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Preliminary Report
Project Research in Agricultural Helminthology


27 April 1953

This research project is concerned with the collection preservation and identification of the free-living and plant parasitic nematodes found in the Netherlands. In addition some time has been spent in collecting nematodes for the University of California Nematode Survey Collection. This latter phase of the project has required only casual attention since it has been possible to integrate the two parts of the work so as to provide specimens for both the Netherlands and the U.C. Collection from the same soil samples.

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Prior to the arrival of the grantee in the Netherlands  of the Plantenziektenkundige Dienst in Wageningen had agreed to collect nematode specimens from various areas in the Netherlands. Such collections were made in conjunction with other projects already underway at this laboratory and did not require the establishment of a special project. The specimens collected were available for study at the outset of the research project and as the result of the preliminary work there has been a continuous supply of specimens available for study and incorporation into the nematode collection now established at this laboratory.

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The Plantenziektenkundige Dienst, through  has made available to the grantee all laboratory and microscopic equipment needed for the research project. Laboratory assistance has also been provided by the above mentioned institute. One well-trained assistant has devoted full time to the preparation of nematode specimens. Also, other assistance has been provided from time to time upon request. For example it has been possible to obtain soil samples from any area in the Netherlands through the cooperation of various workers associated with the Phytopathological Service.

The Phytopathological Service has also made available to the grantee automobile transportation for collecting trips and visits to laboratories engaged in nematode research. The project has received the full cooperation of the Phytopathological Service and others concerned with research on nematodes in the Netherlands.

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No difficulties or problems have been encountered during the course of the research. Considerable progress has been made in establishing a collection of identified nematodes. To the present time the nematode collection contains several thousands identified specimens. 150 species of free-living and plant parasitic nematodes representing 55 genera are now in the collection.

Perhaps the most significant phase of the project to date has been the collection and identification of species belonging to the nematode genus Pratylenchus. Six species of this important plant parasitic group have been found to occur in the Netherlands. Previously these species were all grouped under one species name.

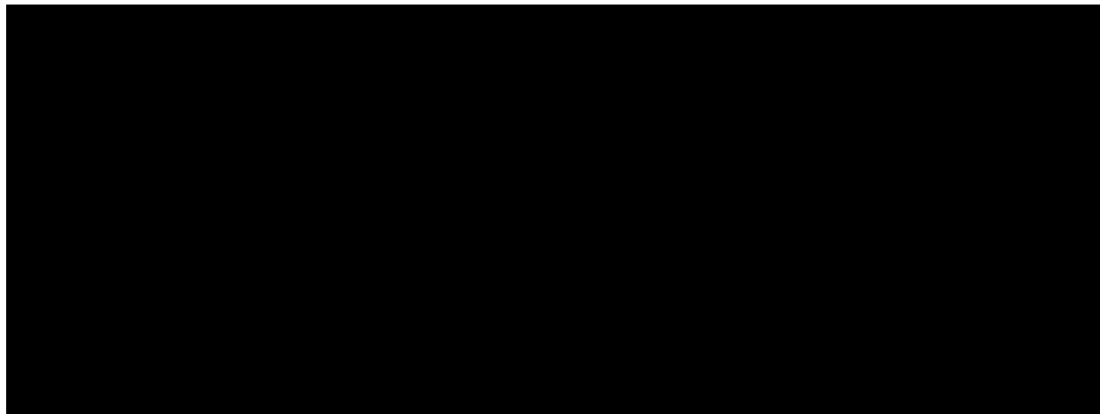
Also it is of interest that some 12 or 13 species belonging to the genus Tylenchorhynchus have been collected. Only three of these species were known previously from the Netherlands. Several of these species are as yet not described.

Approximately 150,000 specimens have been collected and preserved in formalin. These specimens were collected from 85 localities and are for inclusion in the University of Calif. collection. It is anticipated that some of these specimens will eventually be returned to the Netherlands collection.

As a part of the research project some time has been devoted to teaching and instructing several assistants in the fundamentals of nematode systemics and techniques. There has also been a constant exchange of information concerning all phases of plant nematology.

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Professional contacts and visits have been made with the following scientists engaged in nematological research:

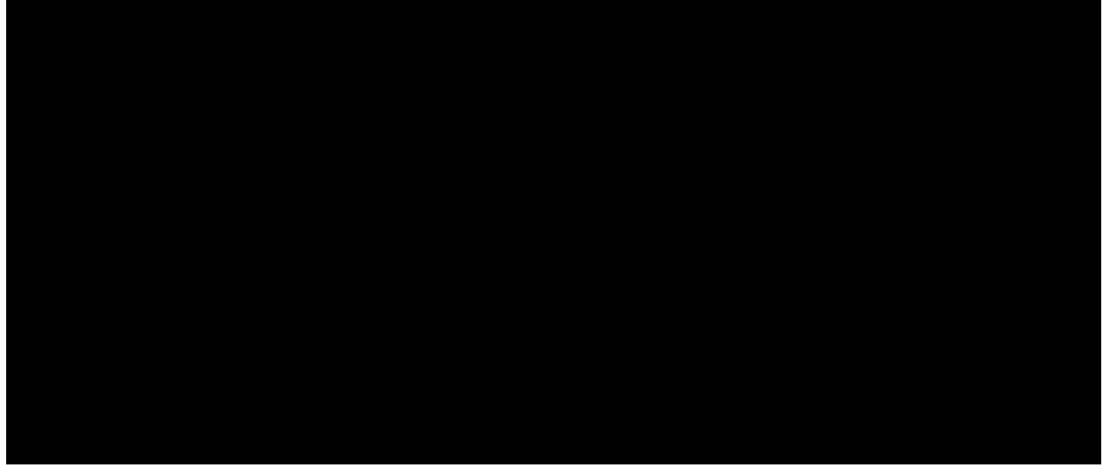


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