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OCCURRENCE, DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT OF

<u>HETERODERA</u> <u>SCHACHTII</u> IN MICHIGAN: WITH SPECIAL

REFERENCE TO <u>PASTEURIA</u> AS A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT

presented by

Angela M. Miller

has been accepted towards fulfillment of the requirements for

M.S. degree in Entomology/Nematology

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OCCURRENCE, DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT OF HETERODERA SCHACHTII IN MICHIGAN: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PASTEURIA AS A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT.

Ву

Angela May Miller

A THESIS

Submitted to
Michigan State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Heterodera schachtii Schmidt, 1871 (Nemata) is one of the most important plantparasitic nematodes affecting sugarbeet production in Michigan. It is responsible for reducing both sugar content and crop yield. This Master of Science Degree thesis consists of the following three components: 1) A survey for the detection of H. schachtii in Michigan sugarbeet producing areas. The project was done in collaboration with Monitor and Michigan Sugar Companies. The 1998 survey resulted in the confirmed detection of H. schachtii in six Michigan counties. 2) A nematicide trial was used to evaluate the efficacy of two non-fumigant, one fumigant, and one bio-nematicide for the control of H. schachtii. The data suggest that there is a potential for DiTera[®], and Vapam[®] to provide effective control of *H. schachtii*; however, with only one year of data, it was not possible to add any new nematode management recommendations to those currently used in Michigan sugarbeet production. 3) The bacterial parasite of plantparasitic nematodes, *Pasteuria*, was identified as a potential biological control agent. Research was done to provide a genomic basis for the relationship of species designated in the genus *Pasteuria*, and for comparison of *Pasteuria* to other genera of bacteria. The genomic research was inconclusive. Additional work is needed to access the molecular taxonomy of Pasteuria.

DEDICATION

With love and respect

and thanks for all her encouragement

I would like to dedicate

my thesis

to my mother and friend

Deborah I. Miller

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I would like to acknowledge my guidance committee, Dr. Elder Paul, Dr. George Garrity, and Dr. Haddish Melakeberhan for their time and interest in my education. I express my gratitude to all the members of my committee for donating their expertise and advice to help me further my education in the field of science.

I would also like to thank Dr. Garrity and Dr. Denise Searles for their help in the microbiology aspect of my project. I greatly appreciate all of the time and input they gave me throughout my experience as a graduate student. I would especially like to thank Dr. Searles for all of the time and effort she put into helping me with my project, and also for the great deal of moral support.

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Most importantly I would like to acknowledge all of the members of Dr. George Bird's laboratory, Fred Warner, Mike Berney, Becky Gore, and John Davenport. I worked for Dr. Bird for several years before starting my graduate program and learned a great deal of valuable work experience that helped throughout my graduate career. I owe a great deal of thanks to Fred Warner who got me started in the nematology field as a student worker. Since that time he as been a good mentor and friend. He has taught me a great deal about nematode diagnostics. I would also like to acknowledge John Davenport for teaching me all I know about setting up field experiments. He has been a great

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PREFACE

The original goal for my Master of Science Program was to obtain training in the area of biological control with a thesis on Pasteuria, a bacterial parasite of nematodes. The program quickly identified Dr. George Garrity's Laboratory in the Department of Microbiology as a place to obtain experience in microbiology. The research goal was to develop a molecular probe for *Pasteuria* that could be used in survey work associated with nematode biological control. After about 18 months of technique development and preliminary experiments, it became evident that it would not be possible to complete this goal as part of my M.S. thesis. After discussions with Dr. Bird, it was decided that I should assume complete responsibility for two sugarbeet cyst nematode research projects already in progress. This would allow me to have a complete original research experience beginning with hypothesis development and literature review through data analysis and thesis writing. Based on this decision, my M.S. thesis entitled "Occurrence, Distribution, and Management of Heterodera schachtii in Michigan: With Special Reference to Pasteuria as a Biological Control Agent" consists of the following three projects: 1) 1998 Michigan sugarbeet survey for the detection of H. schachtii, 2) 1998 Nematicide trial for the evaluation of two non-fumigant, one fumigant and one bio-nematicide for the control of H. schachtii, and 3) Sequencing the 16s rDNA of Pasteuria for phylogenetic analysis Although it is not possible to integrate these three initiatives in a comprehensive manner within this thesis, all three relate to specific aspects of my original M.S. program goal.

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INTRODUCTION

The sugarbeet, *Beta vulgaris saccharifera*, was developed by selecting from white strains of fodder beet, originating from the Mediterranean wild beet, *Beta maritima* (Weischer and Steudel 1972). German chemist Andreas Margraff first demonstrated the similar identity of beet-sugar and cane sugar, and in 1747, F. C. Achard started sugar production from beets. Today, around 37% of the world's sugar is produced from beet. In addition to sugar production, sugarbeet is very important as a forage, since not only the crown leaves but also beet pulp are used to feed cattle in many countries (Weischer and Steudal 1972).

In 1997, Michigan ranked fourth in U.S. sugarbeet production. Growers harvested 174,000 acres in 1998, producing 2,871,000 tons, representing 8.9% of the total U.S. production (Anon. 1998). Since 1972, Michigan has had an increase in the number of sugarbeet acres harvested (Figure 1). Michigan sugarbeet yield in tons per acre, however, has decreased over the last 25 years (Figure 2). This decline may be due, in part, to the presence of the sugarbeet cyst nematode (SBCN) *Heterodera schachtii* Schmidt, 1871 (Nemata).

Schacht, first reported *H. schachtii*, in 1859 in Germany (Schacht 1859a,b). The sugarbeet cyst nematode was the first nematode pathogen of sugarbeet to be recognized and has remained one of the crop's most damaging pests, occurring in all major beet-growing areas (Cooke 1993). This nematode reduces both sugar content and total crop yields (Knobloch and Bird 1981). *H. schach*tii was known in western United States as early as 1905, and the first Michigan survey for this nematode was conducted in 1920

(Steele 1984; Knobloch and Bird 1981). This nematode, however was not detected in Michigan until 1948 (Bockstaller 1950). It was subsequently shown to be a major pest under Michigan growing conditions (Knobloch and Bird 1981).

H. schachtii is a sedentary endoparasite. Raski (1949) completed a classical description of the life cycle of this nematode. Upon hatching, the nematode will penetrate the root system of a suitable host and migrate through the cortex to permanent feeding sites adjacent to the vascular cylinder (Cooke 1993). The first indication of an infestation of H. schachtii in fields of sugarbeet is usually the appearance of one or more well-defined circular to oval areas of reduced growth or poor stands (Steele 1984). Other symptoms may include wilting or yellowing. H. schachtii has a rather wide host range that includes weeds, cultivated vegetables, field crops, and ornamentals occurring in 23 plant families (Steele 1965). Sugarbeet is the only major field crop grown in Michigan that is a host for this nematode.

Successful management of *H. schachtii* was achieved for many years through a very strict system of crop rotation (Berney and Bird 1998). More recently the sugarbeet industry has undergone several changes which include an increase in acres planted to sugarbeet and a decrease in crop rotation schemes.

Alternative management strategies, in addition to crop rotation, include; cultural practices, such as sanitation and planting of trap crops; biological control and chemical control. Sanitation is extremely important, especially when dealing with equipment and tare soil. Planting trap crops can stimulate hatching of *H. schachtii* juveniles, which then invade the roots and initiate the formation of syncytia at permanent feeding sites. The syncytia soon break down and prevent most of the nematodes from completing their life

cycles (Wyss et al. 1984). Biological control of *H. schachtii* may be possible in the future through the use of nematode parasitic bacteria and fungi. The genus *Pasteuria* forms a group of endospore-forming bacteria that may have potential to be developed into biological control agents of plant-parasitic nematodes (Stirling 1991). Current research is being done on this group of bacteria to determine its potential for use as a biological control agent against many economically important plant-parasitic nematodes. Pesticides such as soil fumigants and non-fumigant nematicides (carbamates and phosphates) can be used to control not only *H. schachtii*, but also other nematode and arthropod pests (Roberts and Thomason 1981).

Management strategies for *H. schachtii* will ultimately depend on an integrated approach that will include some of the tactics that have been described above. This thesis focuses on three aspects: 1) a Michigan survey designed to determine the extent of *H. schachtii* infestation, 2) a nematicide trial in a field with a low initial population density of *H. schachtii*, and 3) research designed to sequence the 16s rDNA of *Pasteuria*, a potential biological control agent for *H. schachtii*.

