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## COMPARISON OF MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS OF DIFFERENT POPULATIONS OF *LONGIDORUS AFRICANUS*

by  
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*Longidorus africanus* Merny, 1966 has been reported to be widely distributed in the USA in association with many kind of crops (Radewald *et al.*, 1969). Lamberti (1969) showed that *L. africanus* caused stunting and distortion of the roots of lettuce, sorghum and sugar beet. In Coimbatore, South India, *L. africanus* caused damage to the commercially-grown flowering plant *Crossandra undulaefolia* Salisb. Attacked plants had stunted root systems and growth of the plants was retarded.

Measurements of *L. africanus* from Coimbatore were close to those of populations from Egypt, Israel and Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) (Table I). However, the lengths of the odontostyle and the odontophore were greater in the Coimbatore specimens than in the other three populations.

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Table I - *Comparative measurements of Longidorus africanus from Coimbatore (S. India), Zimbabwe, Egypt and Israel*

|                                  | Coimbatore |         | Zimbabwe<br>Type<br>locality<br>(a) | Egypt<br>(b) | Israel<br>(c) |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| n                                | 8 ♀♀       | 3 ♂♂    | 14 ♀♀                               | 10 ♀♀        | 3 ♂♂          |
| L (mm)                           | 3.73-4.48  | 4.2-4.5 | 2.65-3.84                           | 3.10-5.32    | 3.79-4.4      |
| a                                | 86-108     | 101-103 | 72-107                              | 81-136       | 103-106       |
| b                                | 9.6-13.8   | 13-14.6 | 8.5-12.2                            | 7.4-15.8     | 9.4-11.6      |
| c                                | 57-102     | 66-86   | 68-106                              | 81-136       | 78-105        |
| V                                | 40-48      | —       | 45-50                               | 42-52        | —             |
| G1                               | —          | —       | —                                   | 4.7-8.4      | —             |
| G2                               | —          | —       | —                                   | 4.5-10.1     | —             |
| Odontostyle<br>length (µm)       | 100-132    | 100-112 | 68-101                              | 79-92        | 89-91         |
| Odontophore<br>length (µm)       | 50-59      | 53-59   | 49-54                               | 41-57        | —             |
| Tail length / anal<br>body width | 1.2-1.8    | 1.2-1.5 | 1.3-1.8                             | 1.2-1.7      | 1.3-1.6       |

a=Data from Merny (1966);

b=Data from Aboul Eid (1970);

c=Data from Cohn and Mordechai (1968).

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