

ABSTRACT

Identification of plant nematodes associated with economically important crops and their frequency of occurrence and distribution in 16 districts of Sri Lanka were investigated. A total of 38 genera comprising of 25 plant parasitic and 13 free living forms associated with 54 different were identified in this survey. The occurrence and distribution of 16 economically important nematodes types were plotted in 10 sq.km grid maps. The genus *Meloidogyne* was found to be causing considerable damage to many important crops. Also, genera *Helicotylenchus*, *Xiphinema*, *Rotylenchulus*, *Hoplolaimus* and *Pratylenchus* were commonly associated with many crops. Cysts of *Globodera rostochiensis* were found in 13.4% of potato root samples. *Hirschmanniella oryzae* was found in 39.4% of paddy root samples and 8.1% of the citrus root samples were infested with *Tylenchulus semipenetrans*.