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Species and physiological races of root knot nematodes *(Meloidogyne* spp.) on kiwifruit and the effect of *M. incognita* on kiwifruit seedlings

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Root samples of kiwifruit infected by root-knot nematodes were collected from different regions of Guilan and Mazandaran provinces. Some females and Juveniles showed some morphological differences. They were then separated as single egg mass and tested on differential hosts. On the basis of females perineal patterns, morphological and morphometrical characters of juvenile, females and males and reaction of differential hosts four species of root kont nematodes were identified as follows: *Meloidogyne incognita* race 2, *M. hapla, M. arenaria* race 2 and *M. javanica.* Maximum abundance belong to *M. incognita* and *M. hapla* respectively. The effect of *M. incognita* race 2 on six months old kiwi Hayward was studied. The results showed that treatments of 10^3, 10^4 and 10^5 eggs and second stage juveniles were sgnificant in number of galls and eggs in roots and Juvenile populations in soil. Species and physiological races of these nematodes were the first record for Mazandaran province and kiwifruit is a new host for these species in Iran.

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