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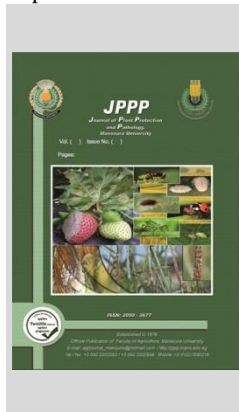
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## Fluctuation of Nematode Populations in some Vegetable Hosts under Drip and Conventional Irrigation Systems

Entsar H. Taha\*



Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt



### ABSTRACT

Water shortages have increased Egyptian growers interest towards drip irrigation. Conventional and drip, are two types of irrigation systems which were selected to investigate their effect on the fluctuation of the populations of some plant parasitic nematodes on growth of different vegetable host plants: tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), eggplant (*Solanum melongena*), peppers (*Capsicum annum*), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), and cowpea (*Vigna sinenses*). The predominant genera of plant parasitic nematodes recovered from soil samples (Pi & Pf) were *Meloidogyne*, *Helicotylenchus*, *Pratylenchus*, *Paratylenchus*, *Rotylenchulus*, *Hoplolaimus*, *Tylenchorhynchus*, and *Xiphinema*. On the whole the results showed that, *Meloidogyne* and *Pratylenchus* were the most common plant parasitic nematode in the plant hosts (cucumber tomato eggplant peppers cowpea) and the nematode population were lesser in drip irrigated plants (97.3, 69.0, 87.0, 81.0, 83.3 and 71.3, 46.7, 69.7, 59.0 63.0) respectively, than those of conventional irrigation (104.3, 83.7, 93.0, 85.7, 88.0 and 75.3, 68.0, 80.3, 64.0, 72.3) respectively. We can conclude that, the drip irrigation system can be used as a Strategy of nematode pests in combination with different strategies without greatly affecting on the crop growth.

**Keywords:** Population fluctuation, plant parasitic nematodes, drip irrigation, conventional irrigation.

### INTRODUCTION

Various biotic and abiotic factors inhibit vegetable production. One of the effective biotic factors in agricultural crops is the plant parasitic nematodes (Sasser & Freckman 1987). In fact, the damage of nematode infection on host plants greatly depends on the initial population of nematodes and detect of water irrigation. Damage the root system by nematodes can cause economic losses (Sasser 1987). In nematodes can affect the plant growth as well as the amount and quality of the yield (Khyami-Horani & Al-Banna 2006, and Strajnar *et al.* 2012).

Drip irrigation may have the ability to reduce soil moisture-sensitive plant diseases and pests (Shin 2005 and Mohawesh & Karajeh 2013). Also, soil moisture considered as one of the most important factor which can affect nematode population and infection (Hunter 2000: and Surega and Ramakrishnan 2017). Moreover, increasing water stress can increase the second larval stage mortality and reduces the eggs hatchability of *M. javanica* (Mohawesh & Karajeh 2013). However, this may be related to a particular hosts and particular localities (Norton, 1978). In this respect, Poomima and Vadivelu, (1998) stated that, the population of *M. incognita* increased as the age of the host plant advances and highly increased on receipt of rain. It was also observed that, the host plant phenology is the major factor which affects the nematode population than ecological factors like water and temperature (Eapen 1993).

Nowadays drip irrigation system is considered as a successful applied method of irrigation in many crops, Therefore, our study has been focused on the fluctuation of nematode populations as well as plant growth in drip irrigation system comparing with those of conventional irrigation.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 1-Preparation of the field trials:

Experiments were carried out in field plots of Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Shoubra El-Kheima where

the type of the soil is sandy clay soil. The field was divided into small plots (2x3m) forming two groups of plots with two different irrigation systems; the first; drip irrigation, while the second is conventional irrigation system. Each group consists of five plots and each one was cultivated with one of the vegetable host plants: tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) cv., eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) cv., peppers (*Capsicum annum*) cv., cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) cv., and cowpea (*Vigna sinenses*) cv.. Also, some other two groups were established with sterilized soil and left with plants as control check.

#### 2- Nematode extraction and estimation in the field:

Twenty-five samples of the field's soil were taken to estimate the initial population of nematodes (Pi) before planting. Five Samples were taken monthly during the cropping season, from March to June.