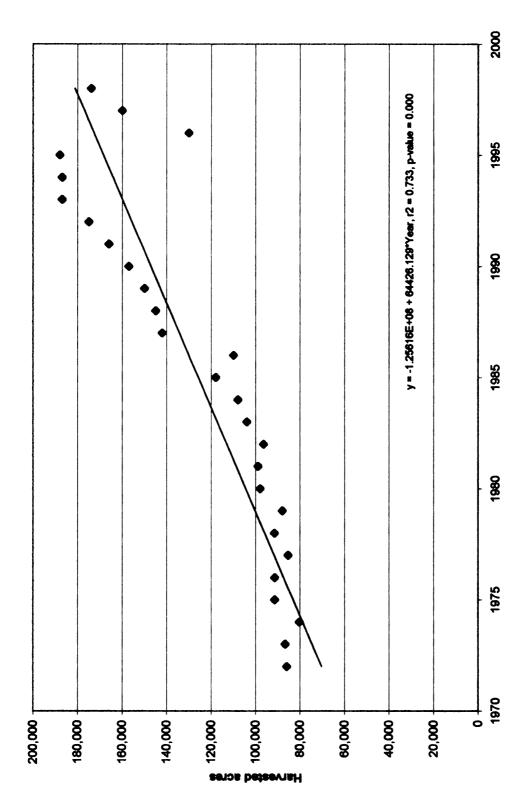


Figure 1. Total acres of sugarbeet harvested in Michigan each year from 1972 to 1998 (Michigan Agricultural Statistics).

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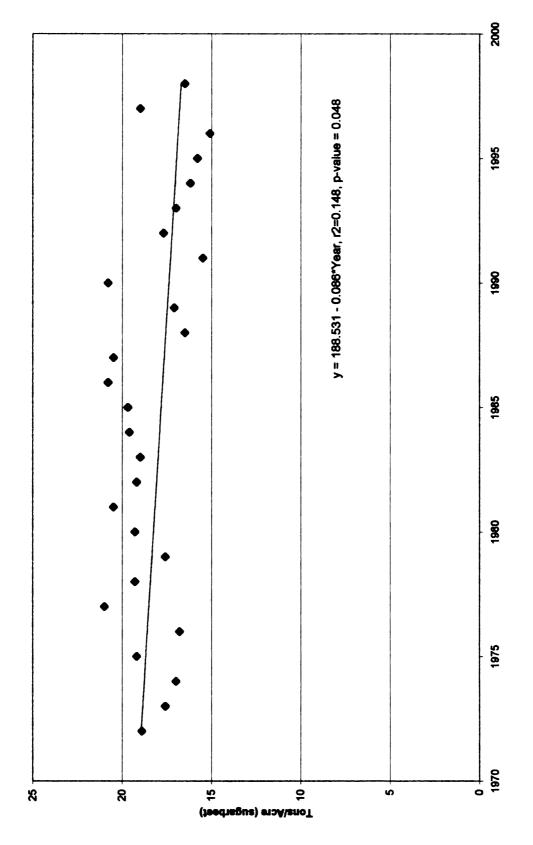


Figure 2. Tons/acre of sugarbeet produced each year from 1972 to 1998 (Michigan Agricultural Statistics).

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OCCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF HETERODERA SCHACHTII IN MICHIGAN SUGARBEET PRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Sugarbeet, Beta vulgaris saccharifera, is grown in the United States under a wide range of soils and climatic conditions (Griffin 1981). The sugarbeet cyst nematode (SBCN), Heterodera schachtii Schmidt 1871 (Nemata), is the most important plant-parasitic nematode and one of the most significant plant pathogens affecting sugarbeet (Griffin 1981). As a pathogen, it reduces both sugar content and total crop yields (Knobloch and Bird 1981). H. schachtii was the first nematode pathogen of sugarbeet to be recognized (Schacht 1859) and has remained one of the crop's most damaging pests, occurring in all major beet-growing areas (Cooke 1993).

Schacht first reported *H. schachtii* in 1859 in Germany. Schmidt subsequently described the causal agent in 1871. It has been found in at least 40 countries within North and South America, Europe, Africa, and in the Middle East (Steele 1984). It is not known how this nematode gained entry into the United States; however, it may have been introduced with imported sugarbeet seed contaminated with nematode-infested soil (Shaw 1915; and Triffit 1935). Damage to sugarbeet by *H. schachtii* was first observed in the United States in 1895 (Steele 1984). The causal agent, however, was not identified until 1905. The first detection of *H. schachtii* in Michigan was in 1948. It was subsequently reported from Macomb, Saginaw, and Bay Counties through samples submitted to the Michigan State University Nematode Diagnostic Laboratory (Knobloch and Bird 1981).

It may have been present or spread to several other counties in Michigan due to agronomic practices associated with recent increases in sugarbeet production.

In 1996, Michigan ranked 5th in U.S. sugarbeet production. By 1997, Michigan increased its production to become the 4th largest producer of sugarbeet. Growers planted 160,000 acres and produced 3,040,000 tons, representing 10.2% of the total U.S. production (Anon. 1997). This increase in the amount of sugarbeet production can lead to a greater risk in the spread of *H. schachtii* within the state.

Second-stage juveniles of H. schachtii invade the root system of a sugarbeet plant and feed at sites adjacent to the vascular cylinder, interfering with nutrient uptake (Cooke 1993). Nematode damage is most severe during the seedling stage, resulting in either a lack of or delay in seedling emergence (Steele 1984). Nematode-infected plants may exhibit symptoms of wilting or stunting in the field. Populations of H. schachtii overwinter in the soil as eggs retained in a protective lemon-shaped cyst formed from the body wall of the dead female. Each cyst contains up to 600 eggs. Some may remain unhatched for many years if a suitable host is unavailable (Cooke 1993).

Currently, there is insufficient information available on the occurrence, distribution, and impact of *H. schachtii* in Michigan. The primary objectives of this project were to determine 1) the geographical distribution of this nematode in the Michigan, 2) nematode population density levels, 3) its prominence in fields infested, 4) how infestation is related to cropping history, and 5) how infestation is related to plant symptomology. A secondary objective was to examine populations of *H. schachtii* for the presence of *Pasteuria* spp., a bacterial parasite, that could possibly be used as a biological control agent of this nematode.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cooperative research project with Monitor and Michigan Sugar Companies was initiated in 1998. The objective was to conduct a detection survey for *Heterodera schachtii* throughout 13 Michigan sugarbeet-producing counties. Each of the professional fieldmen from each company collected ten root-soil samples for nematode analysis from 10 different sugarbeet fields. Five of the samples were taken at random from fields not exhibiting shoot system symptoms associated with low sugarbeet yields. The remaining five samples were taken using a stratified sampling method from fields exhibiting symptoms of suspected sugarbeet cyst nematode damage. In this survey, stratified sampling is defined as a method of sampling based on the knowledge of an organisms specific location and behavioral patterns. A total of 214 samples were collected and submitted with a sample form providing information from the grower (Appendix A). Michigan Sugar fieldmen submitted 122 samples, and 92 were submitted by Monitor Sugar fieldmen.

A single bulk sample was prepared by the fieldmen for each of the 10 different sampling sites. Samples taken at random were a composite of nine root-soil cores from the plant-soil rhizosphere. Stratified samples were taken by collecting three different root-soil cores each from three locations in the field exhibiting symptoms. These samples were collected from the plant-soil rhizosphere near the margins of the locations exhibiting symptoms. Soil samples were stored at 5 C° until processed.

Soil from each sample was shaken through a large mesh screen to separate root and soil material. Nematodes were extracted from the root tissue using the flask-shaker method (Bird 1971). Nematodes were extracted from 100 cm³ of soil taken from each of

the collected samples with a modified centrifugal flotation procedure (625 g of sugar per 1.0 liter of water) with nested sieves with 710 µm and 37 µm openings (Jenkins 1964).

Nematodes in both soil and root samples were identified to genus (Mai et al. 1996) and counted using an inverted microscope at 100x magnification. The samples were also examined at this time for the presence of the bacterial nematode parasite, *Pasteuria*. Cysts and juveniles found in the samples were examined microscopically for the detection of *Pasteuria* spores.

Heterodera schachtii and H. glycines (soybean cyst nematode) have similar taxonomic characteristics. To distinguish between H. schachtii and H. glycines in samples submitted from Lenawee and Gratiot Counties, bioassays were done on selected samples under greenhouse conditions to verify the identity of the nematodes recovered from the extraction procedures. Samples were selected for bioassays based on the results from the root and soil nematode extractions. Soil was taken from the specified sample and planted to cabbage, a suitable host for H. schachtii, and to soybean, a host for H. glycines.

