

The Use of the Traditional Loop Method and the Introduced Wheel-point Method to Assess Ground Cover and Bare Soil

B.B. Zahran

Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Research, University of Bakht El-ruda, Sudan.

THE ANNUAL and biennial herbaceous forage plants from (El Baja) area ($13^{\circ} 36'$ and $14^{\circ} 10' N$; $31^{\circ} 45'$ and $32^{\circ} 23' E$), White Nile State, were assessed between 15th and 30th October 2002. The most effective rainfall period occurred between June and July 2002.

The principal objective of the study was to investigate the reliability of vegetation assessment techniques that help attaining suitable management indicators.

Ground cover, consisting of living vegetation and litter, was found to be high (93%), as assessed by the Loop method. This value was low (38%), as assessed by the Wheel-point method. The most dominant forage plants, as assessed by the Loop method were: *Aristida adscensionis*, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Eragrostis tremula* and *Fimberstylis dichotoma*. They were: *Aristida adscensionis*, *Fimberstylis dichotoma*, *Eragrostis tremula* and *Indigofera* sp., as determined by the Wheel-point method. Regardless of these variations in results, both methods were found to be useful and they have identified some management indicators. The methods were considered to be ecologically based.

Keywords: Loop method, Wheel-point method, Ground cover, Bare soil.

The annual and biennial herbaceous forage plants and some selected shrubs from (El Baja) area ($13^{\circ} 36'$ and $14^{\circ} 10' N$; $31^{\circ} 45'$ and $32^{\circ} 23' E$), White Nile State, were assessed between 15th and 30th October 2002. The most effective rainfall period occurred between June and July 2002.

The principal objective of the study was to investigate the reliability of vegetation assessment techniques that help attaining suitable management indicators.

In the course of this study, two techniques were used to assess ground cover and bare soil. These are the frequently used Loop method or Parker Loop method and an introduced method called the Wheel-point method.