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**Root-knot nematode - a threat to brahmi (*Bacopa monniera)***

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**ABSTRACT**

*Generally leaves, roots, flowers, barks of brahmi are most commonly used raw materials and interestingly these parts of the plants are more susceptible to the attack of insect-pest, diseases and nematodes and as a result quality of the raw materials which ultimately lead to the economic losses. During a survey programme this brahmi plant was found to be susceptible for root-knot nematode. The infected plants show the characteristics symptoms of stunted growth in patches, yellowing and drying of the plants from the tip and when infected plants uprooted small galls were observed in the roots. The small knot like galls were appeared in the main as well as on the lateral roots, the size of the galls was about 0.25-0.5 cm in size. Histopathology of the infected roots revealed that the second stage juvenile (J ) initially penetrated in the root cortex and then move to the cortical layer of the cells and started feeding. During the feeding process they developed metabolically highly active permanent feeding cells in the vascular system of the plant by the hyperplasia and hypertrophy of the parenchymata cells and thus thereby affecting the translocation of the nutrient to different parts of the plants and leading to the collapse of the plants.*

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