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EFFECT OF POPULATION DENSITIES OF *MELOIDOGYNE JAVANICA* (TREUB) CHITWOOD AND PLANT AGE ON GROWTH OF EGGPLANT AND NEMATODE REPRODUCTION

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Abstract

Two weeks old brinjal plants were inoculated with 100, 150, 200, 250 and 300 larvae of *Meloidogyne javanica* per pot containing 2 kg steam sterilized soil. Root and shoot length significantly decreased with 300 larvae per pot (10.55 and 16.43 cm) followed by 250 larvae (12.20 and 18.78 cm), 200 larvae (13.32 and 20.95 cm), as compared to 100 larvae (15.40 and 23.75 cm) and uninoculated plants (15.92 and 26.58 cm). Root and shoot weight also decreased in plants inoculated with 300 larvae (6.68 and 12.20 g) than 250 larvae (7.95 and 13.35 g), 200 larvae (8.33 and 14.25 g), 150 larvae (9.18 and 15.67 g), 100 larvae (10.20 and 16.17 g) and in control (11.45 and 18.65 g). Number of root galls per root increased with 300 larvae (75.67) as compared to 250 larvae (50.67), 200 larvae (35.00) and 100 larvae (25.00). Maximum number of egg-masses and egg per egg-mass were obtained with plants inoculated with 300 larvae (72.00 and 279.00) followed by 250 larvae (44.67 and 245.70), 200 larvae (37.00 and 145.70) as compared to 100 larvae (21.33 and 137.67). The number of immature larvae and females was also increased with 300 larvae per pot (279.00 and 72.33) followed by 250 larvae (245.70 and 21.33).