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Studies on different host range of *Meloidogyne graminicola*

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Abstract

Studies on host status of root-knot nematodes infecting rice revealed that *Oryza glaberrima* line 44, sorghum (HJ 541), bajra (HHB 67), onion, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* and rice (PB 1121) were found host of *M. graminicola*. *Oryza glaberrima* line 06, *Oryza glaberrima* line 33, brinjal (BR-112), Tomato Sel.7 and *Leptochloa chinensis* were found non host of *Meloidogyne graminicola*.

Keywords: Host, rice, *Meloidogyne graminicola*, weed, cereals

Introduction

The genus *Meloidogyne* is considered the most important mainly due to its wide host range that includes more than 3,000 species of wild and cultivated plants (Hussey & Janssen, 2002). Recently, *Meloidogyne graminicola* (Golden and Birchfield) causing rice root knot disease has emerged as a major pest throughout the world due to its broad host range and ability of posing potential yield loss. The losses caused by *M. graminicola* may vary from negligible to heavy depending on the severity of disease. Completion of life cycle of *M. graminicola* is highly temperature dependent and may vary from 15-51 days. The main symptoms of root knot disease of rice are yellowing, dwarfing and gall formation on the roots of rice plants. Weed host, *Amaranthus spinosus*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Portulaca oleracea* (Brito *et al.*, 2008) [2], *Cyperus rotundus*, *Amaranthus* spp., *Chenopodium album* and *Digitaria* spp. are often cited in the literature (Myers *et al.*, 2004) [6]. Due to its wide polyphagia, *M. graminicola* survives and reproduces in off-season on weeds and forage crops growing on fallow plants, contributing to increase of inoculum in the soil, and then parasitizing rice cultivation. (Pokharel *et al.*, 2007) [8]. Among other weeds, the barnyard grass *Echinochloa* spp. is reported as good plant host of *M. graminicola* (Siciliano *et al.*, 1990; Sperandio & Amaral, 1994) [12, 14]. It was first reported on barnyard grass, *Echinochloa colonum*. Subsequently, it was found that it readily attacks several grasses, bush bean, oats, sorghum, pearl millet, wheat and oats. Rice being considered as a major economically important host. Anamika *et al.* (2011) [1] assessed the disease incidence and intensity of root-knot disease on rice and vegetable crops in 21 districts of Uttar Pradesh (India).

However, little is known about the development and reproduction of this nematode in this species. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out to check the host suitability of plant species, which often found in off-season and during rice cultivation against root-knot nematode, *M. graminicola*.

Materials and Method

For the host range studies, various cereals, vegetable crops and monocot weeds were screened for their host status with regard to rice root-knot nematode, *M. graminicola* during 2018-19. The studies were conducted in earthen pots of 15 cm diameter filled with nematode infested soil (1000 J₂/kg soil/pot). Three seeds of each crop/weed were sown in each pot. On germination, plants were thinned down to one plant/pot with three repetitions. Watering and plant protection measures were given as per requirement. Forty days after inoculation, numbers of galls per plant were counted. The galls were dissected to count No. of eggs and juveniles. The reproductive factor was calculated and the test plants were categorized as host and non host. Calculated Rf value (Pf/Pi) and categorized the test plants as hosts (Rf > 1) and non-hosts (Rf < 1).

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Results and Discussion

Data presented in the Table 1 indicated that among six cereals crops, less number of galls/plant observed in the *Oryza glaberrima* line 33 followed by *Oryza glaberrima* line 06 and *Oryza glaberrima* line 44. Rice (PB 1121) recorded 8.50 galls/plant. Sorghum (HJ 541) and bajra (HHB 67) remained at par with each other. Among the vegetable crops, onion recorded maximum number of galls/plant (7.50) whereas tomato sel.7 was found free from galls. Among monocot weeds, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* recorded less number of galls (3.25); while, *Leptochloa chinensis* was found free from galls.

