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A note on the incidence of *Rotylenchulus reniformis* in cardamom plants

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Small cardamom, *Elettaria caramomum* is an important spice crop of India. About 20 genera of plant parasitic nematodes are reported to be associated with cardamom (Eapen, 1991). Among them, the root knot nematodes are the most important and widely distributed nematode pests. Recently high population (58-68/100g soil) was observed in a cardamom nursery of reniform nematode. D'Souza *et al.* (1970) though reported the presence of *Rotylenchulus reniformis* in soil around cardamom but no reports are available on their presence in cardamom roots. Cardamom seedlings raised in the above nursery site were uprooted at 4-5 leaf stage, washed thoroughly and the roots were stained with acid fuchsin (Byrd *et al.*, 1983). Mature females were seen protruding from these roots with their heads embedded inside

root cortex. Ten such females were teased out from these roots and the measurements were taken to confirm their identity. The females were identified as *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. Occasionally eggs were also seen inside the gelatinous matrix produced by the females. The number of mature females varied from 7-16 per gram root. Moderately thick and brown cortical thickening were observed on roots at the point of nematode entries.

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