (µm), diameter of endoaperture (µm), thickness of pore wall (µm) and presence of operculum on pore.

f- Grains:

Number of grains/ spike, number of grains/ spikelet, weight of grains/ spike (gm), 100 grains weight (gm), grain length (cm), grain width (cm), grains separable from lemma and palea on threshing, embryo shape in outline, embryo maximum length (mm) and embryo maximum width (mm).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1-Spike:-

Data in Table (1) and Figure (1) reveal the morphological characters of spike existing in eight *Triticum* species. It is seen that there are significant

differences of the awn length, spike length, number of spikelets per spike and spike weight. The highest values of awn length (14.07 cm), spike length (20.47 cm), number of spikelets per spike (36) and spike weight (4.20 gm) were noticed in *T.dicoccoides*, *T.spelta*, *T.durum* and *T.durum* (Fig. 1e, b, f and f, respectively). Whereas, the lowest ones of both awn length (4.07 cm) and spike length (6.52 cm) were recorded in *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 1g); also, the lowest values of number of spikelet per spike (13) and spike weight (0.89 gm) were observed in *T.dicoccoides* and *T.monococcum* (Fig. 1e and c, respectively).

2-Rachis:-

Data in Table (1) and Figures (2,3 and 4) show that degree of axial erection was medium in *T.aestivum*, *T.timopheevii*, *T.dicoccoides* and *T.durum* (Fig. 2a,d,e and f), low conspicuously in *T.spelta* (Fig. 2b) and very conspicuous in *T.monococcum*, *T.paleocolchicum* and *T.polonicum* (Fig. 2c, g and h). In addition, hairs were present in *T.aestivum*, *T.timopheevii*, *T.dicoccoides*, *T.durum* and *T.polonicum* (Fig. 4a, d, e, f and h); whereas, they were absent in the other studied species (Fig. 4b, c and g). Axial internodes were heterogeneous being observed in both *T.spelta* and *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 2b and g); while, they were homogeneous in the remaining studied species (Fig. 2a, c, d, e, f and g). Moreover, the highest value of internode length (8.6 mm) was noticed in *T.spelta* (Fig. 2b); whereas, the minimal value (3.4 mm) was observed in *T.monococcum* (Fig. 2c). Arrangement of basal internode of inflorescence in relation to the neck internode was oblique in *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 3g); whereas, it was vertical in the other studied species (Fig. 3a, b, c, d, e, f and h). However, arrangement of spikelets on the rachis was whorled in *T.aestivum*, *T.timopheevii*, *T.dicoccoides*, *T.durum* and *T.polonicum* (Fig. 1a, d, e, f and h); but it was in two opposite rows in the other species under study (Fig. 1b, c and g). On the other hand, spikelets intensity was lower in dense in *T.spelta* (Fig. 1b), very dense in both *T.monococcum* and *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 1c and g) and intermediate in other studied species (Fig. 1a, d, e, f and h). Separation of spikelets with axial parts at the maturity stage was observed in *T.dicoccoides* only compared with the other species. Furthermore, presence of furrows on basal internode of the neck region was very conspicuous in *T.aestivum* (Fig. 2a), absent in *T.spelta* (Fig. 2b) and less conspicuous in the other species (Fig. 2c-h). Presence of sheath on basal internode of the neck region was observed in *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 3g); whereas, it was absent in the other species (Fig. 3a, b, c, d, e, f and h). These results are in agreement with those obtained by Townsend and Guest (1968), Zohary (1972), Lersten (1987), Watson and Dallwitz (1992),

Miller *et al.* (1999) and Szwed-Urbas *et al.* (2002) who reported that inflorescence characters of *Triticum* genus are very important in recognition of *Triticum* species.

