

Additions to the Host Records of the Root-Knot Nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid and White) Chitwood

Roots of a number of wild and cultivated plants belonging to different families were examined for infestation by root-knot nematodes in western Uttar Pradesh. Mature females were dissected out from the galled tissue of roots and their perineal patterns were cut; and stained with hot 0.01% acid fuchsin in lactophenol. The close study of these perineal patterns (Whitehead⁷) revealed that the species involved was *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid and White) Chitwood. Some of these plants were found to be new hosts which have not been reported earlier (Goodey *et al.*³, Davidson and Townshend², Potter *et al.*⁴, Whitehead⁸, Sitaramaiah *et al.*⁶, Roy⁵, Alam *et al.*¹). The list of plant species along with the host response is given in Table I. The host response was rated as: 1 = light infection, 2 = moderate infection, 3 = heavy infection and 4 = severe infection. Size of root-galls, ranging from small (S), medium (M) to large (L) was also noted.

TABLE I

Response of plants to the attack of the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid and White) Chitwood, with some new host records

Hosts	Size of root-galls	Reaction of host	Locality
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	M, S	2	Aligarh
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	S	1	"
<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i> Desf.*	S	1	"
<i>Arundo donax</i> L.*	S	1	"
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. caulocarpa L.	S, M	1	"
<i>Calendula officinalis</i> L.	M	2	Agra
<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.**	L	4	Bulandshahr
<i>Celosia cristata</i> L.	L, M	3	Aligarh
<i>Chenopodium amaranticolor</i> Coste and Reyn.*	S	1	"
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> L.**	S	1	"
<i>Chenopodium murale</i> L.**	S, M	2	"
<i>Coleus blumei</i> Benth.**	M, S	3	Bulandshahr
<i>Corchorus capsularis</i> L.	M, S	2	Agra
<i>Eclipta abla</i> (L.) Hassk.	S, M	2	Bulandshahr
<i>Eleusine indica</i> Gaertn.	S	1	Aligarh
<i>Petunia hybrida</i> Vilm.	M, L	3	Bulandshahr
<i>Rumex dentatus</i> L.	S, M	1	Aligarh
<i>Vernonia cinerea</i> (L.) Less.	S	1	"

* New host record.

** First report from India.

Dept. of Botany, S. QAMAR A. NAQVI.
Aligarh Muslim University, M. MASHKOOR ALAM.
Aligarh, India, June 8, 1974.

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Geocoris jucundus Fieb. * (Lygaeidae : Hemiptera) as Predator of Lucerne and Tomato Aphids in the Indian Desert

Species of *Geocoris* are usually predatory in habit. *G. tricolor*, found in India, feeds on nymphs and adults of brinjal tingid bug, *Urentius sentis* and mite, *Tetranychus* sp., sorghum shoot bug, *Peregrinus maidis* (Rawat and Modi, 1969)¹, adults of coccinellid, *Brumus suturalis* and anthorid bug, *Orius* sp. (Singh and Sandhu, 1973)².

During February and July 1970 the author collected at the Central Research Farm, C.A.Z.R.I., Jodhpur, *Geocoris jucundus* Fieb. feeding on lucerne aphid, *Therioaphis trifolii*, which is a common and widespread pest of lucerne. This predator has also been recorded on tomato aphid, *Aphis gossypii*, at C.R. Farm, Jodhpur. *G. jucundus* is being reported for the first time from the Indian Desert.

Central Arid Zone

S. K. PAL.

Research Institute,
Jodhpur, May 29, 1974.

* Identified by Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London SW 7.

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