

SHORT COMMUNICATION

New record on the occurrence of lesion nematode, *Pratylenchus brachyurus* on groundnut in Karnataka

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Groundnut is one of the important oilseed crops grown in Karnataka and other parts of India. Groundnut is prone to many types of plant parasitic nematodes like *Meloidogyne javanica*, *M. arenaria*, *Helicotylenchus multicinctus*, *Pratylenchus coffeae*, *Rotylenchulus reniformis* etc. (Chhabra, 1992 and Ishwara Bhat & Krishnappa, 1991). In view of the increased emphasis on oilseed crops especially groundnut, a survey was undertaken in major groundnut growing areas of Karnataka during Kharif, 1990. Out of 25 taluks surveyed, *Pratylenchus* spp. was found to be most predominant in soils of Belgaum, Dharwad and Bijapur districts.

Based on body measurements of females of this nematode with body length of 460-490 μm , stylet length of 20 μm and $v=85-87$ and with other morphological characters the species was identified as *Pratylenchus brachyurus* (Godfrey) Filipjev and Schuurman Stekhoven. This was con-

firmed by Dr. M.R. Siddiqi, Principal Nematologist, CAB International Institute of Parasitology, England. Same species has been reported from Andhra Pradesh by Varaprasad & Sharma (1990).

The review of past literature revealed that this species has not been reported so far on groundnut from Karnataka.

This nematode causes most serious damage to groundnut crop with dark coloured lesions on the shells which serve as a potential source of inoculum (Chhabra, 1992). Hence care should be taken to avoid the spread of this nematode to neighbouring regions.

REFERENCES

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