

NEW HOST OF ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Root samples of *Datura alba* were collected from experimental field of Karakoram Agricultural Research Institute, Juglote, Gilgit. Roots were examined by stereomicroscope for the presence of egg-masses of root-knot nematodes. The characteristics of root-knot nematode were further studied on the basis of perineal pattern of the mature females (Eisenback *et al.*, 1981) and identified as *Meloidigyne incognita* (Kofoid & White, 1919) Chitwood, 1949. The perineal pattern showed a distinct high dorsal arch composed of smooth and wavy striae, the male head with large and round labial disc centrally concave generally marked with 2-3 annules. *Datura alba* appeared to be a new host of the root-knot nematode in Pakistan not previously reported (Gul & Saeed, 1987; Zarina & Maqbool, 1991; Maqbool, 1992).