3-Spikelet:-

a-Glumes:-

Results in Table (2) and Figures (5 and 6) show that glume texture was membranous in *T.polonicum* (Fig. 5h) and skinny in the other studied *Triticum* species (Fig. 5a-g). In addition, glumes were long in relation to the other flower parts in *T.polonicum* (Fig. 6h); whereas, they were short in the remaining studied species (Fig. 6a-g). Keel absent was observed in *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 5e); but, it was present in the other species (Fig. 5a,b,c,d,f,g and h). Keel was long in *T.aestivum* (Fig. 5a), absent in *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 5e) and short in the other species (Fig. 5b,c,d,f,g and h). Glume shape was oblong in both *T.aestivum* and *T.spelta* (Fig. 5a and b), curved-linear in both *T.monococcum* and *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 5c and g), narrow ovate in both *T.timopheevii* and *T.durum* (Fig. 5d and f), elliptic in *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 5e) and linear in *T.polonicum* (Fig. 5h). Glume apex was truncate in *T.aestivum* (Fig. 5a), obtuse in *T.spelta*, *T.paleocolchicum* and *T.polonicum* (Fig. 5b, g and h), emarginate in *T.monococcum* (Fig. 5c), acuminate in both *T.timopheevii* and *T.durum* (Fig. 5d and f) and acute in *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 5e). In addition, presence of hairs on glume surface was observed in both *T.timopheevii* and *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 5d and e); whereas, they were absent in other species (Fig. 5a,b,c,f,g and h). Furthermore, the maximum values of glume length (28mm) and glume width (4.5mm) were recorded in *T.polonicum* and *T.aestivum* (Fig. 5h and a), respectively; while, the lowest ones of both glume length (8mm) and width (2.0mm) were observed in *T.monococcum* (Fig. 5c). These results are in harmony with those obtained by Townsend and Guest (1968), Lersten (1987), Mandaville (1990) and Slafer and Miralles (1993) who observed that glumes are subequal, shorter than the spikelet or longer (*T.polonicum*), more or less keeled, membranous or skinny.

b-Lemma:-

It is noticed from Table (3) and Figure (7) that lemma shape was oblong in *T.aestivum*, *T.monococcum* and *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 7a,c and e), narrow ovate in both *T.spelta* and *T.durum* (Fig. 7b and f), linear in both *T.timopheevii* and *T.polonicum* (Fig. 7d and h) and ovate in *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 7g). In addition, lemma apex was obtuse in *T.aestivum*, *T.monococcum* and *T.polonicum* (Fig. 7a,c and h), ovate in *T.spelta*, *T.timopheevii* and *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig. 7b,d and g) and truncate in *T.dicoccoides* (Fig. 7e). Moreover, presence of horn in lemma was shown in both *T.aestivum* and *T.monococcum* (Fig. 7a and c) and it was absent in other

Table (1): Morphological characters of spike and rachis of eight *Triticum* species

Species Recorded data	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	<i>Triticum spelta</i>	<i>Triticum monococcum</i>	<i>Triticum timopheevii</i>	<i>Triticum dicoccoides</i>	<i>Triticum durum</i>	<i>Triticum paleocolchicum</i>	<i>Triticum polonicum</i>	
Spike	Awn length (cm)	6.40	5.17	6.83	13.67	14.07	8.33	4.07	9.33
	Spike length (cm)	8.47	20.47	6.53	12.47	8.03	13.9	6.52	12.87
	Number of spikelets/spike	17.73	23.53	25.60	24.20	13.27	35.60	27.93	25.33
	Spike weight (gm)	3.26	3.37	0.89	4.10	2.33	4.20	1.11	2.38
Rachis	Degree of axial erection	Medium	Low conspicuous	Very conspicuous	Medium	Medium	Medium	Very conspicuous	Very conspicuous
	Presence of hairs	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+
	Homogeneity of axial internode	Homo.	Hetero.	Homo.	Homo.	Homo.	Homo.	Hetero.	Homo.
	Average internode length (mm)	4.5	8.6	3.4	4.1	5.9	5.2	4.4	4.5
	Arrangement of basal internode of infl. in relation to the neck internode	Vertical	Vertical	Vertical	Vertical	Vertical	Vertical	Oblique	Vertical
	Arrangement of spikelets on the rachis	Whorled	Two opposite rows	Two opposite rows	Whorled	Whorled	Whorled	Two opposite rows	Whorled
	Spikelets intensity	intermediate	Lower dense	Very dense	intermediate	intermediate	intermediate	Very dense	intermediate
	Separation of spikelets with axial parts at the maturity stage	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
	Presence of furrows on basal internode of the neck region	Very conspicuous	absent	Less conspicuous	Less conspicuous	Less conspicuous	Less conspicuous	Less conspicuous	Less conspicuous
	Presence of sheath on basal internode of the neck region	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-

