SPICE PLANTS AS NEW HOST RECORD OF *MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA* IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Two spice plants turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) and black paper (*Piper nigrum* L.) showed infestation of root-knot nematode. Roots of turmeric were collected from National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi and black paper from Frontier area tribe Agency, Barang agency. These plants appeared to be the new host records of the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* in Pakistan.

Key-words: Root-knot nematodes, black paper, turmeric, new host record, Pakistan

Root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.) are important plant pathogens and have a wide distribution in Pakistan (Shahina *et al*., 2009). Survey was conducted for the detection of plant parasitic nematodes during 2012. Two spice plants turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) and black paper (*Piper nigrum* L.) showed infestation of root-knot nematode. Roots of turmeric from National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi and black paper from Frontier area tribe Agency, Barang agency were collected, respectively. The root-galls and pear shaped mature females were found on roots. The species of *Meloidogyne incognita* was identified on the basis of perineal pattern of the mature females (Eisenback *et al*., 1981). These plants appeared to be the new host records of the root-knot in Pakistan not previously reported (Anwar *et al*., 2009; Maqbool and Shahina, 2001; Zarina and Shahina, 2010).

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