

EVALUATION OF *PAECILOMYCES LILACINUS* FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF *MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA*

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Abstract

The present studies were conducted to see the effect of *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, a soil borne hyphomycete fungal bio-control agent against *Meloidogyne incognita* root-knot nematode on tomato. *P. lilacinus* significantly increased growth of tomato plants inoculated with *Meloidogyne incognita*. Production of galls per plant, egg-masses per root system and number of eggs per egg-mass were significantly reduced. The fungus also showed maximum reduction in nematode population in soil as well as in roots. *P. lilacinus* was more effective when applied before nematode inoculation or together with *M. incognita* but was not so effective to inhibit nematode reproduction when applied after nematode infestation. The development of second stage larvae was significantly inhibited when maximum number of eggs was infected with *P. lilacinus*.