

**NEW AND KNOWN WEED HOSTS OF *MELOIDOGYNE*  
*INCOGNITA* (KOFOID & WHITE, 1919) CHITWOOD, 199,  
A ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE IN SELECTED MAIZE  
FARMS AT TANKE, ILORIN, NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is an important cereal crop largely cultivated in the southern part of Nigeria. Apart from the insect pests and the fungus pathogens, plant parasitic nematodes are known to attack and cause extensive damage to the crop (Caveness, 1967; Olowe & Corbett, 1976). Where maize is cultivated as sole crop, a yield loss of 28.5% had been reported particularly in farm plots highly infested by a lesion nematode, *Pratylenchus brachyurus*, at Ibadan (Egunjobi, 1974). Weeds thrive well in soils similar to those in which maize is cultivated and serve as reservoir of root-knot nematodes (Salawu, *et al.*, 1991); Salawu Afolabi, 1994). A survey of the weeds in maize farms was carried out in five selected plots in Tanke Bubu and Tanke Iledu villages along the University of Ilorin Main Campus Road, Ilorin (8N 5E), Nigeria. Sixty-six weed species collected in May 1997 from the farms were identified. The plants were carefully lifted from the soil and the roots were gently washed with tap water to remove adhering soil particles. The galled roots were teased with a sterilized dissecting needle to release the mature females and other developmental stages of the nematode. The perineal sections of mature females mounted on plain glass slides were observed under a compound microscope and identified using the pictorial key of Eisenback & Triantaphyllou (1991).