

Effect of *Pasteuria penetrans* on penetration and development of *Meloidogyne incognita*

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ABSTRACT : *Pasteuria penetrans* is a biological control agent of root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.), preventing root invasion by second-stage juveniles (J_2 s), and eventually causing females sterility and death. Greatest control effects for *P. penetrans* depend on the numbers of endospores attached to nematode cuticles. The effect of penetration and development of Golaghat isolate of *Pasteuria penetrans* on *Meloidogyne incognita* was studied at 5,10,20,30 and 40 spores/ J_2 in different time intervals. Data showed a negative correlation with the increase in numbers of endospores attached to the nematode cuticle and decrease in percentage penetration and further development of *M. incognita* into J_3 , J_4 and adult female.

Key Words : *Pasteuria penetrans*, time interval, development, biological control, *M. incognita*.