

Affinity in the Species of *Paratylenchus* (Tylenchida: Paratylenchidae)

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Abstract: Host taxonomic affinity of 28 species of *Paratylenchus* was examined and it was observed that, in general, this nematode tend to share 65.79% host species from dicotyledons, 31.95% monocotyledons and 2.26% gymnosperms. Plants from lignosae division (fundamentally woody plants) contributed by 42.48% and herbaceae (fundamentally herbaceous plants) only 23.31%, almost half of the lignosae. Among families Fabaceae (Leguminales), Rosaceae (Rosales), and Vitaceae (Rhamnales) were more contributing in lignosae; Asteraceae (Asterales) and Lamiaceae (Lamiales) in herbaceae and Poaceae (Graminales) in glumiflorae of monocotyledons. Out of 28 species of *Paratylenchus*, 12 were host specific or monophagous, 3 oligophagous and 13 polyphagous. Some of the polyphagous species feed on gymnosperms and on very primitive families of angiosperms.

Keywords: Nematode, *Paratylenchus*, Host range, Host taxonomic affinity

1. Introduction

Paratylenchus spp. are the smallest plant parasitic nematodes hence known as pin nematodes. They are migratory endoparasites [1] and have 4 juvenile stages. On hatching juveniles migrate towards plant roots. All feeding stages feed by inserting the stylet into epidermal cells and withdraw cellular contents. Symptoms may be localized lesions, offset root development, reduce epidermal surface area, disrupting absorptive efficiency of roots, reducing potential health and vigor of plants, patchy appearance in field crops and stunted plant growth. *Paratylenchus* is widely distributed and have more than 120 species [2]. Thorsteinson (1960)[3] was of the view that most of the insects feed on plants of certain taxonomic groups and others feed indiscriminately. Rathore and Lal (1998)[4] and Rathore and Tiwari (2014, 2015, 2015a) [5]–[7] observed the similar association in the case of pod bore, *Maruca vitrata*, *Bemisia tabaci*, many other species of *Bemisia* and three species of aphids, respectively. When same hypothesis was tested in other organisms like nematodes, the similar trend of host preference to plant taxonomic groups was reported by Rathore and Ali (2014)[8] in *Meloidogyne incognita* and Rathore and Tiwari (2015a, 2015b, 2016) [9]–[11] in *Heterodera* spp., *Helicotylenchus* spp. and *Meloidogyne* spp., respectively. Since *Paratylenchus* is very small in size and has different feeding behavior, host plant association was, therefore, tested in this nematode.

2. Materials and Methods

The species of *Paratylenchus* and their host plants were downloaded from internet [12] and from the literature [13]. All the host species were aligned to different families and orders by following the classification of Hutchinson (1973)[14]. He classified angiosperms (flowering plants) into two subphyla- dicotyledons and monocotyledons. Dicotyledons were partitioned in lignosae (fundamentally woody plants) and herbaceae (fundamentally herbaceous plants). Monocotyledons were divided into three divisions viz., calyciferae (distinct calyx and corolla), corolliferae

(calyx and corolla are more or less similar) and glumiflorae (perianth is much reduced or represented by lodicules). To denote the closeness to a taxonomic group, General Association Index (GAI) reported by Rathore and Tiwari (2015 d)[11] was utilized and is given below:

$$\text{General Association Index (GAI)} = \frac{\text{THs} + 2}{\text{G} + \text{F} + \text{O}}$$

Where, THs = Total number of host plants of a given nematode species, G = Number of host genera, F = Number of host families, and O = Number of host orders. Value 1 indicates monophagy or where total of G+F+O is equivalent to no. of host species; values greater or less than 1 represents higher or lower affinity with taxonomic groups. The terms monophagous, oligophagous and polyphagous were used as defined by Bernays and Chapman (1994) [15]. Monophagous utilizes hosts from some species of one genus, oligophagous selects plants from few genera of a single family and polyphagous feeds on plant species across the families and orders. The groups or clades formed on the basis of molecular studies were also discussed *vis-à-vis* to host taxonomic relationships.

3. Results and Discussion

Results on host preference and their affiliation of 28 species of *Paratylenchus* is presented in Table 1. Scanning of the data across the nematode species manifest that dicotyledons shared 65.79% plant species, whereas monocotyledons 31.95% and gymnosperms 2.26%. Host plant belonging to lignosae (fundamentally woody plants) division of dicotyledons contributed 42.48% and herbaceae (fundamentally herbaceous plants) division only 23.31%, i.e., almost half of the lignosae group. Among monocotyledons, the contribution of various divisions was 2.63, 1.88 and 27.44% of calyciferae, corolliferae and glumiflorae, respectively.

Among dicotyledons-lignosae families Fabaceae (Leguminales), Rosaceae (Rosales) and Vitaceae (Rhamnales) made up 19.17% of the total, while in

herbaceae 7.90% was due to Asteraceae (Asterales) and Lamiaceae (Lamiales). In monocotyledons it was 26.79% due to Poaceae (Graminales). Though minimum but enough contribution was of families Pinaceae (Pinales) and Polypodiaceae (Polypodiales) of gymnosperms to sustain the nematode populations. The nematode species, in general, were aligned to these broad taxonomic groups.

Perusal of Table 1 also elucidate that out of 28 species of *Paratylenchus*, 12 were monophagous, 3 oligophagous and rest 13 polyphagous. Host specificity of monophagous species on host plants of dicotyledons-lignosae (*P. besoekianus* on Rubiaceae (Rubiales), *P. elachistus* on Urticaceae (Urticales), *P. nawadus* on Apocynaceae (Apocynales), *P. paraperaticus* on Juglandaceae (Juglandales), *P. prunii* on Rosaceae (Rosales), *P. sheri* on Fabaceae (Leguminales), *P. straeleni* on Moraceae (Urticales); 3 dicotyledons-herbaceae (*P. conicephalus* and *P. thornei* on Apiaceae (Umbellales), *P. halophilus* on Chenopodiaceae (Chenopodiales), and 2 monocotyledons (*P. aquaticus* on Bromeliaceae (Bromeliales), *P. labiosus* on Poaceae (Graminales). Host range of three oligophagous species was restricted within two families, i.e., *P. amblycephalus* on Rosaceae (Rosales), *P. tatae* and *P. vexans* on Poaceae (Graminales).

Among polyphagous species, *P. dianthus*, *P. hamatus*, *P. macrophallus*, *P. nanus*, *P. neoamblyphalus* and *P. projectus* has a good host range and feed across the families and orders of various plant species. *P. epacris* and *P. nainiacus* restricted its preference to lignosae group of plants, whereas *P. projectus* was largely aligned towards herbaceae and Poaceae. *P. hamatus* parasitized large number of hosts from 19 orders in lignosae, 9 in herbaceae, 5 in monocotyledons and 2 in gymnosperms. This nematode species not only parasitize plants from very primitive families like Magnoliaceae (Magnoliales) and Lauraceae (Laurales) but also from Pinales and Polypodiales of gymnosperms. Present day flowering plants (angiosperms) evolved from gymnosperms long time ago. Short evolutionary linages were also evident in dicotyledons but with some missing links. These findings are in conformity with those of Rathore and Ali (2014)[8] and Rathore and Tiwari (2015 b,c,d) [9]-[11] for *Heterodera* spp., *Helicotylenchus* spp. and *Meloidogyne* spp., respectively.

Molecular study of van Megen et al (2009) [16] on construction of phylogenetic tree covering 15 nematode orders revealed that 4 *Paratylenchus* species (*P. dianthus*, *P. microdorus*, *P. neoamblycephalus* and *P. straeleni* are grouped in Clade 12. Affiliation to host species indicated that first three species are polyphagous and *P. straeleni* is monophagous and feeds on *Ficus* sp. of family Moraceae (Urticales). An elaborate study of Van den Berg et al (2014)[17] on phylogenetic relationships based on D2-D3 of 28S rRNA and ITS rRNA gene sequences revealed that *P. aquaticus*, *P. hamatus* and *P. nanus* represent species complex. However, a well resolved relationship was divided in to four clades. These authors also provided information as suggested by Geraert (1965) [18] on stylet length and valva position. The Clade I: included *P. hamatus* species complex, *P. nanus* (type A & B), *P.*

dianthus, *P. minutus*, *P. Lepidus* and *Paratylenchus* sp. 3, (stylet-19-36um, V-78-86); Clade II: *Paratylenchus* sp. 5; Clade III: *P. aculentus* and *P. bilineatus* (stylet-54-85 um, V- 68-79) and Clade IV: *P. aquaticus* (stylet- 10-19 um, V-79-85). Our findings to corroborate host preference with clades are not clear except that most of the *Paratylenchus* species in Clade I are polyphagous. Only *P. lepidus* reported from rhizosphere of tea, *Camellia* sp. [19] is monophagous. We do not have information on species grouped in Clade II and III. *P. aquaticus* grouped in Clade IV is monophagous and parasitizes on *Neoregelia* sp. in family Bromeliaceae (Bromeliales). We also do not have sufficient information to substantiate but it appears that *Paratylenchus* species with long stylet are polyphagous. More information is required on species grouping in different clades.

Acknowledgements

Authors are grateful to Mr. Akhilesh Rathore for extending help in retrieving necessary information.

