

Monacrosporium lysipagum Infecting Egg Masses of *Meloidogyne acrita*

R. P. ESSER¹

Key words: biocontrol. *Catenaria*, *Harposporium anguillulae*, *Monacrosporium cianopagum*.

Examination of the soil around *Passiflora alata* Dryand. roots revealed bacteriophagous nematodes infected with *Catenaria* sp., *Harposporium anguillulae* Lohde, and *Monacrosporium cianopagum* (Drechs.) Cooke and Dicken. The *P. alata* roots were infected with *Meloidogyne acrita* (Chitwood, 1949) Esser, Perry, and Taylor 1976. Squash mounts were made of several gelatinous egg masses from roots, and a fungus identified as *Monacrosporium lysipagum* (Drechs.) Subram. was noted parasitizing larvae of *M. acrita*. The hypha produced globose mucilaginous knobs which attached to larvae emerging from eggs (Fig. 1A, C) and to eggs (Fig. 1D). A number of spores was noted among the eggs (Fig. 1B). Non-constricting rings were not observed. Assimilative hyphae in parasitized larvae were rather coarse (Fig. 1C), whereas hyphae inside parasitized eggs were fine by contrast.

This is the third occurrence of nematophagous fungi detected in root-knot nematode eggs. Godoy et al. (2) found eight species of fungi parasitizing eggs of *Meloidogyne arenaria* (Neal, 1889) Chitwood, 1949. Stirling and Mankau (4,5) described

Dactylella oviparasitica Stirling and Mankau infecting eggs of *Meloidogyne arenaria*, *M. hapla* Chitwood, 1949, *M. incognita* (Kofoid and White, 1919) Chitwood, 1949, and *M. javanica* (Treub, 1885) Chitwood, 1949. Kerry and Crump (3) listed three kinds of fungi parasitizing eggs of *Heterodera avenae* Woll.

Monacrosporium lysipagum (Drechs.) Subram. was first detected in 1937 on leaf mold from Beltsville, Maryland, and from Arlington, Virginia (1). This fungus was observed by Drechsler capturing and devouring bacteriophagous nematodes (*Rhabditis* sp. and *Plectus* sp.).

LITERATURE CITED

1. Drechsler, C. 1937. Some hyphomycetes that prey on free-living terricolous nematodes. *Mycologia* 29:447-552.
2. Godoy, G., R. Rodriguez-Kabana, and G. Morgan Jones. 1982. Parasitism of eggs of *Heterodera glycines*. *Nematropica* 12:111-119.
3. Kerry, B. R., and D. H. Crump. 1977. Observations on fungal parasites of females and eggs of the cercarial-cyst nematode, *Heterodera avenae*, and other cyst nematodes. *Nematologica* 23:193-201.
4. Stirling, G. R., and R. Mankau. 1978. *Dactylella oviparasitica* a new fungal parasite of *Meloidogyne incognita* eggs. *Mycologia* 70:774-783.
5. Stirling, G. R., and R. Mankau. 1979. Mode of parasitism of *Meloidogyne* and other nematode eggs by *Dactylella oviparasitica*. *J. Nematol.* 11: 282-288.

Received for publication 12 October 1982.
¹Nematologist, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1269, Gainesville, FL 32602.



Fig. 1. *Monacrosporium lysipagum* infecting *Meloidogyne acrita*. A) Knob (K) attached to a *M. acrita* larva. Mucilaginous exudate (M). B) Spores of *M. lysipagum* in an egg mass. C) Knob (K) attached to an *M. acrita* larva filled with assimilative hypha. D) Egg with knobs (K) attached.