Cabbage and soybean plants were harvested after 40 days. The entire contents of each pot was placed in a plastic pail and washed with tap water. Nematodes were extracted from this material contained in the pail using the modified centrifugal flotation method with nested sieves with 710 μm and 37 μm openings (Jenkins 1964). Nematodes were identified to species (Mulvey 1985) and counted using a stereoscope microscope at 40x magnification.

Nematode frequency, density and prominence were determined using the procedure from Norton (Norton 1978). Relative and absolute density, relative and absolute frequency, and prominence values were calculated on the data from the samples

collected from counties with a sample population equal to or greater than 20. Prominence value is used to provide a joint indication of both frequency and density.

RESULTS

Michigan and Monitor Sugar Companies submitted a total of 214 samples from 13 counties. There were 105 samples taken from sites exhibiting symptoms and 109 samples from sites without symptoms. Bioassays for *Heterodera* spp. determination for Lenawee and Gratiot Counties are not complete at this time; therefore, all nematodes were identified to genus only. Samples were confirmed as positive for *H. schachtii* if second-stage juveniles were found in both the root and soil samples. *Heterodera* spp. (cyst nematodes) were recovered from 115 of the samples or 54% of the total sites sampled (Table 1). Population densities ranged from 0 to 49,352 eggs and juveniles per 100 cm³ of soil (Appendix B). Cyst nematodes were recovered from 50% of the 109 sites that did not exhibit symptoms, with a mean population density of 1088.9 eggs and juveniles (Table 2). In the 105 sites exhibiting symptoms, cyst nematodes were recovered from 58% of the samples, with a mean population density of 2595.8 eggs and juveniles. *Heterodera* spp. were recovered from 9 of the 13 counties sampled in 1998. *H. schachtii* was positively identified in 6 of the thirteen counties involved in this survey (Figure 1).

In addition to *Heterodera* spp., five other important genera of plant-parasitic nematodes were recovered from Michigan sugarbeet fields: *Pratylenchus*; *Paratylenchus*; *Criconemella*; *Helicotylenchus* and *Tylenchorhynchus*. The distribution of these nematodes varied among counties (Table 3). The importance of these other plant-parasitic

nematodes in sugarbeet production in Michigan is not known at this time. Future research will have to be conducted to determine their impact on sugarbeet production.

Frequency, density, and prominence values were calculated for six counties: Bay, Gratiot; Huron; Saginaw; Sanilac; and Tuscola (Tables 4-9). Huron County had the highest prominence value for *Heterodera* spp. (Table 6). The lowest prominence value of 0.0 came from Gratiot County where *Paratylenchus* spp. were the most prominent. Stratified samples had a higher prominence value for *Heterodera* spp. than random samples (Tables 10 and 11). The data also suggest that the more often you grow sugarbeet the higher the *Heterodera* populations (Table 12).

All of the 214 survey samples submitted from both sugar companies were negative for the presence of *Pasteuria*, a bacterial nematode parasite. Microscopic observations of cysts and juveniles failed to detect spores of *Pasteuria*.

DISCUSSION

This project has helped to determine the occurrence and distribution of *Heterodera* throughout the major sugarbeet production area in Michigan. There are now six confirmed counties within Michigan that test positive for the presence of *H. schachtii*, Arenac, Bay, Huron, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola. These six counties accounted for approximately 80% of 1997 Michigan sugarbeet production. With the increase in sugarbeet production in the state there is a risk of further spread to subsequent uninfected fields and neighboring counties. This survey also gives initial information to suggest that infestation from *Heterodera* spp. are related to cropping history and plant symptomatology. The greater the number of sugarbeet crops planted since 1984, the

may be due to the shortening of rotation schemes. Samples taken using a stratified method also appeared to have a greater amount of *Heterodera spp*. recovered. This suggests that symptoms may be an indicator of *H. schachtii* infestations.

Future research will be done in Michigan on the bacterial nematode parasite Pasteuria. Although it was not detected in the 1998 sugarbeet survey, it will still be researched as a possible biological control agent for the management of H. schachtii in Michigan sugarbeet production.

CONCLUSIONS

The presence of *H. schachtii* in the top sugarbeet producing counties in Michigan suggests that this nematode may be related to the yield decline that Michigan has been experiencing over the last 15 years. It is necessary that growers use management practices to minimize the risk of spread to uninfected areas. Symptomatology may be an indicator of nematode infestation. Future research may help to provide information on specific symptoms caused by nematode infestation. Growers must also be sure to maintain proper crop rotation schemes to reduce the impact of *H. schachtii* on sugarbeet yields.

Table 1. Number of *Heterodera* spp. positive samples from the 1998 sugarbeet survey in Michigan for both stratified and random sampling methods.

County	Total	County	Stratified	Samples ¹	Random	Samples ²
-	No. of samples	No. of positive	No. of samples	No. of positive	No. of samples	No. of positive
1. Arenac	9	4	5	4	4	0
2. Bay	51	36	31	21	20	15
3. Gratiot	20	2	12	1	8	1
4. Huron	30	21	15	11	15	10
5. Isabella	1	0	0	0	1	0
6. Lenawee	10	1	4	1	6	0
7. Mecosta	1	0	1	0	0	0
8. Montcalm	3	0	1	0	2	0
9. Newaygo	1	1	1	1	0	0
10. Saginaw	23	19	10	9	13	10
11. Sanilac	29	13	15	6	14	7
12. St. Clair	1	0	0	0	1	0
13. Tuscola	35	18	10	7	25	11
Total	214	115	105	61	109	54

¹Stratified: Sampling from fields exhibiting foliar symptoms of suspected *H. schachtii* infestation. Stratified samples were taken by collecting three different root-soil cores each from three locations in the field exhibiting symptoms. These samples were collected from the plant-soil rhizosphere near the margins of the locations exhibiting symptoms.

²Random: Sampling from fields not exhibiting foliar symptoms of suspected *H. schachtii* infestation. Samples taken at random were a composite of nine root-soil cores from the plant-soil rhizoshere.

Table 2. 1998 Heterodera spp. population densities associated with 214 Michigan sugarbeet fields sampled using a stratified or random sampling method.

County	Stratifi	ed ¹	Random ²		
	n	Mean	n	Mean	
1. Arenac	5	34.0	4	0.0	
2. Bay	31	2661.9	20	461.5	
3. Gratiot	12	0.5	8	0.3	
4. Huron	15	9064.3	15	909.9	
5. Isabella		•••	1	0.0	
6. Lenawee	4	0.5	6	0.0	
7. Mecosta	1	0.0		•••	
8. Montcalm	1	0.0	2	0.0	
9. Newaygo	1	4.0	0	0.0	
10. Saginaw	10	1654.0	13	1160.0	
11. Sanilac	15	746.3	14	922.6	
12. St. Clair	•••		1	0.0	
13. Tuscola	10	2616.2	25	2712.6	
TOTAL	105	2595.8	109	1088.9	

¹Stratified: Sampling from fields exhibiting foliar symptoms of suspected *H. schachtii* infestation. Stratified samples were taken by collecting three different root-soil cores each from three locations in the field exhibiting symptoms. These samples were collected from the plant-soil rhizosphere near the margins of the locations exhibiting symptoms.

²Random: Sampling from fields not exhibiting foliar symptoms of suspected *H. schachtii* infestation. Samples taken at random were a composite of nine root-soil cores from the plant-soil rhizoshere.

Table 3. Nematode population density per 100 cm³ of soil for all 13 counties for Heterodera, Pratylenchus, Paratylenchus, Helicotylenchus, Criconemella and Tylenchorhymchus spp. from 1998 surgarbeet survey.

Other	0.0	0.2	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Tylenchorhynchus	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	9.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.2	2.3	0.0	9.0
Criconemella	2.3	1.3	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6	0.0	0.2
Helicotylenchus	15.3	15.4	21.0	46.0	0.8	8.7.8	0.0	16.0	0.0	47.0	32.1	8.0	10.0
Paratylenchus	42.7	20.5	35.2	0.6	45.0	3.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.5	10.4	0.0	2.1
Pratylenchus	0.2	4.2	6.5	1.0	0.0	44.4	1.0	1.3	2.0	2.7	8.6	2.0	8.1
Heterodera	6'81	0'6641	6.0	4987.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	1375.0	831.4	0.0	2685.1
County	1. Arenac	2. Bay	3. Gratiot	4. Huron	5. Isabella	6. Lenawee	7. Mecosta	8. Montcalm	9. Newaygo	10. Saginaw	11. Sanilac	12. St. Clair	13. Tuscola

Table 4. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes collected from Bay County as part of the 1998 sugarbeet survey (n=51).

