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SUPPRESSION OF ROOT KNOT DISEASE IN SPINACH THROUGH NEMATODE WANDERING FUNGI

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ABSTRACT : Two nematophagous fungi *Dactylaria eudermata and Arthrobotrys oligospora* are wandering fungi which were mass cultured on barley grains and used for the management of root knot disease of spinach. Root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne incognita* had proved itself as an important limiting factor for successful cultivation and productivity of Spinach (*Spinacea oleracea*). Both the fungi when applied in pots significantly reduced the number of root knots but *Arthrobotrys oligospora* was superior to *Dactylaria eudermata* in reducing incidence of root-knot nematode in spinach. The better performance of *A. oligospora* may be attributed to better colonization and establishment of *A. oligospora* than *D. eudermata* and may be better tolerance of the fungus to soil fungistasis.

Key Words : Spinach (*Spinacea oleracea*), root-knot, substrate, *Dactylaria eudermata and Arthrobotrys oligospora.*