

OUTBREAKS AND NEW RECORDS

First report of the lesion nematode *Pratylenchus brachyurus* on groundnut in India.

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In India information on nematode pests of groundnut and their damage is very scanty and is largely restricted to root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne javanica* and *M. arenaria*, and stunt nematode, *Tylenchorhynchus brevilineatus*. In 1987 and 1988, we conducted preliminary surveys in some groundnut producing regions of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to identify important nematode species on groundnut. A population of *Pratylenchus* species was isolated from rhizosphere and roots of groundnut plants collected from a farmer's field in Mahboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh. The nematode species was identified based on the measurements of adult females (body length = 460-490 μm , stylet length = 20 μm , $V= 85-87$), as *Pratylenchus brachyurus* (Godfrey) Filipjev and Schurmann Stekhoven (species identification was confirmed by Dr. M.R.Siddiqi, Principal

Nematologist, CAB International Institute of Parasitology, England). Survey of literature revealed that this is the first report of *P.brachyurus* on groundnut in India.

Lesion nematode, *P.brachyurus* is one of the most important nematode pests of groundnut in USA, Australia, Africa and Egypt causing yield losses ranging from 24-26%¹. Keeping in view the damage potential of the nematode, we suggest intensive surveys of the groundnut producing regions to map the distribution and spread of the nematode in India. Domestic quarantine measures may be initiated to prevent its spread to 'clean' areas.

1. Minton, N.A., 1984. Nematode parasites of Peanuts. In "Plant and Insect Nematodes" (Ed. W.R. Nickle), Marcel Dekker, Inc. New York, USA, pp. 373-394.