

**ROLE OF BROAD-LEAF WEEDS AS ALTERNATIVE HOSTS
TO THE BENEFICIAL INSECT FAUNA IN
VEGETABLE PLOTS**

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Weeds are considered to be undesirable plants with no value to the farmer. However, some flowering weeds have been found to harbour various insects which are natural enemies of other pest species. This study showed the presence of several beneficial insect species i.e. predators and parasites on broad-leaf weeds growing around the vegetable plots located in a farming area near Peradeniya. Altogether beneficial insects belonging to 18 different families were found on weeds belonging to 5 families including Amaranthaceae and Euphobiaceae. Thus the small scale farmer may be benefited by the selective retention of some weeds growing around his vegetable plots that enhance the beneficial insect fauna.