+ = Present - = Absent Homo. = Homogeneous Hetero. = Heterogeneous

Table (2): Morphological characters of lower glumes of eight *Triticum* species taken at spike formation

Species Recorded data	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	<i>Triticum spelta</i>	<i>Triticum monococcum</i>	<i>Triticum timopheevii</i>	<i>Triticum dicoccoides</i>	<i>Triticum durum</i>	<i>Triticum paleocolchicum</i>	<i>Triticum polonicum</i>
Glume texture	Skinny	Skinny	Skinny	Skinny	Skinny	Skinny	Skinny	Membranous
Position of glumes in relation to other flower parts	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short	Long
Presence of keel	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
Keel length	Long	Short	Short	Short	Absent	Short	Short	Short
Glume shape in outline	Oblong	Oblong	Curved linear	Narrow ovate	Elliptic	Narrow ovate	Curved linear	Linear
Glume apex	Truncate	Obtuse	Emarginate	Acuminate	Acute	Acuminate	Obtuse	Obtuse
Presence of hairs on glumes	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
Average maximum length of glume (mm)	12	13	8	14	15	15	10	28
Average of maximum width of glume (mm)	4.5	4.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.9

+ = Present - = Absent Long = 6 mm Short = 1 - 3 mm

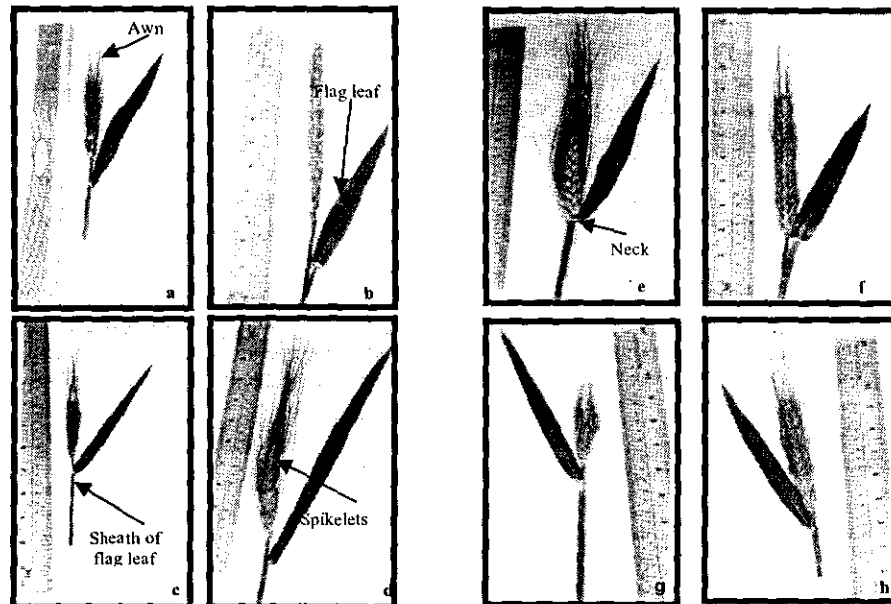


Figure (1): Showing the morphology of the spike of *Triticum* species.
 a- *T. aestivum* b- *T. spelta* c- *T. monococcum* d- *T. timopheevii*
 e- *T. dicoccoides* f- *T. durum* g- *T. paleocolchicum* h- *T. polonicum*

