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MANGO, A NEW HOST OF *MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA*

by

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Summary. Infestations of *Meloidogyne incognita* are reported for the first time on mango plantlets (grafts) imported from India.

Soil and root samples were collected randomly from a consignment of five thousand grafts of a mango hybrid Mallika (Neelam x Dasher) imported from New Delhi, India, during routine inspections undertaken at the Plant Quarantine Center, Seeb International Airport, Oman. Nematodes were extracted from soil by Cobb's sieving and decanting technique. Roots were first examined with a stereo binocular microscope and then stained in hot acid fuchsin-lactophenol for one minute for more detailed examination.

In the feeder roots there were 100-120 galls per plant, 1-4 mm in diameter, with small egg masses attached to them. Each egg mass contained 20-60 eggs. One to five adult females were teased out from each gall. The root-knot nematode was identified as *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid et White) Chitw. based on the perineal patterns of adult females as well as on the characters of second-stage juveniles (Jepson, 1987).

Although *M. incognita* has a wide host range among crop plants and weeds, mango was considered to be a non-host (Saka and Carter, 1987). *M. incognita* was found in the rhizosphere soil of mango (Maqbool, 1991; McSorley, 1992), but its parasitism was not studied. The present investigation establishes that *M. incognita* infects the roots of mango and thus is a new host record for the nematode.

Literature cited

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