962-39-663 **Edward A. Grove**, University of Rhode Island, Department of Mathematics, Kingston, RI 02881, **Gerasimos Ladas**, University of Rhode Island, Department of Mathematics, Kingston, RI 02881, **Lynn C. McGrath*** (lynn@math.uri.edu), University of Rhode Island, Department of Mathematics, Kingston, RI 02881, and **Christopher Teixeira**, Rhode Island College, Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Providence, RI. *On A Rational Difference Equation.* Preliminary report.

We investigate the asymptotic behavior, the boundedness nature, the periodic character, and the global stability of solutions of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{\alpha x_n + \beta x_{n-1} + \gamma x_{n-2}}{A x_n + B x_{n-1} + C x_{n-2}} \quad , \quad n = 0, 1, \ldots$$

for various parameters

$$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, A, B, C \in [0, \infty)$$

. (Received September 19, 2000)