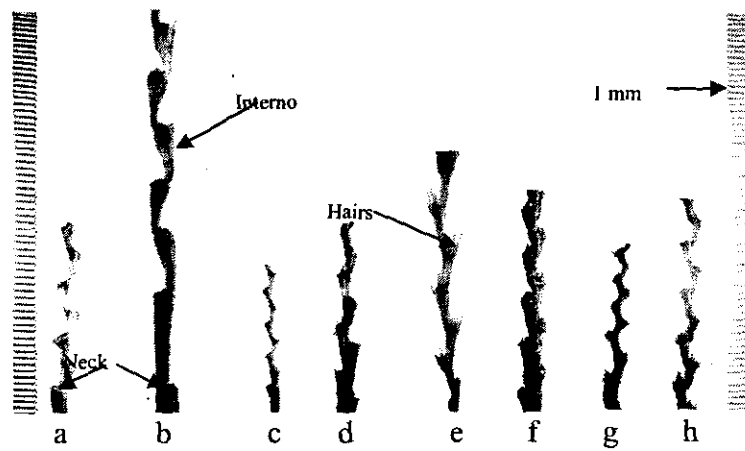


Figure (2): Showing the morphology of the rachis of *Triticum* species

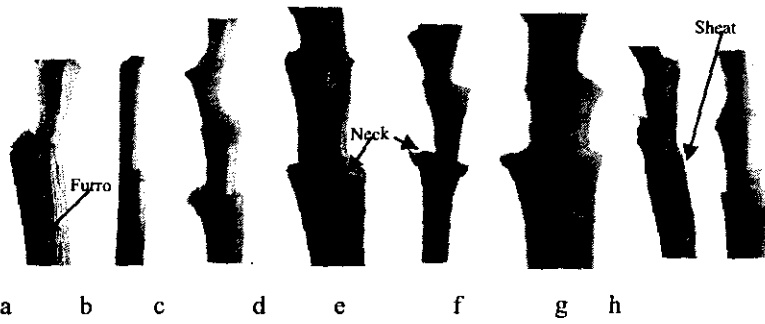


Figure (3): Showing the morphology of the rachis necks of *Triticum* species

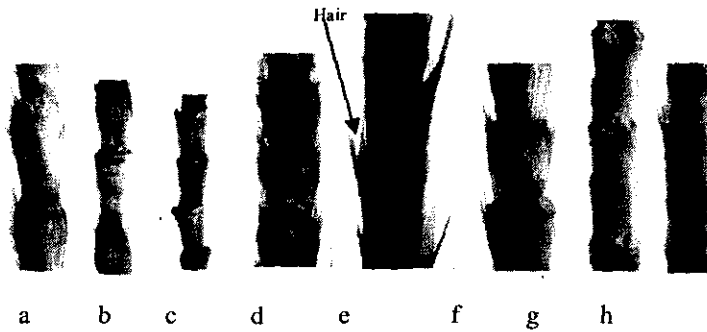


Figure (4): Showing the morphology of the rachis internodes of *Triticum* species

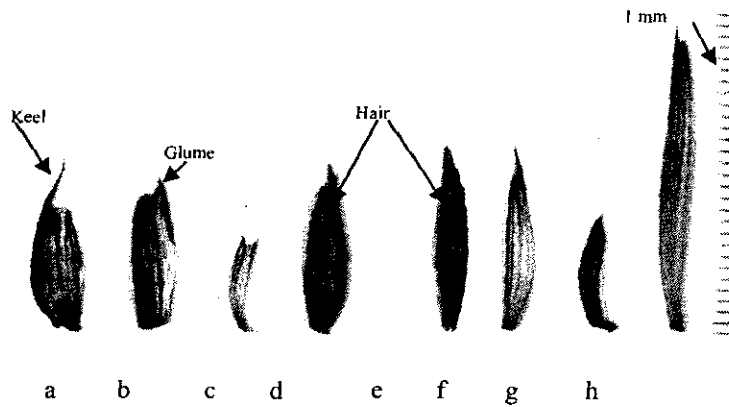


Figure (5): Showing the morphology of the lower glumes of *Triticum* species

- a: *T. aestivum* b: *T. spelta* c: *T. monococcum* d: *T. timopheevii*
 e: *T. dicoccoides* f: *T. durum* g: *T. paleocolchicum* h: *T. polonicum*

