ABSTRACT
A new mealybug (Phenacoccus solenopsis Tinsley) appeared recently in Egypt from 2013 to 2015 and has attained the status pest on wide range of host plants. It was recorded on 29 host plant species including field crops (3), vegetables (3), ornamentals (7), weeds (13), fruits (3). These plants belong to the families of Amarantheceae, Asteraceae, Buddleiaceae, Compositae, Fabaceae, Lauraceae, Malvaceae, Moraceae, Myrtaceae, Pedaliaceae, Poaceae, Portulacaceae, Rosaceae, Solanaceae, Verbenaceae and Zygophyliaceae.

INTRODUCTION
The cotton mealybug, Phenacoccus solenopsis Tinsley (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae) was recorded recently for the first time in Egypt infesting Hibiscus sp. in September, 2009 (Abd-Rabou et al., 2010) while Samah et al. 2015 was recorded this pest on tomatoes as a new host plant in Egypt.

Since 2005, this newly world species (P. solenopsis) has emerged as serious pest of Cotton in Pakistan and India, and now it is a serious threat to Cotton in China, it has been reported from 173 species in 45 plant families and from 26 countries in different ecological zones (Abbas et al., 2010).

In Southern Iran, a total of 43 plant species belonging to 20 plant families including field crops, vegetables, ornamentals, weeds, bushes and trees were collected, among them, 9 species were represented new host plant records and most P. solenopsis hosts belonging to families Solanaceae, Malvaceae and Cucurbitaceae, representing for 48% of the reported host plants (Fallahzadeh et al. 2014).

In Pakistan, P. solenopsis was recorded from 154 host plant species. It is a polyphagous pest in nature including, field crops, vegetables, ornamental, weeds, bushes and trees. Most of these belong to the families Malvaceae, Solanaceae, Asteraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Amaranthaceae and Cucurbitaceae. Economical damage was observed on cotton, brinjal, okra, tomato, sesame, sunflower and china rose and reached plant death in severe conditions (Arif et al., 2009).

MATERIAL AND METHODS
The pest cotton mealybug P. solenopsis was closely observed on different host plants including field crops, vegetables, ornamentals, weeds and fruits located in some districts of Giza, Cairo, Behera and Qaluobaya during the Summer months of
2013 to 2015 years. Collected mealybug species were identified at Scale insect Department, Plant Protection Research Institute, Agric. Res. Center, Giza, Egypt. Weeds were identified at Weed Research Central laboratory, Agric. Res. Center, Giza, Egypt. (Prof. Dr. Ahmed Sadek Kholousy) and ornamental plants was identified in Horticulture Department of Ornamental Plants, Faculty of agricultural, Cairo university (Researching assistant, Mohammed Abd El Samiia Sayed). Host plants were listed in alphabetical order of families.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Results of this study have been summarized in Table (1), showed the list of host plant species in alphabetical order of families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant family</th>
<th>Host category</th>
<th>English name</th>
<th>Latine name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amaranthaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Prichly chaff flower</td>
<td>Achyrantes aspera</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaranthaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Livid amaranth</td>
<td>Amaranthus</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaranthaceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Bloodleaf plant</td>
<td>Iresine herbstii</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Dahlia</td>
<td>Dahlia x hybida</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Wedelia</td>
<td>Wedelia triobata</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Spiny cocklebur</td>
<td>Xanthium pungens</td>
<td>Qalubia</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddlejaceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Asiane butter fly</td>
<td>Buddleia asiatica</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Black jack</td>
<td>Bidens pilosa</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Fieobane</td>
<td>Conyza egyptiaca</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Lead trees and white popinac</td>
<td>Leucaenia leucocephala</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauraceae</td>
<td>Fruit trees</td>
<td>Avocado</td>
<td>Persea americana</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvaceae</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Okra</td>
<td>Abelmoshus esculentus</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Jew’s mallow</td>
<td>Corchorus ollotrus</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvaceae</td>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>Egyption Cotton</td>
<td>Gossypium barbadese</td>
<td>Behera</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvaceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Shoe flower</td>
<td>Hibiscus rosa sinensis</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>False mallow</td>
<td>Malvastrum coromendelium</td>
<td>Qalubia</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malvaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Prickly sida</td>
<td>Sida alba</td>
<td>Qalubia</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraceae</td>
<td>Fruit trees</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Morus mulberry</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myrtaeae</td>
<td>Fruit trees</td>
<td>Guava</td>
<td>Psidium guava</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedaliaceae</td>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>Sesame</td>
<td>Sesamum indecum</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poaceae</td>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Zea mays L.</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portulacaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Purselane</td>
<td>Portulaca oleracea</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>American red</td>
<td>Rubus strigosus</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>Lycopersicon</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Eggplant</td>
<td>Solanum melagena</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Black nightshade</td>
<td>Solanum nigrum</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Clustered withania</td>
<td>Withania sommifera L.</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbenaceae</td>
<td>Ornamentals</td>
<td>Lantana</td>
<td>Lantana camara</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zygophylaeae</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Malta cross - puncture vine</td>
<td>Tribulus longipetalus</td>
<td>Giza</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the present study, a total of 29 host plant belonging to 16 families including field crops (3), vegetables (3), ornamentals (7), weeds (13), fruits (3). These plants belonging to the families Amaranthaceae, Asteraceae, Buddleiacae, Compositae, Fabaceae, Lauraceae, Malvaceae, Moraceae, Myrtaceae, Pedaliaceae, Poaceae, Portulacaceae, Rosaceae, Solanaceae and Verbenaceae and Zygophyllaceae. Economical damage was observed on cotton, tomato, eggplant, okra and sesame.

Data represented in Table 1 indicated that, 35.71% of the host plants belonging to families Malvaceae and Solanaceae and an average of 21.43% of them belong to families Amaranthaceae and Asteraceae, the previous four families were contained 57.14% of host plants infested with *P. solenopsis*.

As host plant category, 44.84% for weeds, 24.14% for ornamental plants while 10.34% for each of crops, vegetables and fruits.

Weeds was represented the high percent of host plants (44.84%) infested with *P. solenopsis*, so control of weeds are an important process to control the population of cotton mealybug.

In this concern, Abd-Rabou 2010 recorded *P. solenopsis* as a new pest in Egypt on the ornamental plant, *Hibiscus rosa sinensis* and Samah et al., 2015 recorded it as a new pest on tomato plants in Egypt while 27 host plants in this paper are newly recorded.

**REFERENCES**


