

## **ROLE OF *MELOIDOGYNE JAVANICA* IN PREDISPOSING TWO DATE PALM CULTIVARS TO INFECTION BY *THIELAVIOPSIS PARADOXA***

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### **Abstract**

The effects of *Meloidogyne javanica* in predisposing two date palm cultivars viz., Braim and Zahdi to infection by four isolates of *Thielaviopsis paradoxa* isolated from four declining date palm trees having widely different symptoms were studied. The results revealed that the two cultivars varied in their response to the four tested isolates of *T. paradoxa*. The combination of any of the fungal isolates with *M. javanica* increased cultivars susceptibility as manifested by root – necrosis index increment. However, based on the root – necrosis index and gall number per plant, date palm cultivar Braim was more susceptible to infection by *T. paradoxa* alone or in combination with *M. javanica* than Zahdi cultivar.