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## **HISTOPATHOLOGY OF EGG PLANT ROOTS INFECTED WITH ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE, *MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA***

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### **Abstract**

The study examines the histopathological changes in the roots of eggplant (*Solanum melongea* L.) resulting from infection with root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita*. The feeding site of the nematode was mainly confined in stellar region of root. Cells in the feeding site showed hypertrophy, hyperplasia, thickening of cell walls, granular cytoplasm and enlarged nuclei and nucleoli. Abnormal xylem, formed in response to infection by nematodes, occurred in irregular patches with scattered vessel elements resulting in discontinuity of vascular tissues. The findings support the view that giant cells originate from hypertrophy and repeated mitosis without cytokinesis of a single stimulated cell.