

**ALTERNANTHERA SP. FORSSK, A NEW HOST RECORD OF
MELOIDOGYNE JAVANICA IN PAKISTAN**

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Root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.), are considered to be the most serious nematode pests of crop plants. More than 100 host plants have been encountered in Pakistan (Maqbool & Shahina, 2001; Khanzada *et al.*, 2007; Musarrat *et al.*, 2007). *Alternanthera* sp. Forssk grown in a Defence Housing Society Garden, Karachi, Pakistan, showed severe yellowing symptoms. The plants were uprooted and roots with severe root-knot infection were observed (Fig. 1). Mature females of root-knot nematodes obtained from the infected roots (Fig. 2) were identified as *Meloidogyne javanica* (Treub, 1885) Chitwood, 1949 on the basis of their perineal pattern (Taylor & Sasser, 1978). *Alternanthera* sp. Forssk appears to be a new host of *Meloidogyne javanica* in Pakistan.