

Occurrence and distribution of entomopathogenic nematodes in Sri Lanka

L.D. Amarasinghe¹, W.M. Hominick², B.R. Briscoe² and
A.P. Reid²

Department of Biology, Imperial College of Science, Technology and
Medicine, Silwood Park, Ascot, Berks SL5 7PY, UK

Abstract

Entomopathogenic nematodes (Heterorhabditidae and Steinernematidae) were isolated from Sri Lankan soils using the *Galleria* baiting technique. Samples collected from different agro-ecological regions and different habitat types revealed that the presence of nematodes was restricted to sandy coastal soils. Two heterorhabditid and three steinernematid RFLP types were discovered within 5–100 m of the sea. Members of both families were equally prevalent. However, no parasitized insects were found although insect species were encountered which are potentially natural hosts. These nematodes were present at high temperatures (some above 30°C) and neither the monsoon rain nor the drought had any effect on their prevalence.