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Susceptibility of some peach rootstocks to root-knot nematodes.

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Abstract : This is a brief partial report on studies of the susceptibility of six rootstocks to two species of root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* and *Meloidogyne javanica*. The former is the common peach nematode, the latter is less common but has caused serious damage in several places to such resistant rootstocks as Yunnan and S 37 (patented on the basis of the resistance of its seedlings to nematodes), which was se

seedlings of *Prunus pérsica*; Red Shadow and Davidson, both reported as resistant in the field; Lovell, the commonest rootstock and highly susceptible hybrid, Chico No. 16 (P.I. 146135) X *Prunus davidiana* (C-26712), of which the parent seemed fairly resistant to *M. incognita* and the latter considerably resistant to *M. javanica*. For inoculum both nematode species were propagated on tomato chopped roots and soil were used in which the number of nematode egg masses had been estimated. After six months' growth, visual estimates of the root-galling were made on the seedlings according to the number of galls on a given weight of root. The number of egg masses in a 2-gm. sample of roots from each plant was also counted in order to estimate the reproduction rate of the nematodes. Galls caused by *M. incognita* were usually larger than those due to *M. javanica*. Lovell was severely galled by both species of nematode, which also had high reproduction rates on this variety. Red Shadow and Davidson were also severely galled by both species, but while the reproduction of *M. incognita* was high in Red Shadow and medium in Davidson, that of *M. javanica* was nil in Red Shadow and very low in Davidson. Yunnan and the hybrid variety were severely galled by *M. incognita* and severely galled by *M. javanica*; *M. incognita* did not reproduce on either rootstock, while *M. javanica* reproduced very well on Yunnan and at a moderate rate on the hybrid. On S 37 there were few galls with either nematode, and the reproduction rate was very low (all the egg masses were found on one plant) with *M. incognita* and with *M. javanica*. S 37 thus shows high resistance to both species of root-knot nematode tested, but little is known of its value as a rootstock and it may prove to be resistant to other nematode species. The great variability in resistance shown by different stocks of the hybrid stock is considered encouraging, and further work is being done to select nematode-resistant stocks which will give good orchard trees. All the six rootstocks were grown from seed in the greenhouse. M.T.F.

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East Asia, Asia, South Western China, China

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