

**POPULATION DYNAMICS OF ROOT-KNOT, SPIRAL
AND STUNT NEMATODES ON SWEETSOP, *ANNONA
SQUAMOSA* (ANNONACEAE IN RELATION TO
SOIL TEMPERATURE**

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Abstract

Of the 12 nematodes genera viz., *Aphelenchus*, *Criconemoides*, *Diptherophora*, *Ditylenchus*, *Helicotylenchus*, *Longidorus*, *Meloidogyne*, *Rotylenchulus*, *Trichodorus*, *Tylenchorhynchus*, *Tylenchus* and *Xiphinema* found associated with the rhizosphere of sweetsop *Annona squamosa* (Annonaceae); *H. exallus*, *M. incognita* and *Tylenchorhynchus* sp., were encountered throughout the year. The population densities of the nematodes attained a peak during August/September which was positively correlated with soil temperature ranging between 27-29° C. In contrast the population of *M. incognita* attained a peak in October and April which were negatively correlated with soil temperatures of 24°C at the experimental site.