

at Marquelia. Two palms at each of these localities were also found infested with the palm weevil.

In the Colonia Ruiz Cortines plantation two foci of high incidence were found. One focus contained 26 palms and the other 21. Both foci, separated by a distance of about 500 m, had the red-ring disease in various stages of development. Eleven more foci of 1-6 palms were found dispersed within an area of some 10 Ha at this locality.

From these results it is clear: 1) There is an important infestation of red-ring disease in this region not reported previously. 2) There is also a higher incidence of red-ring disease in Oaxaca than Guerrero. This incidence may be due to the fact that the cultivation of coconut palm in Guerrero is an older industry started 50-80 years ago and is a region where more primitive cultural methods are still practiced. Coconut palms once planted were allowed to grow indefinitely and most plantations have older trees which are not susceptible to attack by red-ring nematode. In the locality studied in Oaxaca there is a high density of young palms which is a reflection of the more recent increase in cultivation of coconut palm in that region. Finally, further studies must be done in order to know more about this problem.

EXPLORACION NEMATOLOGICA EN EL CULTIVO DE ALFALFA (*MEDICAGO SATIVA* L.) EN EL ESTADO DE MEXICO [NEMATODE SURVEY ON ALFALFA (*MEDICAGO SATIVA* L.) IN THE STATE OF MEXICO]. M. Pérez Mangas y R. R. Montessoro. Colegio de Postgraduados, Escuela Nacional de Agricultura, Chapingo; Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrícolas, Chapingo, México.

Dada la importancia fundamental que tiene el cultivo de alfalfa en el Estado de México, se procedió a realizar un estudio nematológico para determinar las especies de nematodos que estaban asociados con el cultivo. Se llevó a cabo este estudio suponiendo que algunos géneros de nematodos fitoparásitos fueron en parte responsables de la baja en la duración del cultivo, de 7 años a 2 o 3 como máximo. El muestreo consistió en tomar muestras de suelo y parte del sistema radicular de las plantas que presentaban alguna anomalía. Dicho muestreo se realizó tomando como guía las principales vías de comunicación, a una intensidad de muestreo de aproximadamente 0.5 o/o con un total de 95 muestras en 20,000 Has de cultivo. Después de analizadas dichas muestras por el método tamizado-embudos Baermann, se encontraron los siguientes géneros: *Tylenchorhynchus*, *Boleodorus*, *Aphelenchus*, *Pratylenchus*, *Tylenchus*, *Helicotylenchus*, *Xiphinema*, *Hoplolaimus*, *Psilenchus*, *Aphelenchoides*, *Ditylenchus* y larvas de *Meloidogyne*. Además, se hizo el estudio taxonómico del género *Pratylenchus*, encontrándose las siguientes especies: *P. zaeae*, *P. minyus*, *P. penetrans*, *P. thornei*, *P. pratensis*, *P. flakckensis*, *P. scribneri*, *P. convallariae*, *P. pinguicaudatus*, y dos más que no fue posible identificar.

PLANT PARASITIC NEMATODES IN THE SAO FRANCISCO VALLEY, PERNAMBUCO BRAZIL [NEMATODOS FITOPARASITOS EN EL VALLE DE SAO FRANCISCO, PERNAMBUCO, BRASIL]. R. D. Sharma. Centro de Pesquisas do Cacau, Itabuna, Bahia, Brazil.

ABSTRACT

Thirty-two soil and root samples from different cultivated plants were collected from two locations in Sao Francisco Valley, Pernambuco, Brazil. *Meloidogyne incognita*, *Tylenchorhynchus phaseoli*, *Helicotylenchus* spp. and *Xiphinema* sp. were the most frequently encountered of the 12 genera of plant parasites identified. This is considered to be the first report of its kind from this area.

INTRODUCTION

On the request of SUVALE - Superintendencia do Vale do Sao Francisco, Pernambuco, a preliminary nematode survey of Juazeiro Velho Estate and Experimental Station, Bebedouro was done in the second week of May, 1973.