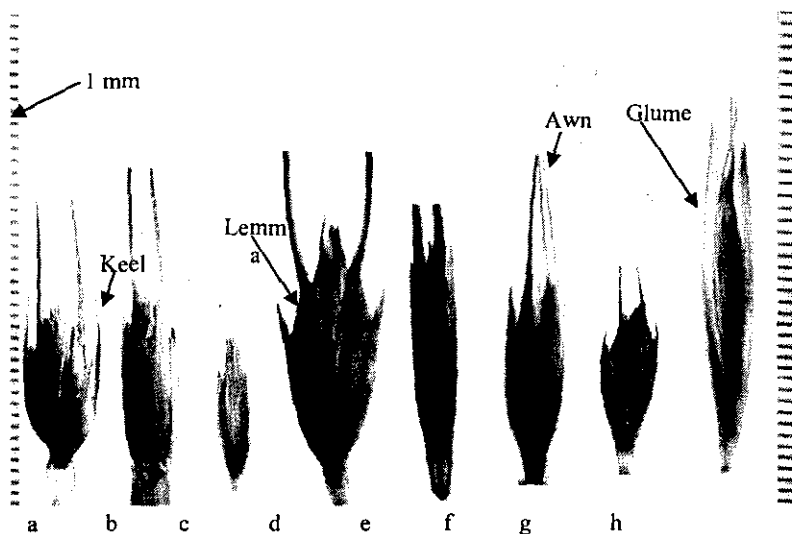


Figure (6): Showing the morphology of the spikelets of *Triticum* species
 a: *T. aestivum* b: *T. spelta* c: *T. monococcum* d: *T. timopheevii*
 e: *T. dicoccoides* f: *T. durum* g: *T. paleocolchicum* h: *T. polonicum*

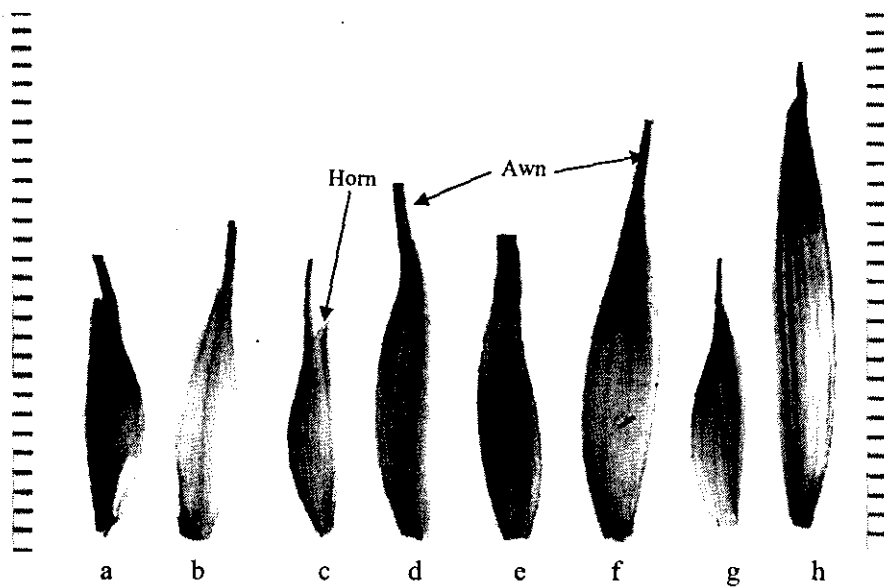


Figure (7): Showing the morphology of the lemma of *Triticum* species

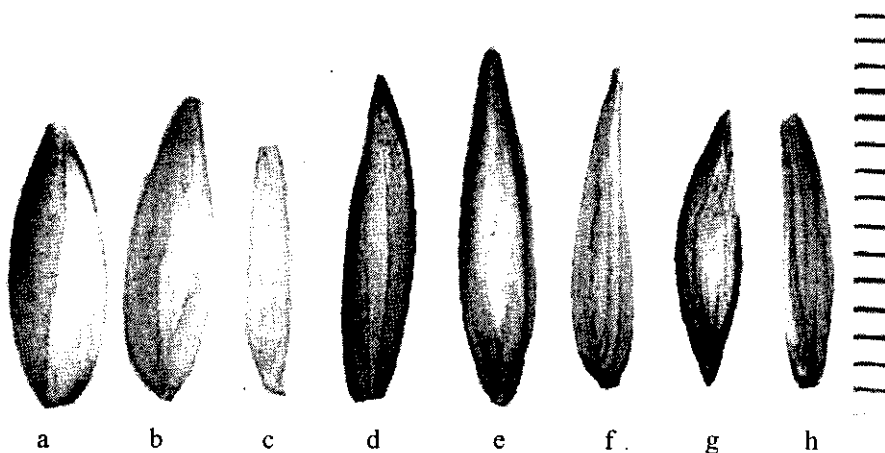


Figure (8): Showing the morphology of the palea of *Triticum* species
 a: *T. aestivum* b: *T. spelta* c: *T. monococcum* d: *T. timopheevii*
 e: *T. dicoccoides* f: *T. durum* g: *T. paleocolchicum* h: *T. polonicum*

