

DISEASE NOTES

First Report of *Heterodera gambiensis* on Pearl Millet in Niger.
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In July 1989, juveniles of *Heterodera* sp. were isolated from soil samples collected from a field intercropped with groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) and pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br.) in Maradi, Niger. Subsequent soil and root samples collected from these crops revealed white females with egg sacs on the roots of pearl millet. Brown cysts and second-stage juveniles were extracted from rhizosphere soil. The nematode density ranged between 0 and 20 cysts per 100 cm³ of soil. Crop growth was variable in patches. The nematode was identified as *Heterodera gambiensis* Merny & Netscher based on cyst cone top structures and measurements of second-stage juveniles and males (1). Species identification was confirmed by M. R. Siddiqi, CABI Institute of Parasitology, England. *H. gambiensis* has been recorded on sorghum and pearl millet in parts of Gambia, but this is the first record of occurrence in Niger. It may be useful to investigate the involvement of this nematode in the crop growth variability problem common in Niger.

Reference: (1) G. Merny and C. Netscher. *Cah. O.R.S.T.O.M. Ser. Biol.* 11:209, 1976.