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LIFE CYCLE OF *MELOIDOGYNE GRAMINICOLA* AND ITS POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING A PEST OF WHEAT CROP

R.S. KANWAR*, K.R. DABUR, H.K. BAJAJ AND S.N. NANDAL

Department of Nematology,
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004, India

*Corresponding author's E-mail: krs@hau.ernet.in

Abstract

Life cycle of *Meloidogyne graminicola* was studies on wheat at two sowing times under green house conditions at Hisar in India. In October-sown plants, second stage juveniles (J_2) readily penetrated roots, developed to adult females in 24 days and started laying eggs in 38 days. However, majority of eggs hatched only in the month of February. Comparatively fewer J_2 penetrated in November-sown plants and developed slowly to adulthood in 100 days. Eggs and J_2 of next generation were recorded 110 days after inoculation. Wheat crop grown in heavily *M. graminicola*-infested fields after rice though showed a little root infection but no above-ground symptoms. These studies indicated that *M. graminicola* is not likely to become a pest on November-sown wheat in rice-wheat cropping system.