At the end of the experiment, soil and roots samples were collected. All IJs were extracted from roots by mist chamber for 7 days, and from soil by using the modified Baermann funnel technique. All IJs extracted were counted using light microscope and final population (Pf number of nematodes per 250g soil) of nematode were determined and recorded for all genera. Length of the root and shoot the plant were measured. fresh weight of root and shoot for plant were recorded.

#### 3- Nematode identification:

The extracted nematodes were identified to generic level using identification keys depending on morphological characteristics (Mai *et al.*, 1964; and Bongers, 1988) based on the morphological characters of adult forms as described by Goodey and Goodey (1963), Mai and Lyon (1975), and Taylor and Sasser, (1978) and counted using counting slide under a compound microscope.

#### 4- Measurement of plant growth parameters:

At the end of the experiments, five plants were selected randomly from each plot, and the following measurements

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [entsar\\_elsayed@agr.asu.edu.eg](mailto:entsar_elsayed@agr.asu.edu.eg)

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were recorded: length of shoot and root, fresh weight of shoots, and roots.

**5- Statistical analysis**

The data of all experiments were statistically analyzed using analysis of variance procedure proposed by Snedecor and Cochran (1969). The differences between means were compared using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Duncan, 1955).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Results**

To compare between drip and conventional irrigation, soil samples were collected monthly during the period from March to June and nematodes were extracted and counted. The final nematode population (Pf) was recorded in the tables (1 - 5) for each plant host.

In both systems of irrigation, the nematode population started to build up gradually after planting (March) and reached their peak at the end of the growing season (June). The most dominant nematode genera extracted from soil samples were *Meloidogyne* followed by *Pratylenchus* while *paratylenchus* followed by *Xiphinema* were rarely found,

In cucumber under conventional and drip irrigation systems, the final nematode population associated with *Meloidogyne* and *Pratylenchus* were 104.3 and 75.3/250g soil, while reached 19.3, and 24.7 for *Paratylenchus* and *Xiphinema* respectively (Table 1). In drip irrigation, a significant reduction in soil population was recorded with *Meloidogyne*, *Rotylenchulus*, *Helicotylenchus*, *Paratylenchus*, *Tylenchorhynchus* and *Xiphinema* compared to those of conventional irrigation.

**Table 1. Comparison of nematode population between drip and conventional irrigated cucumber plant.**

		Nematode population (250 g soil)							
Type of Irrigation		Meloidogyne	Pratylenchus	Rotylenchulus	Helicotylenchus	Hoplolaimus	Paratylenchus	Tylenchorhynchus	Xiphinema
March	drip	26.7 <sup>e</sup>	18.7 <sup>c</sup>	13.3 <sup>d</sup>	13.7 <sup>e</sup>	16.0 <sup>e</sup>	7.7 <sup>e</sup>	16.0 <sup>d</sup>	3.7 <sup>e</sup>
	conventional	27.7 <sup>e</sup>	20.0 <sup>c</sup>	19.0 <sup>c</sup>	17.3 <sup>d</sup>	20.7 <sup>cd</sup>	9.7 <sup>de</sup>	23.7 <sup>c</sup>	7.3 <sup>d</sup>
April	drip	45.7 <sup>d</sup>	22.0 <sup>c</sup>	15.7 <sup>d</sup>	15.0 <sup>de</sup>	19.3 <sup>de</sup>	11.3 <sup>cd</sup>	18.0 <sup>d</sup>	6.7 <sup>d</sup>
	conventional	50.3 <sup>d</sup>	24.7 <sup>c</sup>	21.3 <sup>c</sup>	21.3 <sup>c</sup>	23.7 <sup>bc</sup>	13.3 <sup>bc</sup>	24.0 <sup>c</sup>	9.7 <sup>bcd</sup>
May	drip	60.0 <sup>c</sup>	50.3 <sup>b</sup>	20.7 <sup>c</sup>	18.0 <sup>d</sup>	19.0 <sup>de</sup>	11.7 <sup>cd</sup>	20.3 <sup>cd</sup>	8.0 <sup>cd</sup>
	conventional	63.3 <sup>c</sup>	49.3 <sup>b</sup>	28.3 <sup>b</sup>	25.0 <sup>b</sup>	27.3 <sup>b</sup>	15.7 <sup>b</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>	12.0 <sup>b</sup>
June	drip	97.3 <sup>b</sup>	71.3 <sup>a</sup>	27.7 <sup>b</sup>	24.3 <sup>bc</sup>	25.0 <sup>b</sup>	12.7 <sup>bcd</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>	11.0 <sup>b</sup>
	conventional	104.3 <sup>a</sup>	75.3 <sup>a</sup>	37.3 <sup>a</sup>	41.3 <sup>a</sup>	33.3 <sup>a</sup>	19.3 <sup>a</sup>	38.7 <sup>a</sup>	24.7 <sup>a</sup>

The means in the same column followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.