Perusal data presented in Table 2 revealed that among the different tested host plants, *Oryza glaberrima* line 44, Sorghum (HJ 541), bajra (HHB 67), onion, *D. aegyptium* and Rice (PB 1121) were found host of *M. graminicola*. *Oryza glaberrima* line 06, *Oryza glaberrima* line 33, brinjal (BR-112), tomato sel.7 and *L. chinensis* were found non host of *M.*

graminicola.

Occurrence of *M. graminicola* on cereals viz; rice, wheat, bajra, oats and barley were reported by many scientists (Steiner 1934; Golden and Birchfield, 1965; Roy 1978; Pankaj *et al.*, 2010; Dabur *et al.*, 2004; Salalia *et al.*, 2013) [15, 4, 10, 7, 3, 11]. Several weeds like *E. crusgalli*, *E. indica* and *C. rotundus* were found infected by *M. graminicola*. Dabur *et al.* (2004) [3] reported that rice, sorghum, pearl millet, wheat and oats were good hosts of *M. graminicola*. Brinjal, tomato, okra, green gram and barley did not support the multiplication of this nematode. *Cyperus rotundus*, *Dichanthium annulatum*, *Echinochloa crusgalli*, *E. colona*, *Eleusine indica*, *Eclipta alba*, *Trigonella polycerate* and *Melilotus alba* were found to be very good hosts of this nematode. Galls but no egg masses were found on *Cynodon dactylon* L., and *Euphorbia hirta* L. (Rao *et al.*, 1970) [9]. Singh and Patel (2016) [13] reported that *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* was found to be good host of this nematode.

Table 1: Effect of different hosts on number of galls per plant during 2018-19

Treatments	Host plants	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄	Total	Average
T ₁	<i>Oryza glaberrima</i> line 06	0	0	1	2	3	0.75
T ₂	<i>Oryza glaberrima</i> line 33	2	0	0	0	2	0.50
T ₃	<i>Oryza glaberrima</i> line 44	3	3	2	3	11	2.75
T ₄	Sorghum (HJ 541)	23	17	21	37	8	24.5
T ₅	Bajra (HHB 67)	16	26	18	29	89	22.25
T ₆	Brinjal (BR- 112)	0	1	0	2	3	0.75
T ₇	Tomato- Sel. 7	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
T ₈	Onion (<i>Kharif</i>)	7	3	11	9	30	7.50
T ₉	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	6	2	4	1	13	3.25
T ₁₀	<i>Leptochloa chinensis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
T ₁₁	Rice (PB 1121) - Check	9	12	7	6	34	8.50
S. Em.±							1.80
C.D. (0.05)							5.18
CV %							55.71

Table 2: Reaction of cereals and weeds against *M. graminicola*

Treat.	Host plants	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄	Total	Avg.	Reaction (Host/ Non host)
T ₁	<i>Oryza glaberrima</i> line 06	0.91	0.73	0.58	0.94	3.16	0.79	Non Host
T ₂	<i>Oryza glaberrima</i> line 33	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non Host
T ₃	<i>Oryza glaberrima</i> line 44	2.09	2.57	1.19	0.67	6.52	1.63	Host
T ₄	Sorghum (HJ 541)	1.36	1.57	1.49	1.38	5.8	1.45	Host
T ₅	Bajra (HHB 67)	1.13	0.84	1.67	1.09	4.73	1.18	Host
T ₆	Brinjal (BR- 112)	0.35	0	0	0.47	0.82	0.20	Non Host
T ₇	Tomato- Sel. 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non Host
T ₈	Onion (<i>Kharif</i>)	2.19	1.63	1.49	1.93	7.24	1.81	Host
T ₉	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	1.03	2.15	1.57	1.51	6.26	1.56	Host
T ₁₀	<i>Leptochloa chinensis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non Host
T ₁₁	Rice (PB 1121) - Check	2.19	2.29	1.13	1.43	7.04	1.76	Host
S. Em.±							0.19	
C.D. (0.05)							0.55	
CV %							40.21	



Different hosts and non hosts for *M. graminicola*

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