

POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS AND VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF XIPHINEMA  
INSIGNE LOOS, IN SOIL AROUND THE ROOTS OF CITRUS AURANTIFOLIA L.

By

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Seasonal population fluctuations of Xiphinema insigne was studied in a fifteen years old citrus orchard in West Bengal during 1978-79. Composite soil cores were taken at depths 0-20, 20-40 and 40-60 cm under the drip line. Monthly samples were collected adjacent to the previous ones, proceeding around the tree drip line for 12 months period and the prevailing population of the nematode was estimated. Population maxima was attained in the month of March-April and August-September, corresponding with minor and major root flushes of tree respectively. In other months, its population ranged from 20-125 per 250 ml of soil. Influence of depth on population number was observed with X. insigne. There were few nematodes below 40 cm depth. Relative prevalence data in summer and winter months showed that they were quite drought and heat resistant.

A SIMPLE METHOD FOR INOCULATION AND PRODUCTION OF SYMPTOMS BY  
RADOPHOLUS SIMILIS ON COCONUT

By

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Raising sprouts by dehusking seednuts partially by retaining a tuft of fibers covering the eyes of the nut was found to accelerate germination and make roots available six weeks earlier for easy handling in the laboratory. Using this method characteristic, elongate orange coloured lesions could be detected on coconut roots under a stereoscopic binocular dissecting microscope after 24 hours of inoculation with Radopholus similis.