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**EFFECT OF THE RATE OF SOIL MOISTURE LOSS ON THE
SURVIVAL, INFECTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF
ROTYLENCHULUS RENIFORMIS, THE RENIFORM NEMATODE**

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Abstract

The rate of moisture loss from soil was positively correlated with rate of development, infectivity, and mortality of *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. Soil moisture tension of 3.99, 25.6, 39.2, and 48.0 bars corresponded to *R. reniformis* mortalities of 32, 47, 52, and 76% respectively. Nematode mortality increased with increasing rates of soil drying. Infectivity of *R. reniformis* on green-gram (*Vigna radiate* cv Pusa 105) was also decreased from 49% in fresh samples to 18% in soil layers 3 cm thick. Increasing soil moisture tension also caused a delay of 5-6 days in female oviposition.