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	36	70.6	33.0	1799.0	97.7	151.1
Pratylenchus	12	23.5	11.0	4.2	0.2	0.2
Paratylenchus	28	54.9	25.7	20.5	1.1	1.5
Helicotylenchus	27	52.9	24.8	15.4	0.8	1.1
Criconemella	4	7.8	3.7	1.3	0.1	0.0
Tylenchorhynchus	2	3.9	1.8	0.1	0.0	0.0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

Table 5. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes collected from Gratiot County as part of the 1998 sugarbeet survey (n=20).

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	2	10	5.6	0.4	0.6	0.0
Pratylenchus	7	35	19.4	6.5	10.2	0.4
Paratylenchus	11	55	30.6	35.2	55.1	2.6
Helicotylenchus	12	60	33.3	21.0	32.8	1.6
Criconemella	2	10	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tylenchorhynchus	2	10	5.6	0.9	1.3	0.0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

⁴Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

⁴Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

Table 6. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes collected from Huron County as part of the 1998 sugarbeet survey (n=30).

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	21	70.0	29.6	4987.1	98.9	417.3
Pratylenchus	8	26.7	11.3	1.0	0.0	0.1
Paratylenchus	17	56.7	23.9	9.0	0.2	0.7
Helicotylenchus	23	76.7	32.4	46.0	0.9	4.0
Criconemella	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tylenchorhynchus	2	6.7	2.8	0.3	0.0	0.0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

Table 7. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes collected from Saginaw County as part of the 1998 sugarbeet survey (n=23).

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	19	82.6	32.8	1375.0	96.1	125.0
Pratylenchus	11	47.8	19.0	2.7	0.2	0.2
Paratylenchus	10	43.5	17.2	5.7	0.4	0.4
Helicotylenchus	17	73.9	29.3	47.0	3.3	4.0
Criconemella	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tylenchorhynchus	1	4.3	1.7	0.2	0.0	0.0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

^{*}Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

⁴Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

Table 8. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes collected from Sanilac County as part of the 1998 sugarbeet survey (n=29).

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	13	44.8	18.8	831.4	92.8	55.7
Pratylenchus	14	48.3	20.3	9.8	1.1	0.7
Paratylenchus	18	62.1	26.1	10.4	1.2	0.8
Helicotylenchus	20	69.0	29.0	32.1	3.6	2.7
Criconemella	3	10.3	4.3	9.8	1.1	0.3
Tylenchorhynchus	1	3.4	1.4	2.3	0.3	0.0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

Table 9. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes collected from Tuscola County as part of the 1998 sugarbeet survey (n=35).

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	18	51.4	24.7	2685.1	99.2	192.6
Pratylenchus	13	37.1	17.8	8.1	0.3	0.5
Paratylenchus	14	40.0	19.2	2.1	0.1	0.1
Helicotylenchus	24	68.6	32.9	10.0	0.4	0.8
Criconemella	1	2.9	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0
Tylenchorhynchus	3	8.6	4.1	0.6	0.0	0.0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

⁴Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

^{*}Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

Table 10. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes for all the stratified samples collected from the 1998 sugarbeet survey.

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	61	58	24.83	2595.8	98	198
Pratylenchus	36	34	14.65	9.3	0.3	0.5
Paratylenchus	60	57	24.42	22	0.8	1.7
Helicotylenchus	75	71	30.53	29.23	1.1	2.5
Criconemella	8	7.6	3.256	1	0	0
Tylenchorhynchus	6	5.7	2.442	0.84	0	0

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

Table 11. Frequency, density, and prominence values for plant-parasitic nematodes for all the random samples collected from the 1998 sugarbeet survey.

Nematode spp.	No of Positive Samples	Absolute Frequency ¹	Relative Frequency ²	Absolute Density ³	Relative Density ⁴	Prominence Value ⁵
Heterodera	54	49.541	24	1089	96.201	76.6
Pratylenchus	40	36.697	18	4.4	0.3887	0.27
Paratylenchus	53	48.624	24	6.3	0.5565	0.44
Helicotylenchus	63	57.798	28	27.1	2.394	2.06
Criconemella	3	2.7523	1.3	2.6	0.2297	0.04
Tylenchorhynchus	10	9.1743	4.5	2.6	0.2297	0.08

¹Absolute Frequency = (number of samples containing a species)/(number of samples collected) * 100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

⁴Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

²Relative Frequency = (frequency of species)/(sum of frequency of all species)*100

³Absolute Density = Sample Mean

⁴Relative Density = (number of individuals of a species in a sample)/(total of all individuals in a sample)*100

⁵Prominence Value = density * sqrt(absolute frequency)/100

Table 12. Number of years in sugarbect out of the last 14 growing seasons (not including present year).

Years in	Heterodera	Pratylenchus	Paratylenchus	Helicotylenchus	Criconemella	Tylenchorhynchus	Other
sugarbeets							
0 (n=7)	9.0	1.9	6.0	35.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 (n=13)	1622.0	4.8	2.7	20.3	21.5	5.0	0.1
2 (n=27)	148.8	6.9	27.4	25.7	0.2	9.0	1.1
3 (n=36)	1603.1	9.2	18.7	20.6	1.6	2.0	2.0
4 (n=84)	1986.4	7.5	11.4	22.8	0.0	0.1	0.0
5 (n=44)	3196.2	3.8	12.5	46.7	1.1	1.7	0.0
6 (n=3)	317.3	0.0	12.7	38.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

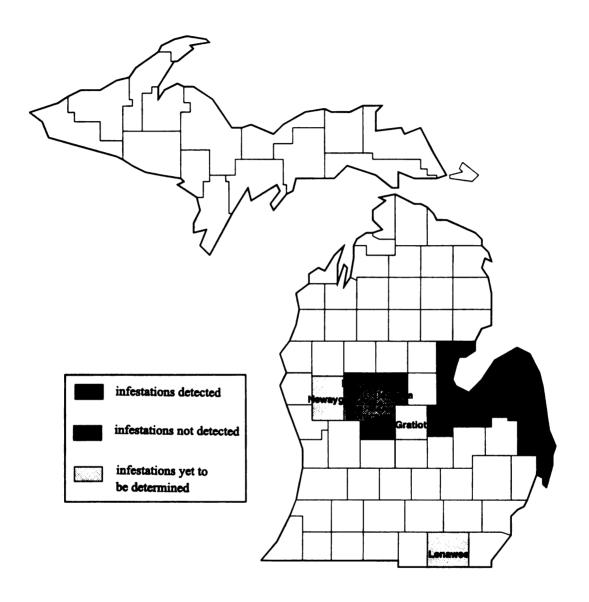


Fig. 1. Detection of *Heterodera schachtii* in a 1998 survey of Michigan sugarbeet production.

CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT OF HETERODERA SCHACHTII IN MICHIGAN SUGARBEET PRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Heterodera schachtii (sugarbeet cyst nematode) was first shown to reduce sugarbeet yields under Michigan growing conditions over 50 years ago. Sugarbeet is the only major field crop host for this nematode. In the past it has been mainly managed with strict crop rotations. Crop rotation has worldwide acceptance as the most practical, economical means of obtaining profitable yields on nematode-infested land (Steele 1984). In nematode-infested fields, recommended rotational schemes may permit growing sugarbeet once in three to seven years depending on the severity of infestation and local conditions that influence population dynamics (Steele 1984). Soil furnigants and non-furnigant nematicides are used for management of H. schachtii on only an extremely limited basis.

The Michigan sugarbeet industry has undergone several major changes during the past 10 years, including an increase in the number of acres planted annually, and a shortening of crop rotation schemes. Increased sugarbeet production and shorter crop rotations demand alternate strategies and tactics for managing *H. schachtii* population levels.

Alternative methods of management include various chemical and cultural control practices. Presently, there are no sugarbeet varieties that are resistance to *H. schachtii* available for use in Michigan sugarbeet production. Cultural practices include sanitation, early planting, and the use of trap crops. Sanitation, especially in relation to equipment

and tare soil, is very important to prevent the further spread of *H. schachtii* from infested to non-infested fields. Growing a nematode-resistant cruciferous trap crop prior to planting sugarbeet may decrease populations of *H. schachtii* (Müller 1991). These trap crops are planted after harvesting a summer crop, and in suitable soil conditions their root exudates stimulate hatching of *H. schachtii* juveniles, which then invade the roots and initiate the formation of syncytia at permanent feeding sites. The syncytia will break down and prevent most of the nematodes from completing their life cycles to form viable females (Wyss et al. 1984). The practice of using trap crops in Michigan sugarbeet production has not been extensively evaluated for its effectiveness. Chemical control involves the use of fumigant and non-fumigant nematicides.

The objective of this project was to evaluate two non-fumigant nematicides, one fumigant, and one bio-nematicide for the control of *H. schachtii*. These nematicides include Temik[®], Counter[®], DiTera[®], and Vapam[®].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In 1998, a sugarbeet cyst nematode control research trial was set up in Bay City, Michigan, on the Gerald Appold Farm. This particular field site has been in a wheat, soybean, and sugarbeet rotation for the last two decades. The research site used for this trial was 0.96 acres (260 x 160 feet) in size had not been planted to sugarbeet since 1995. This trial was set up as a random complete block design. It consisted of nine treatments (Table 1) in six replicated blocks of four-row by 40 foot plots. Sugarbeet seeds were planted in a silty loam soil in 30-inch rows with seed spacing of 4.5 inches on May 5, 1998. Because of a relatively poor stand establishment, some rows within the blocks were

replanted on June 6, 1998. The nine nematicides were applied at planting according to pre-determined rates (Table 1). This research trial included four treatments for aphid control; however, for the purpose of this thesis the data from treatments 10-13, where no nematicide was applied, will not be included.

Soil samples for nematode analysis were taken three times during the growing season, at- plant (5-06-98), mid-season (07-31-98), and at harvest (11-03-98). Soil samples taken at- plant and at mid-season were collected from the two outside rows of each four row plot. Harvest soil was collected from the two center rows after the beets were removed at harvest. Soil samples consisted of several soil cores placed in one bulk sample. Root samples were also collected at midseason. Three beets were dug from each of the two center rows and root tissue was collected.

Nematodes were extracted from 100 cm³ of soil from each of the samples with a modified centrifugal flotation procedure (625 g of sugar per 1 l of water) with nested sieves with 710 µm and 37 µm openings (Jenkins 1964). Nematodes were extracted from midseason root tissue using the flask-shaker method (Bird 1971). *H. schachtii* extracted from both soil and roots were identified (Mai et al. 1996) and counted using an inverted microscope at 100x magnification.

Sugarbeet in the two 40-foot center rows of each four-row plot were harvested on November 3, 1998. They were counted for each four-row plot and recorded as number of sugarbeet per 80 ft (Table 5). Monitor Sugar Company used the harvested sugarbeet to determine the amount of raw white sugar per acre (RWSA) and tons per acre.

Statistical analysis of the data was done using SYSTAT (SYSTAT 7.0 1998).

Regressions were done on the whole data set, and for DiTera[®], and Vapam[®], which were

the only two treatments applied at multiple rates. Cyst population levels determined from collecting soil samples at-plant, mid-season, and harvest, were mapped to show *H*. schachtii dispersal throughout the field over the length of the growing season.

RESULTS

There were no significant differences between population densities of cysts, second-stage juveniles, and eggs in soil samples taken at planting, midseason, and harvest among the nine treatments (Tables 2-4). Number of cysts in the soil ranged from 0 atplant (Vapam[©] 0.5 gal/a) to 29.2 (Check) at harvest per 100 cm³ of soil. Eggs in the soil were found at levels ranging from 0.3 at-plant to 3341.7 at harvest per 100 cm³ of soil. Second-stage juvenile (J2) population levels ranged from a low of 1.7 at-plant to 1205 at harvest per 100 cm³ of soil.

There were significant differences among the nematicide treatments in the number of second-stage juveniles present in the mid-season roots (Table 3). DiTera® 12-inch band, DiTera® 6-inch band, Vapam® 0.5 gal/a, and Vapam® 1.0 gal/a, were significantly different (p=0.05) from the check. Second-stage juvenile population levels in the root ranged from 34.3 to 146.4 per 1.0 g of root tissue. The number of second-stage juveniles present in the root compared with the total amount of juveniles present in the mid-seasons samples was calculated for each of the nine treatments (Table 6). Treatment 7 (Vapam® 0.5 gal/a) had the lowest amount of juveniles present in the root tissue.

Simple linear regression models were developed to explain variability in tons of sugarbeet harvested per acre for the entire data set. Three independent variables were analyzed (portion of J2s in root at mid-season, mid-season cyst counts, and harvest cyst

counts), and each had a p-value associated with it less that 0.05 (Table 7). The best regression model used mid-season cysts as an indicator of final tons per acre. This model was:

$$Y_{SB} = 15.032 - 0.715C_{MS}$$

Where:

Y_{SB} = sugarbeet yield (tons/acre)

 C_{MS} = mid-season cyst counts (100 cm³ soil)

This model explained 10.8% of the variability in yield, with a p-value of 0.016. The number of mid-season cysts in the soil was negatively correlated with yield.

Linear regression models for DiTera® suggest that the amount of active ingredient applied correlated with the portion of second-stage juveniles found in the root system.

This model explained 18% of the variability in yield with a p-value of .039 (Table 8). The DiTera® treatments also demonstrated that mid-season cyst populations can still be used as a reasonably good predictor for yield (p= .054, r²= .158). The linear model associated with mid-season and harvest cyst populations indicated that the higher the population of cysts the lower the final tons per acre.

The best linear model for Vapam[®] indicated that the cyst population at harvest explained 19.3% of the variability in the tons per acre with a p-value of .032 (Table 9). Even though mid-season p-value was a little high it can still be used as a reasonably good indicator of final yields.

Mapping the horizontal distribution of *H. schachtii* cysts at planting, mid-season, and harvest demonstrate changes in the distribution of cysts throughout the growing season (Figures 1-3). The at-plant populations were aggregated in the middle of the field.

As the season progressed, the population spread throughout the field, with the highest population density of *H. schachtii* in the northwest corner. Cyst population densities for the growing season ranged from a low of 0.0 cysts per 100 cm³ of soil at planting to 32.3 at harvest.

DISCUSSION

The at-plant cyst counts were not significantly different, which is an important factor in setting up this nematicide trial. This shows that there was a relatively uniform distribution of H. schachtii throughout the field and that this was a good site for the nematicide trial. However, this site had low initial nematode population densities, which did not explain a lot of the variability in yield. Late planting date and lack of precipitation in the spring of 1998 may help explain the poor sugarbeet emergence and some of the variability in the nematode population densities. DiTera® (6 inch and 12 inch band) and Vapam[®] (0.5 and 1.0 gal/acre) had significantly fewer second-stage juveniles in the root than the check. It is possible that these two nematicides are interfering with the nematode's ability to penetrate the root system. The 1999 nematicide trial might provide some additional data to support this theory. None of the nematicides used in this trial provided season-long control of H. schachtii. Data suggest that there is a potential for DiTera and Vapam to be effective, but with only one year of data, it was not possible to get a sense of an optimal concentration. At the initial population density of H. schachtii associated with this site, neither of the nematicides (Counter[®], Temik[®]) registered for use in sugarbeet production provided detectable nematode control or sugarbeet yield increases.

CONCLUSIONS

Management of *H. schachtii* must be accomplished using an integrated approach. Data from the 1998 nematicide trial does not provide sufficient evidence to conclude that chemical control alone can effectively reduce cyst populations. In addition to chemical control, it is important to use cultural controls such as rotation with non-host crops and proper seed and soil sanitation practices. It is important to have well established pathogenicity thresholds for *H. schachtii* (Caswell et al. 1986).

Table 1. Nematicides and application procedures used in a 1998 sugarbeet cyst nematode trial in Bay City, Michigan.

Treatment	Application procedure and dosage ¹
1. Check	Non-Treated Control
2. Temik 15G ²	5.0 lb ai/a in-furrow at-planting
3. Counter CR ³	12 oz/1,000 row ft in-furrow at-planting
4. DiTera ES ⁴	11 gal/a 12-inch band at-planting 1:3 water dilution
5. DiTera ES	11 gal/a 6-inch band at-planting 1:3 water dilution
6. DiTera ES	11 gal/a broadcast at-planting 1:3 water dilution
7. Vapam ⁵	0.5 gal/a in-row at planting 1:3 water dilution
8. Vapam	1.0 gal/a in-row at-planting 1:3 water dilution
9. Vapam	2.0 gal/a in-row at-planting 1:3 water dilution

¹May 5, 1998 planting date.

²Trade name: Temik[®]; Common name: aldicarb; Chemical name: 2-Methyl-2-(methylthio) propionaldehyde O-(methylcarbamoyl) oxime; Use: systemic pesticide.

³Trade name: Counter [©]; Common name: terbufos; Chemical name: S-[[(1,1-dimethylethyl)thio]methyl] 0,0-diethyl phosphorodithioate; Use: systemic insecticide and nematicide.

⁴Trade name: DiTera[®]; Common name: ABG-9008; Biological name: *Myrothecium verrucaria*; Use: biological nematicide.

⁵Trade name: Vapam[®]; Common name: metham; Chemical name: Sodium methyldithiocarbamate (anhydrous); Use: soil fumigant (fungicide, insecticide, nematicide and herbicide).

Table 2. At-plant sugarbeet cyst nematode population densities associated with nine treatments in a 1998 trial in Bay City, Michigan (soil sampling date: May 5, 1998).

Treatment ¹	Cysts ²	J2	Eggs
1. Check	1.2	25.3	165.0
2. Temik 15G	1.7	30.7	75.0
3. Counter CR	1.3	8.0	46.7
4. DiTera ES	1.7	27.7	123.3
5. DiTera ES	0.7	15.7	20.3
6. DiTera ES	1.3	18.3	148.7
7. Vapam	0.0	1.7	0.3
8. Vapam	1.0	27.7	79.3
9. Vapam	2.3	55.0	212.7
ANOVA	0.724	0.533	0.561

¹See Table 1 for detailed explanation of treatments.

Table 3. Mid-season sugarbeet cyst nematode population densities associated with nine treatments in a 1998 trial in Bay City, Michigan (soil and root sampling date: July 31, 1998).

Treatment ¹		In Soil ²		Root Samples ³								
	Cysts	J2	Eggs	J2 ⁴	Males							
1. Check	1.7	34.3	50.0	388.9 bc	22.2							
2. Temik 15G	2.2	146.4	175.2	171.7 abc	20.3							
3. Counter CR	2.3	38.3	75.0	183.3 abc	6.7							
4. DiTera ES	2.2	58.7	45.0	111.7 a	18.3							
5. DiTera ES	2.8	99.2	190.0	33.3 a	3.3							
6. DiTera ES	2.3	88.7	166.0	422.2 c	7.8							
7. Vapam	2.7	123.3	136.7	43.3 a	0.0							
8. Vapam	2.2	71.0	178.3	36.7 a	3.3							
9. Vapam	1.2	57.7	134.7	145.0 ab	13.3							
ANOVA	0.867	0.477	0.559	0.042	0.629							

¹See Table 1 for detailed explanation of treatments.

²Cysts, J2s and eggs were extracted and counted per 100 cm³ of soil.

²Cysts, J2s and eggs were extracted and counted per 100 cm³ of soil.

³Root samples were taken from one gram of root.

⁴Mean Separation: LSD. Those followed by the same letter are not statistically significantly different at 0.05 level.

Table 4. At harvest sugarbeet cyst nematode population densities associated with nine treatments in a 1998 trial in Bay City, Michigan (soil sampling date: November 3, 1998).

Treatment ¹	Cysts ²	J2	Eggs
1. Check	29.2	991.7	2561.7
2. Temik 15G	24.5	840.0	2236.7
3. Counter CR	22.2	826.7	2343.3
4. DiTera ES	32.3	1106.7	3230.0
5. DiTera ES	15.5	731.7	1436.7
6. DiTera ES	17.0	676.7	1723.0
7. Vapam	28.5	1205.0	3341.7
8. Vapam	26.7	1168.3	2915.0
9. Vapam	18.0	725.0	1940.0
ANOVA	0.189	0.627	0.101

Table 5. Sugarbeet yields from a 1998 nematicide trial in Bay City, Michigan.

Treatment ¹	No of beets ²	Yield (Tons/Acre)	Avg Weight/Beet (lb)
1. Check	56.2	11.0	1.8
2. Temik 15G	70.8	14.0	1.8
3. Counter CR	71.8	13.6	1.7
4. DiTera ES	63.3	12.1	1.8
5. DiTera ES	60.3	13.0	1.8
6. DiTera ES	76.3	14.7	1.8
7. Vapam	62.3	13.6	2.0
8. Vapam	70.7	16.0	2.1
9. Vapam	70.3	14.4	1.9
ANOVA	0.285	0.579	0.543

¹See Table 1 for detailed explanation of treatments.
²Number of beets/80 ft row at harvest.

¹See Table 1 for detailed explanation of treatments.
²Cysts, J2s and eggs were extracted and counted per 100 cm³ of soil.

Table 6. Portion of second-stage juveniles of *Heterodera schachtii* recovered from midseason root samples for the nine different treatments from the 1998 nematicide trial in Bay City, Michigan.

Treatment ¹	Portion of J2 in Root ²	Yield (tons/a)
1. Check	0.597	11.0
2. Temik 15G	0.352	14.0
3. Counter CR	0.231	13.6
4. DiTera ES	0.322	12.1
5. DiTera ES	0.122	13.0
6. DiTera ES	0.374	14.7
7. Vapam	0.063	13.6
8. Vapam	0.193	16.0
9. Vapam	0.333	14.4
ANOVA	0.128	0.579

¹See Table 1 for detailed explanation of treatments.

²Portion of J2 in root = (J2 in root)/(J2 in root + J2 in soil + Eggs in soil)

Table 7. Simple linear regression models that explain variability in yield (tons per acre) for the 1998 sugarbeet nematicide trial in Bay City, Michigan.

Dependent	Independent	n	Constant	Variable	r2	p-value
Tons Acre	Portion in Root	54	14.577	-3.831	0.089	0.030
Tons Acre	Mid Season Cysts	54	15.032	-0.715	0.108	0.016
Tons Acre	Harvest Cysts	54	16.176	-0.108	0.097	0.022

Table 8. Simple linear regression models that explain variability in yield, number of cysts, and portion of nematode population in roots for the 1998 sugarbeet nematicide trial in Bay City, Michigan for the control and DiTera treatments only.

Dependent	Independent	n	Constant	Variable	r2	p-value
Tons Acre	ai/A	24	12.410	0.143	0.003	0.796
Midseason Cysts	ai/A	24	1.832	0.197	0.023	0.478
Harvest Cysts	ai/A	24	27.157	-1.721	0.042	0.339
Portion in Root	ai/A	24	0.536	-0.086	0.180	0.039
Tons Acre	Portion in root	24	13.641	-2.624	0.043	0.334
Tons Acre	J2 in root	24	13.217	-0.002	0.028	0.436
Tons Acre	Mid Season Cysts	24	14.495	-0.791	0.158	0.054
Tons Acre	Harvest Cysts	24	16.367	-0.155	0.260	0.011

Table 9. Simple linear regression models that explain variability in yields, cyst populations and portion of nematodes in root for the 1998 sugarbeet nematicide trial in Bay City, Michigan for the control and Vapam treatments only.

Dependent	Independent	n	Constant	Variable	r2	p-value
Tons Acre	ai/A	24	12.382	1.567	0.071	0.209
Mid Season Cysts	ai/A	24	2.267	-0.400	0.026	0.449
Harvest Cysts	ai/A	24	30.633	-5.771	0.117	0.102
Portion in Root	ai/A	24	0.355	-0.067	0.018	0.532
Tons Acre	Portion in root	24	14.812	-3.569	0.092	0.150
Tons Acre	j2 in root	24	14.288	0.003	0.048	0.302
Tons Acre	MS Cysts	24	15.459	-0.890	0.139	0.073
Tons Acre	H Cysts	24	17.680	-0.153	0.193	0.032



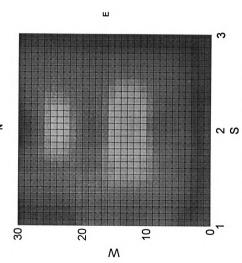


Figure 1. At-plant horizontal distribution of Heterodera schachtii cysts per 100 cm3 of soil.



ш

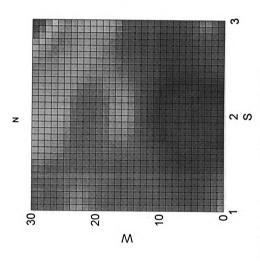


Figure 2. Mid-season horizontal distribution of Heterodera schachtii cysts per 100 cm³ of soil.



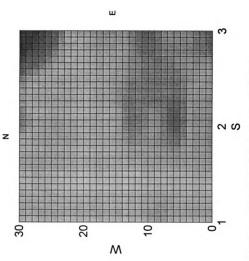


Figure 3. At harvest horizontal distribution of Heterodera schachtii cysts per 100 cm3 of soil.

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF *PASTEURIA* BY SEQUENCING THE 16S **RNA GENE

INTRODUCTION

The ontogeny and behavior of plant-parasitic nematodes are influenced by temperature, moisture, aeration, and a vast array of living organisms including other nematodes, bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoan, insects and other soil animals (Stirling 1991). Of these soil-borne organisms, the bacterium *Pasteuria* spp. has potential as an economically and environmentally practical biological control agent of specific nematodes (Hewlett et al. 1994). *Pasteuria* is a Gram-positive endspore-forming bacterium. It has been found associated with a variety of nematode hosts and in many different climates and environmental conditions throughout the world and appears to have the ability to suppress plant-parasitic nematode populations in crop production systems (Sayre and Starr 1988).

Metchnikoff described *Pasteuria ramosa* in 1888. It is a parasite of water fleas of the genus *Daphnia*. Three additional species have been described. They are all parasites of nematodes classified in the order Tylenchida and include *P. penetrans* (Sayre and Starr 1985), *P. thornei* (Sayre and Starr 1988), and *P. nishizawae* (Sayre et al. 1991). *P. penetrans* is a parasite of *Meloidogyne* spp. (Heteroderidae), *P. thornei* a parasite of *Pratylenchus* spp. (Pratylenchidae) and *P. nishizawae* a parasite of *Heterodera* spp. (Heteroderidae).

The life cycles, host ranges, and spore morphologies are important characters in the classification of these bacteria (Sayre et al. 1991; Ciancio et al. 1994). The taxonomy of the hyperparasite remains unclear, but it is probably made up of a number of species

and strains which differ in their host range and virulence; many economically important genera of plant-parasitic nematodes have been shown to have an association with these bacteria (Sayre and Starr 1988). The taxonomic relationships within *Pasteuria* are still poorly understood because cultures of various pathotypes are not readily available for biochemical and genetic investigations (Ciancio 1995). With the success in DNA sequencing of the 16s rRNA gene of *P. ramosa* (Ebert et al. 1996) and current genetic work being done with *P. penetrans* and an undescribed Illinois species, might help answer some of the questions concerning the molecular taxonomy of *Pasteuria* species.

Pasteuria spp. are Gram-positive with dichotomously branching, septate hyphae. The terminal hyphae enlarge to form sporangia and eventually endospores (Sayre and Starr 1985). Endospores occur in soil. As nematodes migrate through the soil, they encounter endospores and when a suitable nematode host is present, endospores become attached to the nematode cuticle. Attachment appears to be species specific. Penetration of the nematode host is accomplished by the use of a germ tube produced by the bacterium. This tube emerges through the central opening of the basal ring, penetrates the cuticle and enters into the host's hypodermal tissue. Eventually, hyphae grow into the nematode pseudocoelm. Sporulation occurs when the nematode host has been almost completely invaded by the vegetative growth (Ciancio 1995). The fecundity of infected females is greatly reduced. Eventually the nematode body becomes completely filled with mature endospores. These endospores are released back into the soil through decomposition of the nematode cadaver. Endospores are resistant to heat and desiccation, and remain viable in soil until a suitable host is encountered (Sayre and Starr 1985).

Pasteuria spp. have not been cultured in vitro. They are currently cultured on their respective hosts under greenhouse or laboratory conditions. The inability to mass-produce this bacterium under controlled conditions is partially responsible for its limited development as a biological control agent.

The objective of this project was to sequence the 16s rDNA of *Pasteuria* for phylogenetic analysis. This research may help to provide a genomic basis for the relationship of species designated in the bacterial genus *Pasteuria*, and for comparison to other bacterial genera.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A culture of *Meloidogyne arenaria* females infected with an isolate of *P*.

penetrans B-4 was obtained from Dr. Don Dickson, University of Florida,

Entomology/Nematology Department. Approximately 15 endospore-filled females were handpicked with forceps and place in a saline treated microfuge tube containing 50 µl of sterile water. The females were then gently ground using a sterile Teflon microcentrifuge tube sample pestle to release endospores, which were then enumerated on a hemocytometer at 40x magnification.

To eliminate DNA from any external contaminating microorganisms, spores were treated with lysozyme, sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) solution, DNase, RNase, and proteinase K (Ebert et al. 1996). The spores were then lysed by adding 1 volume of phenol and 1 volume of 100 µm glass beads to the microfuge tube containing the spores and bead beating (Mini Beadbeater 8, Biospec Products) for 1 minute at 5,000 rpm (Anderson, In press). The spore suspension was centrifuged for 5 minutes (Labnet

Hermle Z180, Fisher) and the aqueous layer was transferred to a new microfuge tube. Adding 0.1 volume of 3M sodium acetate and 2 volumes of 95% ethanol to the microfuge tube and placing the tube on ice for 10 minutes precipitated the DNA. The DNA was collected by centrifugation, air-dried and resuspended in 20 µl of TE buffer (pH 8.0). The extracted DNA was then used as template for PCR amplification.

The 16s rDNA was amplified using the following primers (Rainey et al 1996): 27F (5' GAGTTTGATCCTGG CTCAG 3'), and 1385R (5' CGGTGTGTRCAAGGCCC 3'), which are both bacterial universal primers. Each reaction (25 μl) contained 1.0 μl of purified DNA, 15 pmol of each primer, and 2.5 units of Taq polymerase (Gibco, Grand Island, NY). The template DNA was amplified using a Gene Amp PCR System 2400 Thermo Cycler (Perkin Elmer, Norwalk, CT). The temperature conditions and cycles were as follows: 4 minutes at 94 °C to activate the polymerase, 35 cycles of denaturation (94 °C, 1 minute), annealing (48 °C, 1 minute), and extension (72 °C, 1 minute), and a final extension (72 °C, 6 minutes). The final PCR products were treated with the Prep-A-Gene DNA Purification Kit (Biorad) prior to sequencing. The PCR products were checked using a 7% agarose gel stained with ethiduim bromide and viewed under an ultra violet light.

Sequencing reactions were performed using the Big Dye Terminator Cycle

Sequencing Kit (Perkin Elmer Applied Biosystems) following the manufacturers

instructions, using approximately 90 ng of purified PCR product per reaction. Primers

included 27F (5' GAGTTTGATCCTGG 3'), 343R (5' CTGCTGCCTCCCGTA 3'), and

1385R (5' CGGTGTGTRCAAGGCCC 3') (Rainey et al. 1996). Reactions were

precipitated in ethanol according to manufacturer's instructions, resuspended in template

1385R (5' CGGTGTGTRCAAGGCCC 3') (Rainey et al. 1996). Reactions were precipitated in ethanol according to manufacturer's instructions, resuspended in template suppression reagent (Perkin Elmer Applied Biosystems) and analyzed on a Perkin Elmer ABI 310 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Once sequences were obtained, a BLAST net search of GenBank Sequence database was done for phylogenetic analysis.

RESULTS

Partial 16s rDNA sequences were obtained for primer 27F and 1385R (Figure 1).

Primer 343R did not produce a usable sequence. The BLAST net search of the 16s rDNA gene indicated that the sequence produced from *P. penetrans* B-4 was closely related to *Pseudomonas* spp.

Although we were not successful in obtaining the sequence for the 16s gene, several months of technique development and preliminary experiments did yield some important information on how to work with *Pasteuria* (Appendix C). This information will be useful in future research done on this bacterial parasite of plant-parasitic nematodes.

DISCUSSION

The results of this *Pasteuria* sequencing research were inconclusive. The amplified DNA did not produce a high quality sequence for phylogenetic analysis. It is possible that the DNA extraction process was not effective. We were not able to successfully establish a culture of this organism to use in this research. Because of this,

CONCLUSION

Additional research is needed to access the molecular taxonomy of the genus
Pasteuria. This is also important for development of a molecular probe for Pasteuria for
the use in survey work associated with biological control. A Ph.D. student in
Microbiology will continue this project, beginning in the summer of 1999. Success in the
development of a molecular probe may prove to be very effective in the detection of
Pasteuria in soil survey work done for the study of plant-parasitic nematodes in Michigan
crop production systems.

A. Primer 27F

GGCCTATCTGCAGTCGACCGGNAGAGAGGTGCTNGCNCCTCTCGAGAGCGNC
NGACGGGNGAGTAATGCCTAGGAATCTGCCTGGTAGTGGGGGATAACNGCTN
GGAAANGGACGCTAATACCGCATACCGTNCTACGGGAGAAAGCAGGGGACCT
TCGGGCCTTGCACACAC

B. Primer 1385R

CCCTCTCGACTAACCAGTGCCAGTANGCCTCAGNNGCATTACTCACCCGTGC CGCTCGCTCTCAAGTAGGTGCAAGCACCTCGTCTACCGCTCGACTTGCATGT GTTAGGCCTGCGCAGCGTNAANCTGAGCCGGATAAACTA

Figure 1. Partial 16s rDNA sequences from *Pasteuria penetrans*. Using primers 27F and 1385R.