In tomato plants under conventional and drip irrigation systems, 83.7 and 68.0 for *Meloidogyne* and *Pratylenchus*, respectively while the least number was recorded in *paratylenchus* (7.3) which followed by equal final populations in

*Xiphinema*, *Tylenchorhynchus* and *Helicotylenchus* (15.7) (Table 2). However, under conventional irrigation *Meloidogyne* and *Pratylenchus* recorded: 98.3 and 77.7, respectively. While *Paratylenchus* was the least recorded nematode genera (16.7).

**Table 2. Comparison of soil nematode populations (250 g) between drip and conventional irrigated tomato.**

		Nematode population (250 g soil)							
Type of Irrigation		Meloidogyne	Pratylenchus	Rotylenchulus	Helicotylenchus	Hoplolaimus	Paratylenchus	Tylenchorhynchus	Xiphinema
March	drip	26.3 <sup>g</sup>	15.7 <sup>g</sup>	13.7 <sup>e</sup>	14.7 <sup>d</sup>	11.7 <sup>g</sup>	7.7 <sup>c</sup>	8.3 <sup>c</sup>	7.3 <sup>f</sup>
	conventional	28.7 <sup>g</sup>	19.7 <sup>f</sup>	19.0 <sup>d</sup>	19.7 <sup>c</sup>	15.3 <sup>ef</sup>	9.7 <sup>bc</sup>	11.3 <sup>c</sup>	9.0 <sup>ef</sup>
April	drip	41.7 <sup>f</sup>	21.7 <sup>ef</sup>	14.3 <sup>e</sup>	19.3 <sup>c</sup>	14.7 <sup>fg</sup>	8.3 <sup>c</sup>	11.7 <sup>c</sup>	9.3 <sup>ef</sup>
	conventional	45.3 <sup>e</sup>	24.7 <sup>e</sup>	21.0 <sup>cd</sup>	24.3 <sup>b</sup>	18.3 <sup>de</sup>	10.3 <sup>bc</sup>	19.0 <sup>b</sup>	14.7 <sup>cd</sup>
May	drip	62.0 <sup>d</sup>	40.7 <sup>d</sup>	21.7 <sup>cd</sup>	21.3 <sup>bc</sup>	22.0 <sup>bc</sup>	8.3 <sup>c</sup>	18.3 <sup>b</sup>	11.7 <sup>de</sup>
	conventional	69.0 <sup>c</sup>	46.7 <sup>c</sup>	30.7 <sup>b</sup>	30.3 <sup>a</sup>	25.3 <sup>b</sup>	12.3 <sup>b</sup>	27.7 <sup>a</sup>	21.7 <sup>b</sup>
June	drip	83.7 <sup>b</sup>	68.0 <sup>b</sup>	23.0 <sup>c</sup>	15.7 <sup>d</sup>	19.3 <sup>cd</sup>	7.3 <sup>c</sup>	15.7 <sup>b</sup>	15.7 <sup>c</sup>
	conventional	98.3 <sup>a</sup>	77.7 <sup>a</sup>	43.7 <sup>a</sup>	33.0 <sup>a</sup>	31.7 <sup>a</sup>	16.7 <sup>a</sup>	31.3 <sup>a</sup>	28.0 <sup>a</sup>

The means in the same column followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.

At the end of the host plants, Eggplant, Pepper, and Cowpea under conventional and drip irrigation systems, growing season, in the *Meloidogyne* and *Pratylenchus* the final populations were 93.0, 85.7, 88.0 and 80.3, 64.7, 72.3 respectively. On the other hand, the least final populations were 13.3, 14.7, 13.7 and 14.3, 29.3, 34.3 for *paratylenchus* and *Xiphinema*, respectively (Tables 3, 4, and 5).

According to data in Figure 1, there was no significant reduction in the most of host plant parameters with the drip

irrigation regime. In the most of the plant parameters, the plant growth in the drip irrigation was more than these of the conventional irrigation but it was not a significant increasing in most cases, except in the fresh weight of the plant roots which was more in the conventional regime. In cucumber the drip irrigation was significant increasing in the shoot length and the shoot and root fresh weight comparing with the conventional system.

