

TRITROPHIC INTERACTIONS – NEMATODE, PLANT AND NEMATOPHAGOUS FUNGUS

S u m m a r y

Knowledge of the title trirophic interactions is important for developmet of biomanagement strategy of root-knot nematode control.

Host plant susceptibility is known to affect nematode population and plant species differ in their tolerance to nematode attack. Isolates of nematophagous fungi *Pochonia chlamydosporia* and *Paecilomyces lilacinus* differ in their pathogenicity against root-knot nematode eggs. Polish strains of *P. chlamydosporia* are more effective against eggs of

Meloidogyne incognita then *M. arenaria* and *M. hapla*. Immature eggs of nematodes are more susceptible to parasitism by the fungi. Plant species differ also in their ability to support fungi in their rhizospheres. Healthy cabbage supports the growth of *P. chlamydosporia* in soil better then does tomato. Presence of nematodes increases growth of *P. chlamydosporia* in the rhizosphere. Polish strain of fungus was better stimulated by egg masses of *M. arenaria* on cabbage roots then on tomato.