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## 'Kalahasti Malady' on Groundnut Outside Andhra Pradesh, India

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The 'Kalahasti Malady' is a serious disease of groundnut in parts of Chittoor and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh, India. Reddy et al. (1984) showed that the stunt nematode, *Tylenchorhynchus brevilineatus*, was the causal agent of this disease. The disease is considered to be restricted in distribution and has not been reported outside Andhra Pradesh.

During a preliminary survey of the groundnut-producing regions of Tamil Nadu, in the 1995 postrainy season, characteristic symptoms of the Kalahasti Malady were observed on pegs and pods of the groundnut cultivar Co 2 in Bhavanisagar. The diseased pods were brownish black, and small lesions were observed on the pegs. In a 1-ha field, 25 plants were randomly uprooted and pods were evaluated for disease severity. Pods were generally of smaller than normal size, and on 80% of the plants, the pods were discolored because of lesions. Many lesions appeared to have coalesced to cover about 75% of the pod surface, giving a scabbed appearance. Soil samples were collected from the geocarposphere and rhizosphere. The samples were processed by the sieving and decanting technique, by suspending them in water, passing through 850 µm (20 mesh) and 38 µm (400 mesh) pore size nested sieves, and placing the residue from a 38 µm sieve on modified Baermann funnels (Schindler 1961). The nematodes extracted from the soil samples were identified and counted.

The population density of *T. brevilineatus* ranged between 350 and 600 nematodes 100-cm$^{-3}$ soil; this was the predominant species. Other species present in the samples in low (<50 nematodes 100-cm$^{-3}$ soil) to moderate (51–100 nematodes 100-cm$^{-3}$ soil) numbers were: *Macroposthonia ornata, Pratylenchus brachyurus, Helicotylenchus* sp, *Ditylenchus* sp, and *Aphelenchoides* sp. Occurrence of this disease in Tamil Nadu is significant because this disease was hitherto thought to be endemic to Andhra Pradesh. The disease causes serious loss to groundnut production in the infested areas (Reddy et al. 1984). Extensive surveys of groundnut-producing regions of Tamil Nadu are suggested to assess the distribution and importance of this disease in the state. The disease was first observed in farmers' fields near the Kalahasti area in Andhra Pradesh and hence it was locally known as 'Kalahasti Malady'; however, a 'pod scab' is the most characteristic symptom of infection.

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## Comparative Efficacy of Fungicides in Controlling Leaf Spots of Groundnut in India

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Early and late leaf spots caused by *Cercospora arachidicola* Hori and *Cercosporidium personatum* (Berk and Curt) Deighton, are the most important foliar diseases of groundnut in India. Both leaf spots are endemically present in the groundnut-growing areas of Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan and cause considerable yield losses, particularly when they appear early in the season. Indi-