

JATROPHA GOSSYPIFOLIA (EUPHORBIACEAE), A NEW HOST OF MELOIDOGYNE JAVANICA IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

In June 2004, *Jatropha gossypifolia* (Euphorbiaceae) plants growing around the Karachi University Campus were examined for root-knot nematodes. Diseased plants showed symptoms of yellowish and stunted growth. On up rooting the roots were found infested with root-knot nematodes. Under the stereoscopic microscope, egg masses and white pear shaped females were recovered from swollen roots. The perineal pattern of mature females was similar to the report of Taylor & Sasser, 1978 about *M. javanica* (Treub, 1885) Chitwood, 1949, having a low dorsal arch and distinct lateral incisures. *Jatropha gossypifolia* appears to be a new host of *M. javanica* not hitherto reported in Pakistan. The samples have been deposited in the collection of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi.