

*Pak. J. Nematol.*, 3 (1): 37-42, 1985.

**HOST STATUS EFFECT OF COWPEA AND MAIZE  
ON A POPULATION OF ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE,  
*MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA***

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**Abstract**

The population dynamics of the root-knot nematode *Meloidogyne incognita* was monitored when maize and cowpea were planted in rotation under screen house conditions. The aim was to assess the usefulness of maize, an inefficient host of the nematode, in a crop rotation schedule for the control of root-knot nematodes in cowpea. By means of t-test statistics, significant differences were found in nematode population build-ups between two schedules of rotations: cowpea-maize-cowpea and maize-cowpea-maize. Though introduction of maize does not eliminate the root-knot nematodes, it does lead to a reduction in the nematode population.