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ECOPHYSIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON THE GROWTH OF MILNE-REDHEAD (*Emilia Praetermissa*) IN SOUTH EASTERN NIGERIA

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Eco-physiological studies were carried out on a hybrid weed, Milne-redhead *(Emilia practermissa* L.) at Okigwe, Nigeria in a sandy-loam soil. Results of the study showed that the seeds germinated best under diffuse light conditions. Depth of seed sowing had significant negative correlation with percentage germination. The best germination was obtained at the soil surface while there was no germination at a soil depth of 6cm. Growth of *E. praetermissa* under field conditions showed that height growth was slow during the first six weeks but increased steeply thereafter. Dry matter accumulation of the shoot was superior to that of the root; while shoot biomass increased rapidly after the 6^{th} week of growth that of the root was gradual throughout the experimental period. Shoot-root ratio increased with age until about the 10^{th} week when there was a decline. Leaf area ratio (LAR), net assimilation rate (NAR) and relative growth rate (RGR) decreased with age after a steep increase at the 4^{th} week of growth.