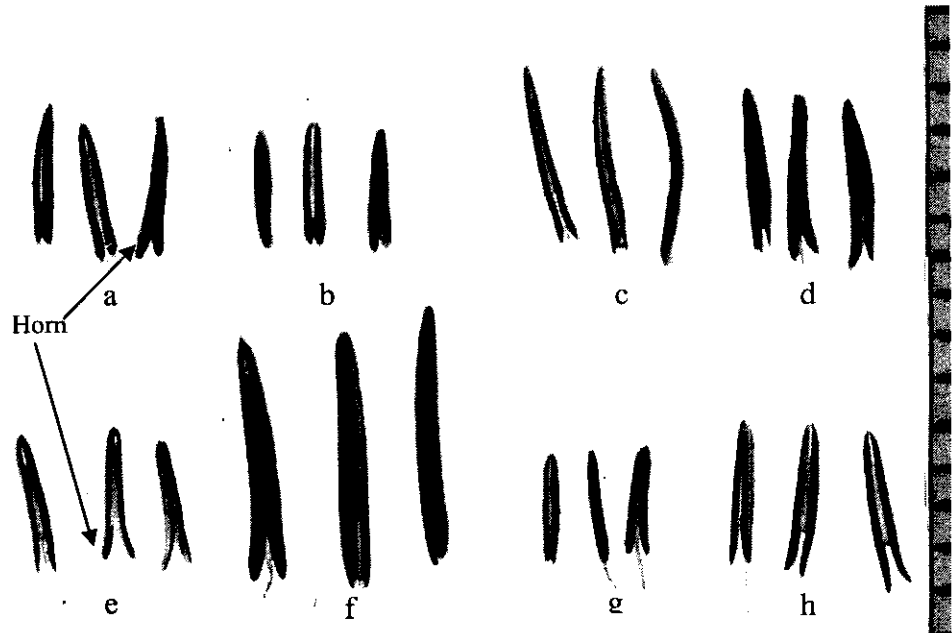


Figure (9): Showing the morphology of the anthers of *Triticum* species

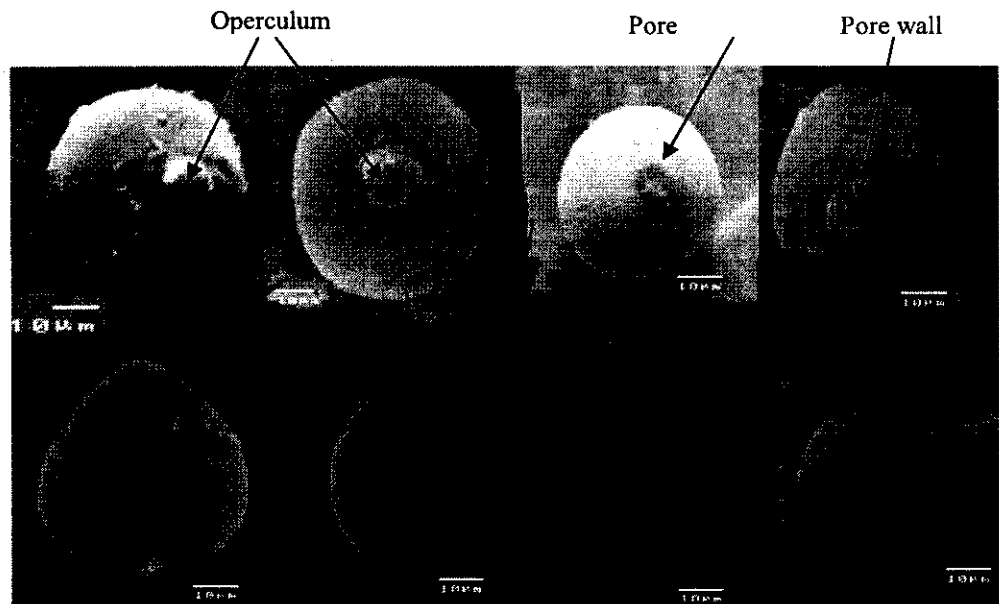


Figure (10): Showing the scanning electron micrographs of the pollen grains of *Triticum* species

a: *T. aestivum* b: *T. spelta* c: *T. monococcum* d: *T. timopheevii*
 e: *T. dicoccoides* f: *T. durum* g: *T. paleocolchicum* h: *T. polonicum*