**Table 3. Comparison of nematode populations (250 g) between drip and conventional irrigated eggplant.**

		Nematode population (250 g soil)							
Type of Irrigation		Meloidogyne	Pratylenchus	Rotylenchulus	Helicotylenchus	Hoplolaimus	Paratylenchus	Tylenchorhynchus	Xiphinema
March	drip	18.0 <sup>e</sup>	19.0 <sup>f</sup>	14.3 <sup>f</sup>	15.3 <sup>d</sup>	11.7 <sup>e</sup>	4.7 <sup>e</sup>	17.3 <sup>e</sup>	4.7 <sup>c</sup>
	conventional	25.0 <sup>e</sup>	20.3 <sup>f</sup>	21.0 <sup>e</sup>	20.3 <sup>c</sup>	17.3 <sup>d</sup>	7.3 <sup>cd</sup>	22.3 <sup>de</sup>	8.3 <sup>bc</sup>
April	drip	37.9 <sup>d</sup>	21.7 <sup>f</sup>	16.3 <sup>f</sup>	20.3 <sup>c</sup>	18.3 <sup>d</sup>	5.0 <sup>d</sup>	19.7 <sup>e</sup>	6.7 <sup>c</sup>
	conventional	45.3 <sup>d</sup>	26.3 <sup>e</sup>	25.3 <sup>d</sup>	23.0 <sup>bc</sup>	22.7 <sup>c</sup>	8.7 <sup>bc</sup>	29.7 <sup>c</sup>	8.3 <sup>bc</sup>
May	drip	61.0 <sup>c</sup>	41.3 <sup>d</sup>	19.7 <sup>e</sup>	21.0 <sup>c</sup>	23.0 <sup>c</sup>	5.0 <sup>d</sup>	26.0 <sup>cd</sup>	5.7 <sup>c</sup>
	conventional	63.3 <sup>c</sup>	50.3 <sup>c</sup>	35.0 <sup>b</sup>	25.7 <sup>b</sup>	39.7 <sup>a</sup>	11.3 <sup>ab</sup>	38.3 <sup>b</sup>	11.7 <sup>ab</sup>
June	drip	87.0 <sup>b</sup>	69.7 <sup>b</sup>	30.7 <sup>c</sup>	22.7 <sup>bc</sup>	27.0 <sup>b</sup>	5.7 <sup>cd</sup>	29.7 <sup>c</sup>	7.3 <sup>bc</sup>
	conventional	93.0 <sup>a</sup>	80.3 <sup>a</sup>	39.7 <sup>a</sup>	35.3 <sup>a</sup>	39.3 <sup>a</sup>	13.3 <sup>a</sup>	49.3 <sup>a</sup>	14.3 <sup>a</sup>

The means in the same column followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.

Data in Figure (2) demonstrated that, there were no significant differences in gall numbers in different plant hosts

except in cucumber. In addition, there were no significant differences in the egg masses in all plant hosts.

**Table 4. Comparison of nematode populations (250 g) between drip and conventional irrigated pepper.**

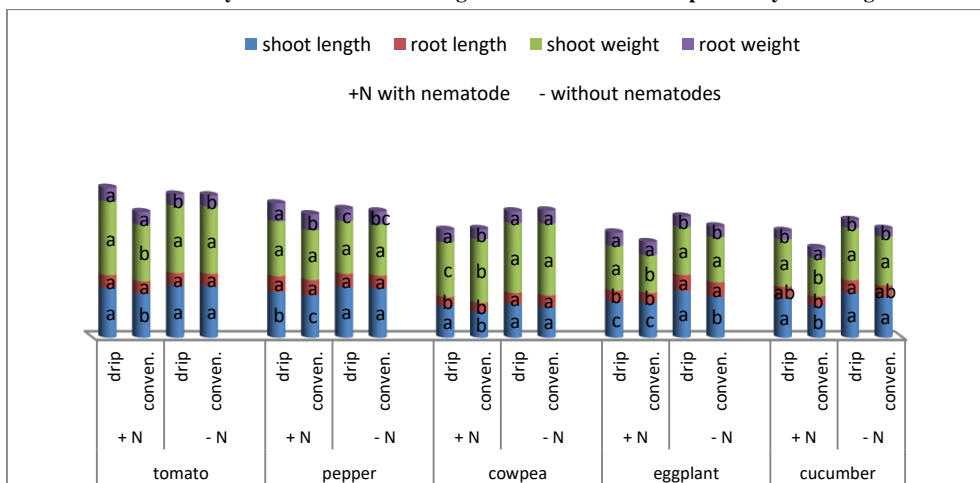
		Nematode population (250 g soil)							
Type of Irrigation		<i>Meloidogyne</i>	<i>Pratylenchus</i>	<i>Rotylenchulus</i>	<i>Helicotylenchus</i>	<i>Hoplolaimus</i>	<i>Paratylenchus</i>	<i>Tylenchorhynchus</i>	<i>Xiphinema</i>
March	drip	23.7 <sup>f</sup>	18.0 <sup>f</sup>	17.3 <sup>e</sup>	18.0 <sup>e</sup>	14.7 <sup>d</sup>	6.3 <sup>d</sup>	19.7 <sup>e</sup>	5.3 <sup>f</sup>
	conventional	26.7 <sup>f</sup>	20.0 <sup>ef</sup>	22.7 <sup>d</sup>	25.7 <sup>d</sup>	19.3 <sup>c</sup>	9.3 <sup>bcd</sup>	21.7 <sup>e</sup>	9.7 <sup>de</sup>
April	drip	37.7 <sup>e</sup>	22.3 <sup>de</sup>	16.0 <sup>e</sup>	18.7 <sup>e</sup>	14.7 <sup>d</sup>	7.0 <sup>cd</sup>	19.7 <sup>e</sup>	8.7 <sup>e</sup>
	conventional	42.3 <sup>d</sup>	25.0 <sup>d</sup>	22.3 <sup>d</sup>	25.7 <sup>d</sup>	19.7 <sup>c</sup>	11.3 <sup>b</sup>	24.0 <sup>de</sup>	11.7 <sup>cd</sup>
May	drip	60.7 <sup>c</sup>	37.0 <sup>c</sup>	29.0 <sup>c</sup>	28.0 <sup>cd</sup>	23.7 <sup>b</sup>	7.0 <sup>cd</sup>	26.3 <sup>cd</sup>	13.3 <sup>c</sup>
	conventional	63.3 <sup>c</sup>	38.7 <sup>c</sup>	33.3 <sup>bc</sup>	32.3 <sup>c</sup>	29.3 <sup>a</sup>	10.3 <sup>bc</sup>	31.7 <sup>b</sup>	25.3 <sup>b</sup>
June	drip	81.0 <sup>b</sup>	59.0 <sup>b</sup>	36.0 <sup>b</sup>	37.7 <sup>b</sup>	28.7 <sup>a</sup>	7.3 <sup>cd</sup>	29.3 <sup>bc</sup>	11.7 <sup>cd</sup>
	conventional	85.7 <sup>a</sup>	64.7 <sup>a</sup>	43.7 <sup>a</sup>	42.7 <sup>a</sup>	32.3 <sup>a</sup>	14.7 <sup>a</sup>	52.3 <sup>a</sup>	29.3 <sup>a</sup>

The means in the same column followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.

**Table 5. Comparison of nematode populations in soil (250 g) between drip and conventional irrigated cowpea.**

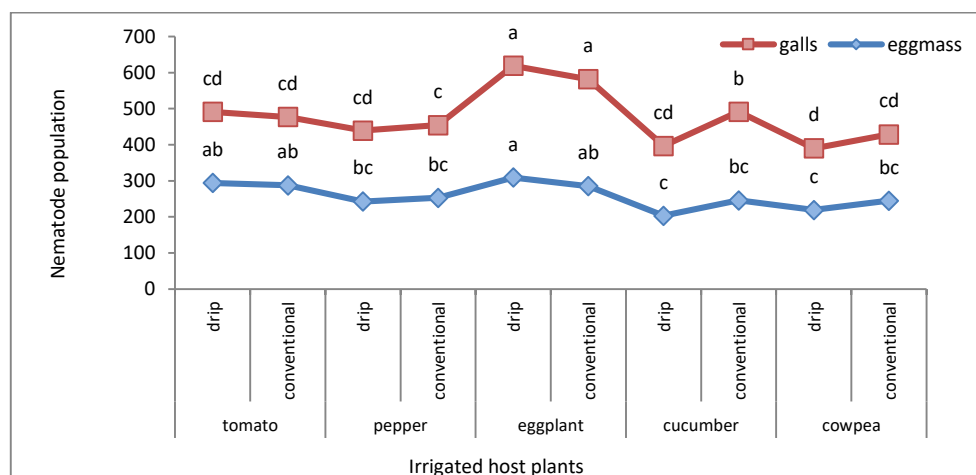
		Nematode population (250 g of soil)							
Type of Irrigation		<i>Meloidogyne</i>	<i>Pratylenchus</i>	<i>Rotylenchulus</i>	<i>Helicotylenchus</i>	<i>Hoplolaimus</i>	<i>Paratylenchus</i>	<i>Tylenchorhynchus</i>	<i>Xiphinema</i>
March	drip	20.7 <sup>f</sup>	20.7 <sup>e</sup>	16.0 <sup>g</sup>	14.3 <sup>f</sup>	12.0 <sup>f</sup>	4.3 <sup>e</sup>	12.0 <sup>e</sup>	6.3 <sup>e</sup>
	conventional	22.0 <sup>f</sup>	23.7 <sup>de</sup>	23.3 <sup>ef</sup>	16.0 <sup>ef</sup>	15.3 <sup>ef</sup>	7.7 <sup>cd</sup>	16.3 <sup>e</sup>	8.7 <sup>e</sup>
April	drip	27.3 <sup>e</sup>	26.0 <sup>de</sup>	20.7 <sup>f</sup>	18.7 <sup>de</sup>	18.7 <sup>de</sup>	5.7 <sup>de</sup>	15.3 <sup>e</sup>	10.0 <sup>de</sup>
	conventional	30.3 <sup>de</sup>	28.7 <sup>d</sup>	25.0 <sup>de</sup>	21.3 <sup>d</sup>	22.3 <sup>d</sup>	8.3 <sup>cd</sup>	21.7 <sup>d</sup>	14.0 <sup>c</sup>
May	drip	33.0 <sup>cd</sup>	41.0 <sup>c</sup>	27.7 <sup>cd</sup>	29.0 <sup>c</sup>	30.0 <sup>c</sup>	6.7 <sup>cde</sup>	25.3 <sup>cd</sup>	13.0 <sup>cd</sup>
	conventional	37.3 <sup>c</sup>	46.3 <sup>c</sup>	32.0 <sup>b</sup>	34.3 <sup>b</sup>	34.7 <sup>b</sup>	11.3 <sup>ab</sup>	33.3 <sup>b</sup>	28.3 <sup>b</sup>
June	drip	83.3 <sup>b</sup>	63.0 <sup>b</sup>	30.3 <sup>bc</sup>	30.7 <sup>c</sup>	32.3 <sup>bc</sup>	9.3 <sup>bc</sup>	27.0 <sup>c</sup>	14.7 <sup>c</sup>
	conventional	88.0 <sup>a</sup>	72.3 <sup>a</sup>	42.7 <sup>a</sup>	43.3 <sup>a</sup>	44.7 <sup>a</sup>	13.7 <sup>a</sup>	45.3 <sup>a</sup>	34.3 <sup>a</sup>

The means in the same column followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.



**Figure 1. The plant growth parameters in infected and un-infected different plant hosts under two conditions of irrigation (drip and conventional irrigation systems).**

The means in the same column followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.



**Figure 2. Nematode parameters in infected different plant hosts under two conditions of irrigation (drip and conventional irrigation systems).**

The means in the same line followed by the same letters have no significant differences at 0.05 probability level using Duncan test.

## Discussion

In fact, a variety of biotic and abiotic factors affect the nematode populations in soil. Plant-parasitic nematodes are mostly aerobic and aquatic animals which requiring proper moisture level and aeration from the soil (Kim, 2015; and Moore and Lawrence, 2013). Therefore, water is a critical factor that affects the survival of nematodes (Prot 1979; and Towson & Apt 1983). For this reason, any suitable irrigation style may consider as a control key which could affect nematode parameters, and so it can be used for management of plant parasitic nematodes without any negative effect on host plant growth under field conditions accompanied by optimum environmental conditions (Mohawesh & Karajeh 2014). Seemingly any reduction effect on the host plant growth at low irrigation levels is highly related to the soil type of the field.

The present result is in accordance with those of Karajeh & Mohawesh (2016) who reported that, the final population of plant parasitic nematodes, root galling number of egg-masses per root system were obviously lower in the drip irrigated fields compared with the full irrigation. In this regard, drip irrigation can provide the plant with optimum water levels, which reduce the effect of nematode stress (Funt *et al.*, 1982). This may be due to maintain a relatively dry soil in addition to maintaining crop water needs (Browne *et al.*, 2002).

