

SHORT COMMUNICATION

HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHANGES CAUSED BY MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA IN GOTIKOLA (*Centella asiatica* L.)

A.W.M.C. WIJEKOONi, N. SALIMi and H.M.R.K. EKANAYAKE:

Department of Botany, University of Sri Javawardenepura, Nugegoda
National Plant Quarantine Services, Canada Friendship Road; Katunayaka

ABSTRACT

Infection and development of *Meloidogyne incognita* caused histopathological changes in *Centella asiatica* in the form of giant cells and root knots. These histopathological changes were observed in microtome sections of at least 10-15 infected root samples. Formation of root knots and different stages of nematode development were examined. Giant cell formation was observed mostly in the vascular region and rarely in cortical region. Groups of two to six giant cells of thick walled multinucleated dense cytoplasm were noted while some giant cells were vacuolated. No relationship was observed between the size of galls and number of giant cells.

KEY WORDS: *Centella asiatica*, histopathology, *Meloidogyne incognita*,
root knots