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ROOT-KNOT NEMATODES ON EGGPLANT IN IRAQ

by

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A survey of *Meloidogyne* species was carried out in 1983-1984 in 99 fields of eggplant (*Solanum melongena* L.) in 17 provinces of Iraq.

Nematodes were extracted from soil and root samples. Species identification was made on the basis of the perineal pattern configuration and differential host tests (Taylor and Sasser, 1978).

Meloidogyne javanica (Treub) Chitw., *M. incognita* (Kofoid et White) Chitw., and *M. arenaria* (Neal) Chitw. were found. *M. javanica* the most commonly occurring root-knot nematode was found in 80% of the crops surveyed, *M. incognita* was the next most commonly occurring species, while *M. arenaria* was observed only at a few locations. *M. arenaria* was not found in the roots in association with any other *Meloidogyne* species whereas *M. javanica* and *M. incognita* were found alone or concomitantly.

Results of the differential host showed that there are two races (race 1 and 2) of *M. incognita* and one race (race 1) of *M. arenaria*. This is the first record of races of *Meloidogyne* species from Iraq.

Population densities of *Meloidogyne* species in the sampled crops ranged between 180-11800 juveniles/250 g soil. Populations in the fields where the rotations included alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.), corn (*Zea mais* L.) and barley (*Hordeum sativum* L.) were low compared with fields where eggplant was rotated with tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill) or okra (*Hibiscus cannabinus* L.).

Usually eggplant fields located between date-palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) trees were highly infested. Date-palms probably provide a reservoir of root-knot nematodes (Katcho et al. 1979; Al-Shammary 1979).

LITERATURE CITED

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