

ROOT-KNOT AND RENIFORM NEMATODES INFECTING SOME ORNAMENTAL AND MEDICINAL PLANTS IN PAKISTAN

F. SHAHINA AND A.R. MUSARRAT

National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan

Abstract

During January 2005, plants growing around the Karachi University Campus (Gulistan-e-Jauhar) were examined for root-knot nematode. Plants viz., *Duranta repens*, *Bassia scoparia*, *Ficus benjamina*, *Pedilanthus tithymaloides*, *Ipomoea batatas* and *Sansevieria trifasciata* showed symptoms of yellowish and stunted growth as compared to healthy plants. On up rooting, the roots were found infested with root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne incognita*) and reniform nematodes (*Rotylenchulus reniformis*). Under the stereoscopic microscope, egg-masses and white pear shaped females were separated from infested swollen roots. The perineal pattern of mature females was similar to *M. incognita* (Kofoid & White) Chitwood as reported by Taylor & Sasser (1978) in having distinct dorsal arch composed of smooth to wavy lines and no lateral incisures. The measurements of juveniles, immature females and males of *Rotylenchulus* nematodes are similar to *R. reniformis* given by Linford & Oliveira (1940). These hosts are new reports of *M. incognita* and *R. reniformis* from Pakistan. The samples have been deposited in the collection of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.