



Occurrence and Morphometric Variations of Lesion Nematodes (*Pratylenchus* Species) Infesting Ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Rosc.) in Major Cultivation Belts of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract: *Pratylenchus coffeae* species was recorded from most of the surveyed localities. The frequency of occurrence of this species varied from as low as 20% in Nohradhar to as high as 88.8% in Naineti, both located in district Sirmour. In Solan, the nematode varied from 37.5 to 80%. The average maximum population of this species was recorded in Sirmour (67.12%) and minimum in Solan (38.09%). Besides, other plant parasitic nematodes associated with ginger in the area under survey were *Meloidogyne incognita*, *Tylenchorhynchus mashoodi*, *Helicotylenchus dihystra* and *Paratylenchus curvatus*. Out of these, the most abundant was *Pratylenchus coffeae* with 78% frequency of occurrence followed by *Tylenchorhynchus mashoodi* (58%), *Helicotylenchus dihystra* (47%), *Meloidogyne incognita* (33%) and *Paratylenchus curvatus* (20%) in order of their frequency of occurrence. Morphometric studies revealed that the most reliable diagnostic characters for identification were number of head annules, shape of spermatheca, structure of lateral field and shape of female tail.

Key Words: Ginger, *Helicotylenchus dihystra*, *Pratylenchus coffeae*, *Meloidogyne incognita*, *Paratylenchus curvatus*, *Tylenchorhynchus mashoodi*
