

NEMATODE FAUNA ASSOCIATED WITH MEDICINAL PLANTS

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Abstract

Soil and root samplers of medicinal herbs viz., Ajwain (*Trachyspermum ammi*), Alsi (*Linum usitatisimum*), Buck wheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), Gul-e-babona (*Matricaria chamomilla*) and Kalonji (*Nigella sativa*), were collected from PGRP, IABGR / NARC Islamabad, Pakistan. The collected plant samples were showing the symptoms of discoloration, yellowing stunting and wilting in the field. The nematodes associated with these medicinal herbs were investigated. Among the phytoparasitic group, *Tylenchorhynchus* sp., was found as the most dominating nematode species followed by *Helicotylenchus* sp., and *Hoplolaimus* sp. *Xiphenema* sp., was recovered in high population density as omnivores among trophic group, the less prevalent nematodes among this group were *Longidorus* sp., *Trichodorus* sp. Among other trophic groups the nematode genera isolated were bacterial feeder, (*Alamida* sp., *Cephalobida* sp., *Diplogastrida* sp., and *Plectus* sp.) the fungi vores, (*Aphelenchoides* sp., and *Rhabditidis* sp.) the omnivores, and the predators, (*Mononchid* sp.). Although other soil pathogens were not isolated but the presence of all these trophic groups suggest lot of microbial activity going on in these fields.