The present study indicated that, the population of *M. incognita*, *Rotylenchulus sp.*, *Helicotylenchus sp.*, *Xiphinema sp.*, *Pratylenchus sp.* and *Tylenchorhynchus sp.* increased in both irrigated system at the advanced of the host plant and this is may be due to availability of more roots to feed upon as the plant grows in warm months from March to June. Conversely, Surega & Ramakrishnan (2017) found that, the nematode population reduced with the plant growth in cold months from Jan to Mar. this must be due to the production of new root biomass.

The infective juveniles of *M. javanica* highly accumulated at the highest moisture content and this is considered as the optimum conditions for mobility (Prot 1979). In contrast, the low soil moisture levels in drip irrigation may able to inhibit and control the activity of *M. hapla* (Couch & Bloom 1960) in addition to decrease the root infection by nematodes (Zhang & Schmitt 2001) the present data fit these findings.

In contrast of our data, several studies showed that plant growth may be inhibited at low water levels below plant requirements because of the osmotic adjustment (Tüzel *et al.* 2001). It is may be due to restricting the development of transpiring leaf area in the water-stressed plants (Sharp *et al.* 1996). These results are in agreement with the findings of Mahadeen *et al.* 2011 and Kirnak *et al.* (2001) who reported that the continue elongation of some roots to at low soil water levels may completely inhibited shoot growth.

In conclusion, as referred before, Generally the nematode populations which were recorded during four months were lesser in drip irrigated host plants compared to conventional irrigated plants. Therefore, drip irrigation can be used for the management of some plant parasitic nematodes without any negative impact on particular plant hosts growth under field conditions.

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### التذبذب في أعداد النيماطودا في بعض نباتات الخضر تحت نظام الري بالتنقيط والري بالغمر انتصار حلمي طه\* قسم وقاية النبات كلية الزراعة جامعة عين شمس

أدت أزمة المياه المتصاعدة وخاصة في الآونة الأخيرة إلى زيادة اهتمام المزارعين في مصر بنظام الري بالتنقيط للتوفير في مياه الري ومن هذا المنطلق جاءت فكرة هذا البحث بدراسة تأثير نظام الري بالغمر والتنقيط على التذبذب في أعداد بعض أنواع النيماطودا الممرضة للنباتات على بعض العوائل النباتية المختلفة. تم تقسيم الحقل التجريبي إلى أحواض صغيرة (2 x 3 م)، وتم زراعة كل حوضين بعائل نباتي من العوائل النباتية الآتية: طماطم، بادنجان، فلفل، خيار ولوبيا، بحيث يتم ري أحد الأحواض بنظام الغمر والآخر بنظام التنقيط لكل عائل نباتي. ومن خلال تسجيل أعداد النيماطودا النباتية المختلفة المصاحبة لكل عائل نباتي والتذبذب في أعدادها تحت نظامي الري المتبعين تبين الآتي: تم تسجيل الأنواع الآتية من النيماطودا النباتية في الحقل المستخدم: نيماطودا تعقد الجذور، نيماطودا التقرح، النيماطودا الدبوسية، النيماطودا الكلوبية، النيماطودا التاجية، النيماطودا الخنجرية ونيماطودا التقرم. حيث كانت أعداد النيماطودا سابقة الذكر أعلى في الأحواض التي تم ريها بنظام الغمر عن المروية بنظام التنقيط، وكانت أكثر الأنواع تسجيلاً هي نيماطودا تعقد الجذور تحت نظام الغمر (104.3-83.7-93.0-85.7-88.0) ونيماطودا التقرح تحت نفس النظام (75.3-68.0-80.3-64.0-72.3) في حين كانت الأعداد أقل من ذلك تحت نظام الري بالتنقيط حيث كانت (97.3-69.0-87.0-81.0-83.3) بالنسبة لنيماطودا تعقد الجذور و (71.3-46.7-69.7-59.0-63.0) بالنسبة لنيماطودا التقرح. اعتماداً على النتائج المتحصل عليها فإنه من الممكن اتباع نظام الري بالتنقيط كأحد وسائل خفض أعداد النيماطودا النباتية ضمن برامج مكافحة المتبعة بدون تأثير معنوي على صحة عوائلها النباتية.