RESEARCH NOTES

Intra-uterine Egg Development of *Pratylenchus coffeae* (Zimmerman) Filipjev and Schuurmans Stekhoven

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Non-sedentary Tylenchida usually deposit eggs unsegmented or occasionally in the two or four-celled stage. Nevertheless, instances of intra-uterine development of eggs to the pre-hatch larval stage have been recorded for *Aphelenchus avenae* Bastian (2), *Helicotylenchus paxilla*, Yuen (6), *H. vulgaris*, Yuen (7), *Helicotylenchus* sp. (6), *Radopholus similis* (Cobb), Thorne (3), *Anguina tritici* (Steinbuch) Chitwood (1), and *Praecocilenchus rhaphidophorus* Poinar (4).

This report presents observations on a population of *Pratylenchus coffeae* (Zimmerman) Filipjev and Schuurmans Stekhoven, from horn plantains (*Musa paradisiaca* L.) in Honduras in which the egg frequently underwent cleavage, and sometimes reached full development in the uterus (Fig. 1).

Loos (3) postulated that intra-uterine

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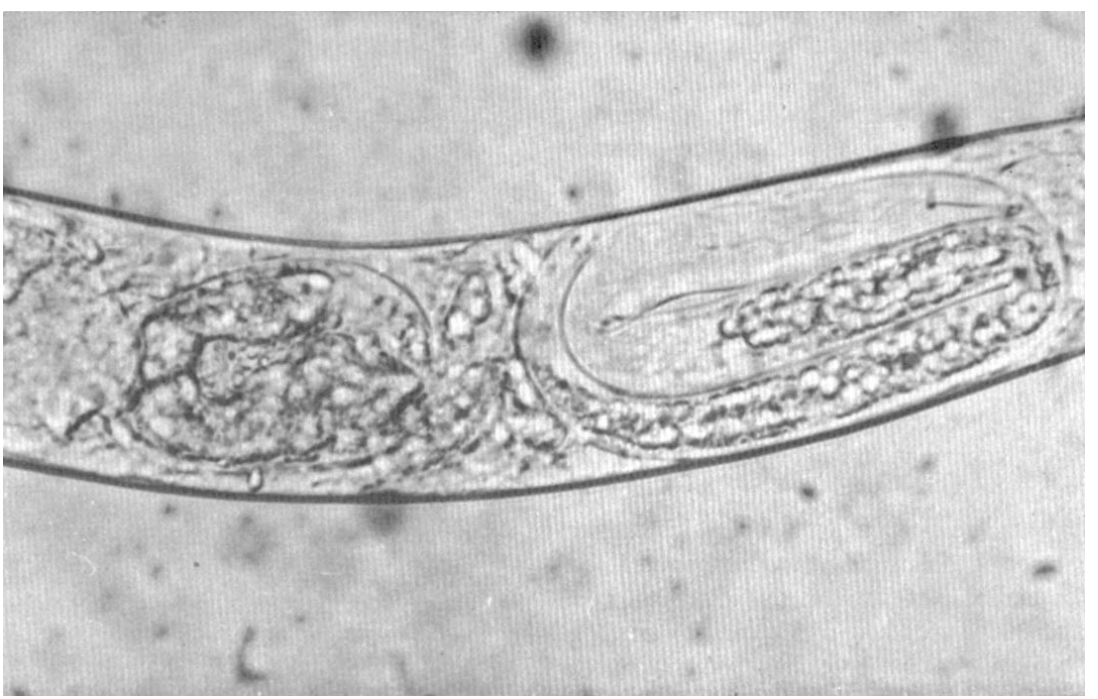

FIG. 1. Portion of body of *Pratylenchus coffeae* female containing eggs in which the embryo had developed to the prehatch larval stage in the uterus. (Both female and larva were alive when photographed.)

development in *R. similis* was due to disturbance, change of environment or damage to the female. The nematode in Figure 1 had been extracted from plantain rhizome tissue by the blender method (5) and stored in a refrigerator overnight. Intra-uterine development was also observed in specimens freshly extracted from rhizomes grown in field soil or regularly watered, sterilized soil.

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