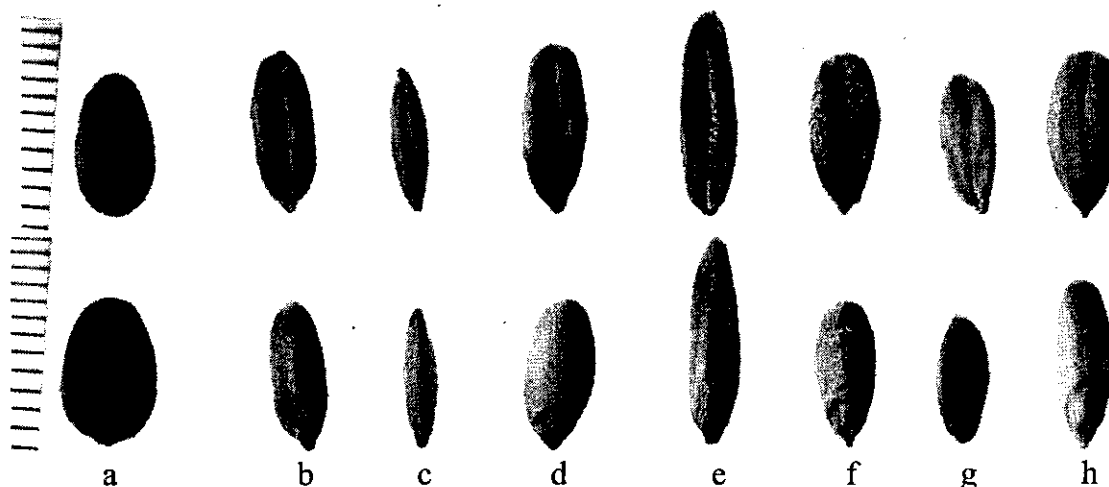


Figure (11): Showing the morphology of mature grains of eight *Triticum* species
 a: *T. aestivum* b: *T. spelta* c: *T. monococcum* d: *T. timopheevii*
 e: *T. dicoccoides* f: *T. durum* g: *T. paleocolchicum* h: *T. polonicum*

Triticum species. Furthermore, the maximum values of maximum length of lemma (22.0mm) and maximum width of lemma (4.7mm) were recorded in *T. polonicum* and *T. durum* (Fig.7h and f), respectively. While, the minimal values of their parameters (10.0 and 3.0mm) were noticed in *T. monococcum* (Fig.7c). Similar results were obtained by Townsend and Guest (1968), Zohary (1972), Frank and Robert (1983), Lersten (1987) and Mandaville (1990) who observed that lemma are navicular,, keeled towards the apex, awned or unawned and rounded on the back.

c- Palea:-

Data in Table (3) and Figure (8) show that palea shape was ovate in *T. aestivum*, *T. spelta* and *T. paleocolchicum* (Fig.8a,b and g), linear in both *T. monococcum* and *T. polonicum* (Fig.8c and h), very narrow ovate in both *T. timopheevii* and *T. dicoccoides* (Fig.8d and e). and lanceolate in *T. durum* (Fig.8f). Furthermore, palea apex was obtuse in both *T. aestivum* and *T. spelta* (Fig.8a and b), truncate in both *T. monococcum* and *T. polonicum* (Fig.8c and h) and acute in the other *Triticum* species (Fig.8d, e, f and g). However, palea splitting at maturity stage was observed in *T. monococcum* only (Fig.8c). The highest values of maximum length of palea (13.1mm) and maximum width (3.5mm) were found in *T. dicoccoides* and *T. aestivum* (Fig.8e and a), respectively. Whereas, the lowest values of their parameters (9.1 and 1.6mm) were recorded in *T. monococcum* (Fig.8c). These results are in agreement with those

obtained by Townsend and Guest (1968) who pointed out that palea of *Triticum* species has 2-nerved, ciliate on the keels and sometimes split (as in *T. monococcum*).

