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Influence of inital inoculum levels of root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* (race-1), on growth of some chick-pea cultivars*

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ABSTRACT

Pathogenicity of *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid and White, 1919) Chitwood, 1949 (race-1) on six chick-pea cultivars viz., Pusa-209, Pusa-212, Pusa-244, Pusa-256, Pusa-267 and Pusa-436 was studied under five inoculum levels namely 0,10,100,1000 and 10000 second stage juveniles (J2) per pot under artificial inoculations.

There was a progressive decrease in plant growth as the inoculum levels of the nematode increased. An inoculum level of 1000 J2 per pot was found to be damaging threshold level only for Pusa-212 and Pusa-267 whereas 10000 J2 per pot caused significint reduction in growth parameters of all tested chick-pea cultivars.

Rhizobial nodulation was adversely affected at all the used inoculum levels and this effect was significant at 1000 J2 and above. Number of functional nodules per root system decreased as the level of inoculum increased and this was maximum at 10000 J2 per pot.

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