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## ON A WILT DISEASE OF BETELVINE IN KERALA CAUSED BY ROOT KNOT NEMATOD

A severe case of wilting of betelvine was reported from Pandalam and Aranmula in Alleppey district during 1973. The first visible symptom of the disease was the drying of the buds of the vine during the early stages of the crop which turned black and dropped to the ground later. After 10 to 15 days the leaves become pale yellow in colour giving a sickly appearance to the vine. In the advanced stages of the disease there was wilting and dropping of the leaves and finally the entire vine dried up.

Examination of soil collected from infected fields showed high populations of the larvae of the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita*. Galls of varying sizes and shapes were also observed on the roots of the infested vines. In heavily infested plants the root system was converted in to heavy mass of Galls. Decay of the roots due to secondary infections was also in evidence. The disease was less in fields which were kept fallow for 1 or 2 seasons. The association of the root-knot nematode, *M. incognita* with betelvine wilt has been reported earlier from Tamil Nadu (Krishna Iyer, 1926), Maharashtra (Dhande et. al, 1961) and Andhra Pradesh (Anonymous, 1966). But it is the first time it is recorded from Kerala.

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### സംഗ്രഹം

കേരളത്തിൽ ചിലയിടങ്ങളിൽ വെററിലകൊടിയിൽ കണ്ടുവരുന്ന വാട്ടരോഗത്തിന്റെ കാരണം വേരുകോല നിമാറോഡുകൾ ആയിരിക്കുമെന്ന് നിരീക്ഷണത്തിൽ *rolcna* മനസ്സിലായി. ഈ രോഗത്തിന്റെ ആരംഭദശയിൽ കൊടിയുടെ മൊട്ടുകൾ കരിയുകയും ഉണങ്ങി കറുത്തു പോഴിഞ്ഞുപോവുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. വേരുകളിൽ മുഴുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. ക്രമേണ കൊടികൾ പൂർണ്ണമായി വാടിക്കരിയുന്നു.

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