

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF COCONUT PLUMULE TO *RADOPHOLUS*
SIMILIS (COBB, 1893) THORNE, 1949

BY

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Hundred seednuts of var. West Coast Tall were sown in steam sterilised sandy loam soil contained in 10" earthen pots in April, 1976. They germinated in 12-14 weeks. Twenty sprouts, with a plumule length of 1-2 cm, were selected. A plastic tube (5 x 3 cm) was placed encircling the white fleshy plumule and filled with moist sterile sandy loam soil. Five hundred active surface sterilised *R. similis* (larvae and females) collected from coconut roots, suspended in 5 ml sterile water was introduced on to 10 plumules. The other ten sprouts treated with 5 ml sterile water as above served as checks. Reddish brown lesions were observed on the white fleshy plumule after 10 days (Fig. 1). After thorough cleaning with a strong jet of water, affected portions were removed with a sharp blade and teased under a stereoscopic dissecting binocular microscope in 1 ml sterile water contained in a watch glass. All stages of *R. similis* (15-25) including eggs were recovered from this. The control plants did not record any lesions as well as nematodes on teasing.

The lesions produced by nematodes may become easy entry points for other pathogenic microorganisms and aggravate the rotting further. Detailed studies are called for to study the role of this nematode, if any, in diseases of the nursery plants.

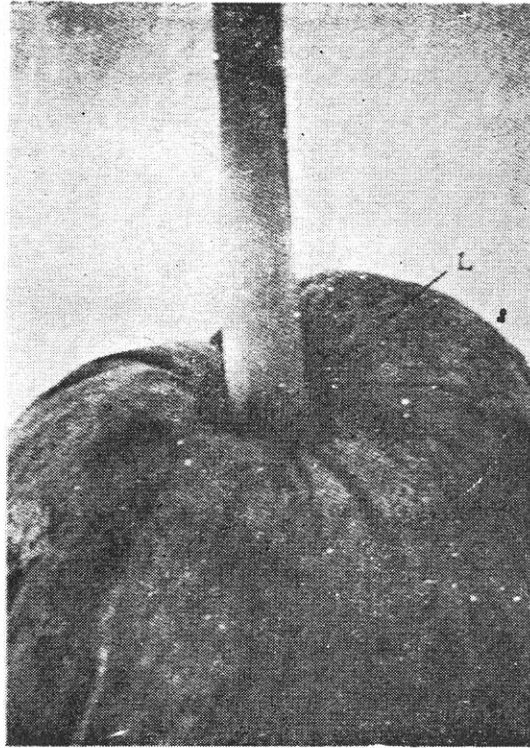


Fig. 1. Symptoms of *R. similis* infestation on coconut plumule. L—Lesions.