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

Heterodera schachtii was detected in six of the top sugarbeet producing counties in Michigan. The presence of this nematode may be a factor in the yield decline Michigan has been experiencing over recent years. Increased sugarbeet production and shorter crop rotations demand alternate strategies and tactics for managing H. schachtii population levels. The research involved in this M.S. program investigated two alternative methods of control, chemical and biological.

The nematicide trial demonstrated, after one year of data, that nematicides alone will not provide sufficient control of *H. schachtii*. This indicates that management of *H. schachtii* must be accomplished using an integrated approach, which is why I also looked at the practice of using *Pasteuria* as possible biological control agent.

Pasteuria was not detected in Michigan populations of Heterodera schachtii during the course of my M.S. program. However, with future research being done on this bacterial parasite it may be possible to develop a molecular probe to aid in the detection of Pasteuria in future soil survey work associated with plant-parasitic nematodes in Michigan. Pasteuria may prove to have the ability to suppress nematode populations in Michigan crop production systems.

Future research will be done to provide more information on the effectiveness of nematicides for controlling *H. schachtii* populations. It is hopeful that more work will be done in Michigan to help provide more information on the use of *Pasteuria* as a biological control agent against plant-parasitic nematodes.

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LITERATURE CITED

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APPENDICES

1998 SUGARBEET CYST NEMATODE SURVEY

Michigan Sugar Company, Monitor Sugar Company and Michigan State University Cooperating

Site Information		.•							
Grower Name:	1997 Crop:								
Address:	1996 Crop:								
County:Township:	1995 (Crop:							
Section:Field ID:	Numb	per of sugarbeet							
Soil Texture	crops	since 1984							
Sample Method Used (circle method) Sy	mptoms-Signs Ob	served (check symptom-sign							
Stratified (No. 1)	Poor sugarb	peet emergence or stand.							
Random (No. 2)	Underdevelo	off-color shoot system.							
Fieldman Name:	Spots of wil Hairy-roots	•							
Company:	Low sugarbeet cy None	eet yield yst females on root tissue							
Nematode Sample Results	100 cm3 soil	1.0 g root tissue							
Sugarbeet cyst nematode cysts									
Sugarbeet cyst nematode eggs and juveniles									
Sugarbeet cyst nematode males	· 	***************************************							
Other nematodes									

Appendix B. 1998 Heterodera spp. Survey Data

at Other	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	2 0	0	0	0	2 1	0	1	0 0	•
Sturt	_	_	_	_	_	_		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	-		_	_	•
Ring	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spiral	0	7	0	0	0	32	24	0	0	0	e 6	16	15	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	18	4	0	0	0	48	-	
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Lesion Pin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	9	0	0	4	0	0	
Cysts	4470	14277	9280	4000	12	0	110	က	45	0	0	0	88	242	0	4 00	-	2280	1280	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Crops Method	4 Random	3 Stratified	4 Stratified	4 Stratified	4 Stratified	4 Stratified	5 Stratified	4 Stratified	4 Stratified	5 Random	4 Stratified	3 Stratified	4 Random	3 Stratified	4 Stratified	3 Random	4 Random	3 Stratified	4 Stratified	4 Random	4 Random	2 Stratified	2 Stratified	2 Stratified	2 Stratified	2 Random	2 Random	1 Stratified	2 Stratified	
Sect. No. Crops	23	16	27	22	8	92	4	11	7	9	58	¥	11	ဖ	32	S	32	58	27	22	თ	တ	58	ဖ	12	20	20	8	တ	
Twp.	2 Hampton	2 Hampton	3 Wisner	2 Hampton	1 Tumer	1 Tumer	2 KawKawlin	2 KawKawlin	2 Monitor	2 Monitor	2 KawKawlin	2 Monitor	2 KawKawlin	2 KawKawlin	2 KawKawlin	2 KawKawlin	1 Turner	3 North Shade	3 New Haven	3 Hamilton	3 North Star	8 Bloomer	8 Bloomer	8 Crystal	3 North Star					
CountyNo			_																											
County	Bay	Bay	Tuscola	Bay	Arenac	Arenac	Arenac	Arenac	Arenac	Arenac	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Bay	Arenac	Gratiot	Gratiot	Gratiot	Gratiot	Montcalm	Montcalm	Montcalm	Gratiot	
No. Company	1 Monitor	2 Monitor	3 Monitor	4 Monitor	5 Monitor	6 Monitor	7 Monitor	8 Monitor	9 Monitor	10 Monitor	11 Monitor	12 Monitor	13 Monitor	14 Monitor	15 Monitor	16 Monitor	17 Monitor	18 Monitor	19 Monitor	20 Monitor	21 Monitor	22 Monitor	23 Monitor	24 Monitor	25 Monitor	26 Monitor		28 Monitor		

Appendix B. 1998 Heterodera spp. Survey Data

ther	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	-	0	0
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Ring	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spiral F	0	_	0	0	0	32	24	0	0	0	က	16	15	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	4	0	0	0	48	-	0
	=	4	0	လ	250	_	=	ജ	0	S	7	0	ო	27	0	0	0	17	72	0	က	31	61	511	ဓ	0	-	က	က	0
Lesion Pin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	9	0	0	4	0	0	-
	0		0	2	7	0	0	က	κż	0	0	0	98	2	0	2	_	2	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cysts	4470	14277	9280	4000	•		110		4				w	242		9		2280	1280	180										
bot	티	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Random	Stratified	Stratified	Random	Stratified	Stratified	Random	E op	Stratified	Stratified	티	mop Q	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified	땅	mob do	Stratified	Stratified	Stratified
s Method	# Random	3 Straf	4 Straf	4 Straf	Strat	4 Strai	5 Straf	4 Straf	4 Straf	5 Ran	4 Stra	3 Straf	4 Ran	3 Stra	4 Strai	3 Ran	4 Random	3 Strai	4 Straf	4 Random	4 Random	2 Straf	2 Stra	2 Straf	2 Stra	2 Random	2 Random	1 Stra	2 Stra) Strai
Sect. No. Crops																														
ر الح	23	16	27	23	æ	8	4	=	7	우	78	¥	=	9	32	2	32	78	27	23	တ	o	78	9	12	2	2	8	6	-
Š																														
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Lesion Pin	7	2	0	7	0	œ	∞	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	7
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County	Bay	Tuscola	Tuscola	Newaygo	Sanilac	Sanilac	Sanilac	Sanilac	Вау	Saginaw	Bay	Saginaw	Вау	Tuscola	Saginaw	Tuscola	Saginaw	Bay	Sanilac	Sanilac	Sanilac	Sanilac	Sanilac	Sanilac
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Appendix C.

Preliminary Experiments and Techniques developed for work with Pasteuria

Cultures of *Pasteuria penetrans* were obtained from the following researchers:

Dr. D. W. Dickson, Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Dr. Ken Barker, Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Greg Noel, Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Enzyme solution for dissolving plant root tissue to release infected females

5 ml 0.5 M sodium acetate pH 4.5

50 μl 1.0 M CaCl₂

45 ml distilled water

.034 g cellulase

2.5 g pectinase

4 grams root tissue

Solution was added to 4 g of root tissue and place on a mechanical shaker for 24 hours at room temperature. After 24 hours, remove from shaker and wash with a steady steam of water over nested sieves with 710 μ m and 38 μ m openings to release and catch infected females from degraded root tissue.

Culturing Methods

Crushed 3 infected females to release spores in a 1.5 ml microfuge tube, then added 1.25 ml of distilled water contained approximately 1500 juveniles of Meloidogyne arenaria.

Placed microfuge tube on rotating machine to attach spores to juveniles.

This technique was not successful. The volume was too high and the spore concentration was too low. There needed to be a smaller volume of spores, juveniles and water to ensure a higher rate of attachment. Also, the spore concentration needed to be much higher, but with limited material this was not possible.

DNA Extraction Attempts

Alkaline Lysis Na OH 60 °C for 5 minutes

Microwave spores for 5 minutes

Mortar and Pestle with glass beads

Saline treated microfuge tube containing 50 µl of sterile water and ground up glass beads

Mini beadbeater with glass beads and phenol for 1 minute

All of these techniques were unsuccessful, however the mini beadbeater was the recommended way to break open spores. It is possible that this technique could work with some modifications.