d- Anther and pollen grains:-

Results in Table (4) and Figures (9 and 10) reveal that maximum values of anther length (6.2mm), anther width (1.0mm) were recorded in *T. durum* (Fig.9f) and (1.1mm) for horn length as noticed in *T. polonicum* (Fig.9h). Whereas, the lowest values of anther length and width (2.6 and 0.5mm) were observed in *T. paleocolchicum* (Fig.9g) and (0.2mm) for horn length in *T. monococcum* (Fig.9c). In addition, pollen grain shape was ovate in *T. timopheevii* (Fig.10d), pear-shaped in *T. dicoccoides* (Fig.10e) and spherical in the other studied *Triticum* species (Fig.10a,b,c,f,g and h). The highest values of maximum pollen grain diameter (45.52µm) and pollen grain area (1493 µm²) were observed in *T. dicoccoides* (Fig.10e); also, the maximum values of maximum diameter of ectoaperture pore pollen (14.76 µm), maximum diameter of endoaperture pore pollen (4.99 µm) and thickness of pore wall pollen (4.81 µm) were observed in *T. paleocolchicum* (Fig.10g). But, the minimal values in their pollen grain parameters were 34.41 µm, 935 µm², 10.40 µm, 3.06 µm and 3.30 µm, respectively in *T. polonicum* (Fig.10h). On the other hand, presence of operculum on pollen grain pore was observed in both *T. aestivum* and *T. spelta* only (Fig.10a and b). These results are in harmony with those obtained by Dahlgren and Clifford (1982) who observed that the pollen grains of *T. aestivum*

were ulcerate (monopore), operculate and surrounded by wall defined annular thickness.

e- Grains:-

It is seen from Table (5) and Figure (11) that the maximum values of both number of grains/spike (61) and weight of grains/spike (2.49gm) were observed in *T.durum* (Fig.11f), 100 grains weight (6.22gm) and grain width(0.38cm) were recorded in *T.aestivum* (Fig.11a) and grain length (0.95cm) in *T.dicoccoides* (Fig.11e). While, the minimal values of number of grains/spike (18), weight of grains/spike (0.56gm) and grain width (0.20cm) were shown in *T.monococcum* (Fig.11c); but, the minimal values of 100 grain weight (2.79gm) and grain length (0.70cm) were observed in *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig.11g). Moreover, number of grains/spikelet were one in *T.monococcum*, *T.paleocolchicum* and *T.polonicum* and two grains/spikelet in the other studied *Triticum* species. The embryo shape was rounded in both *T.aestivum* and *T.paleocolchicum* (Fig.11a and g), obovate in both *T.spelta* and *T.timopheevii* (Fig.11b and d), wedge-shaped in *T.monococcum* (Fig.11c), oblong in both *T.dicoccoides* and *T.polonicum* (Fig.11e and h) and obovate with mucronate base in *T.durum* (Fig.11f). Moreover, the highest values of maximum embryo length (3.4mm) and maximum embryo width (2.4mm) were observed in *T.dicoccoides* and *T.aestivum* (Fig.11e and a), respectively. While, the lowest values of maximum embryo length (1.4mm) and maximum embryo width (0.8mm) were noticed in *T.paleocolchicum* and *T.monococcum* (Fig.11g and c), respectively. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Lersten (1987) who found that the grain shape was obovate, elliptical or oval, hairy at the apex and deeply grooved adaxillary embryo about 1/5 length of carypsis.

Data of this research can be used to differentiate among the eight *Triticum* species under study as given in the following key:-

I-Arrangement of spikelets on the rachis in two opposite rows, no hairs on the rachis

A-Basal internode of inflorescence in relation to the neck internode vertical, absent of sheath on basal internode of the neck region

a-Shape of glume in outline oblong, glume apex obtuse *T. spelta*

aa-Shape of glume in outline curved-linear, glume apex emarginated

T. monococcum

AA-Basal internode of inflorescence in relation to the neck internode oblique, presence of sheath on basal internode of the neck region

T. paleocolchicum

II-Arrangement of spikelets on the rachis whorled, hairs present on the rachis

B-Glume texture skinny, glumes short in relation to the other flower parts

C-Keel absent *T. dicoccoides*

CC-Keel present

D-Length of keel 1-3 mm, glume apex acuminate

E-Hairs present on glume

T. timopheevii

EE-Hairs absent on glume

T. durum

DD-Length of 6 mm keel, glume apex truncate

T. aestivum

BB-Glume texture membranous, glumes long in relation to the other flower parts
T. polonicum

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