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NOTE BREVI - SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

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FOUR NEW HOSTS FOR *HETERODERA DAVERTI*

by

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A cyst nematode was found in pastures and seed multiplication plots of *Trifolium subterraneum* L. in Northwest Tunisia and identified initially as *Heterodera trifolii* Goffart, 1932 (Sikora, 1977). Wouts and Sturhan (1978) redescribed *H. trifolii* Goffart, 1932 from a neotype population and separated from it the closely related species *H. daverti* Wouts *et* Sturhan, 1978. The nematode from Tunisia identified originally as *H. trifolii* was reidentified as *H. daverti* (Nordmeyer, 1979; Wouts and Sturhan, 1978, pers. communications). The nematode on *T. subterraneum* caused yield reductions and was found in the field associated with several soil-borne fungi in a root-rot complex (Nordmeyer *et al.*, 1978).

Four *Trifolium* species which occur as wild types in Tunisian pastures of *T. subterraneum* and which had not been described as host plants for *H. trifolii* Goffart, 1932 were tested as hosts for *H. daverti*. Twenty seeds of *T. angustifolium* L., *T. arvense* L., *T. campestre* Schreber and *T. striatum* L. were sown in steam-pasteurized soil in 10 cm diam pots, replicated four times, and kept in an illuminated incubator at 25°C. Ten days after germination, each pot was inoculated with 2000 freshly hatched *H. daverti* juveniles and the number of cysts produced was recorded four weeks later.

The nematode developed on all four *Trifolium* species. All cysts contained eggs. The number of cysts produced was 5/pot on *T. angustifolium*, 7/pot on *T. campestre* and 10/pot on *T. arvense* and *T. striatum*; this is a low multiplication in view of the inoculum density and

the cysts were smaller than those that developed on *T. subterraneum*.

In addition to these four hosts and *T. subterraneum*, *H. daverti* has been reported from *T. repens* (Wouts and Sturhan, 1978) and *T. alexandrinum* (Anon. 1979). Additional research is needed to determine which of the approximately 125 hosts of *H. trifolii* Goffart, 1932 are hosts for *H. daverti* and *H. trifolii*.

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