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(Online): 2319

Table 1: Affiliation of different species of *Paratylenchus* to host taxonomic groups

Species	Host taxonomic groups	Host Plants	GAI	Status
<i>P. amblycephalus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Rosaceae (3)- <i>Cydonia</i> sp., <i>Malus sylvestris</i> , <i>Sorbus aucupareie</i>	3	1	Oligophagous
<i>P. aquaticus</i>	Monocot-Caly: Bromeliaceae (1) - <i>Neoregelia</i> sp.	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. besoekianus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Rubiaceae (2) - <i>Coffea arabica</i> , <i>Coffea</i> sp.	2	1.333	Monophagous
<i>P. conicephalus</i>	Dicot-Herbaceae: Apiaceae (1) - <i>Prangos ferulacea</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. curvatus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Fabaceae (1); Dicot-Herbaceae: Asteraceae (2), Brassicaceae (1)	4	0.667	Polyphagous
<i>P. dianthus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Anacardiaceae (1), Rosaceae (1); Dicot-Herbaceae; Apiaceae (1), Asteraceae (1), Caryophyllaceae (1), Lamiaceae (3), Solanaceae (1); Monocot-Caly: Araceae (3), Strelitziaceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (1); Gymnosperm: Pinaceae (1)- <i>Tsuga</i> sp.	15	0.5	Polyphagous
<i>P. elachistus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Urticaceae (1) - <i>Boehmeria nivea</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. epacris</i>	Dicot-lignosae: Fagaceae (1), Juglandaceae (1), Lauraceae (1)	3	0.556	Polyphagous
<i>P. halophilus</i>	Dicot-Herbaceae: Chenopodiaceae (1)- <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. hamatus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Aquifoliaceae (1), Celastraceae (1), Cucurbitaceae (1), Ericaceae (1), Fabaceae (5), Fagaceae (2), Hydrangeaceae (1), Juglandaceae (1), Lauraceae (1), Magnoliaceae (1), Malvaceae (1), Moraceae (2), Myrtaceae (2), Oleaceae (2), Rosaceae (9), Rutaceae (1), Salicaceae (1), Theaceae (1), Vitaceae (12); Dicot-Herbaceae: Apiaceae (5), Asteraceae (2), Brassicaceae (2), Caryophyllaceae (1), Chenopodiaceae (1), Gesneriaceae (1), Lamiaceae (3), Saxifragaceae (1), Solanaceae (1); Monocot-Caly: Musaceae (1); Monocot-Corolli: Agavaceae (1), Iridaceae (2), Liliaceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Cyperaceae (1), Poaceae (3); Gymnosperm: Pinaceae (2) - <i>Picea</i> sp., <i>Pinus</i> sp., Polypodiaceae (1) - <i>Polypodium</i> sp.	75	0.611	Polyphagous
<i>P. labiosus</i>	Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (1)- <i>Zea mays</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. macrophallus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Rosaceae (1); Dicot-Herbaceae : Asteraceae (2), Caryophyllaceae (1), Geraniaceae (1), Lamiaceae (2); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (1)	8	0.5	Polyphagous
<i>P. microdorus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Fabaceae (4); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (6)	10	1.2	Polyphagous
<i>P. minutus</i>	Monocot-Caly: Bromeliaceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (1)	2	0.667	Polyphagous
<i>P. nainianus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Anacardiaceae (1), Moraceae (1), Myrtaceae (2), Rosaceae (1), Rutaceae (2)	7	0.529	Polyphagous
<i>P. nanus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Fabaceae (4), Juglandaceae (1), Rosaceae (1); Dicot-Herbaceae: Asteraceae (1), Brassicaceae (1), Caryophyllaceae (1), Plantaginaceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (9); Gymnosperm: Pinaceae (1)	20	0.688	Polyphagous
<i>P. nawadus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Apocynaceae (1)- <i>Carissa</i> sp.	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. neoamblycephalus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Fabaceae (4), Cucurbitaceae (1), Juglandaceae (1), Moraceae (1), Rosaceae (6); Dicot-Herbaceae: Apiaceae (1), Asteraceae (1), Caryophyllaceae (1), Solanaceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (2); Gymnosperm: Pinaceae (1) – <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	20	0.564	Polyphagous
<i>P. paraperaticus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Juglandaceae (1)- <i>Juglans regia</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. projectus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Cucurbitaceae (1), Fabaceae (14), Malvaceae (1); Dicot-Herbaceae: Apiaceae (1), Asteraceae (3), Brassicaceae (5), Caryophyllaceae (2), Chenopodiaceae (2), Gesneriaceae (1), Solanaceae (3); Monocot-Corolli: Amaryllidaceous (1); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (42)	76	1	Polyphagous
<i>P. prunii</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Rosaceae (1) - <i>Prunus persica</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. sarissus</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Fagaceae (1), Lauraceae (1), Rutaceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Cyperaceae (1)	4	0.5	Polyphagous
<i>P. sheri</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Fabaceae (1) - <i>Cicer arietinum</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. similis</i>	Dicot-Herbaceae: Asteraceae (1); Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (1)	2	0.667	Polyphagous
<i>P. straeleni</i>	Dicot-Lignosae: Moraceae (1) - <i>Ficus</i> sp.	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. tatae</i>	Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (2) - <i>Bromus</i> sp., <i>Lolium</i> sp.	2	1	Oligophagous
<i>P. thomei</i>	Dicot-Herbaceae: Apiaceae (1) - <i>Daucus carota</i>	1	1	Monophagous
<i>P. vexans</i>	Monocot-Glum: Poaceae (2) - <i>Agropyron smithii</i> , <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	2	1	Oligophagous
Monocot-Caly =Monocot Calyciferae, Manocot-Corolli= Monocot Corolliferae, Monocot-Glum = Monocot Glumiflorae				