



Pacific Pests and Pathogens - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

Banana burrowing nematode (257)



Photo 1. "Toppling" is a common symptom on banana when roots are attacked by *Radopholus*. Note this banana has fallen over before the fruits have matured; a sign of nematode attack. A similar symptom occurs when bananas are infected by the nematode *Pratylenchus coffeae*.



Photo 1. Progressive development of root rot symptoms (from left to right) by the burrowing nematode, *Radopholus similis*, in banana roots.



Photo 2. Burrowing nematode, *Radopholus similis*, showing the spear in the mouth (arrowed).

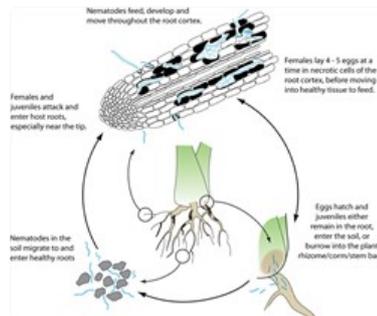


Diagram. Life cycle of the burrowing nematode, *Radopholus similis*, on banana.

Summary

- Worldwide. In tropics and sub-tropics. Root decay (red and black patches when split); weak bunches; and "toppling". Many crops and weeds. A important pest.
- Eggs are laid in roots or in soil nearby; larvae and adults tunnel through roots using a hollow spear to suck cell contents, and kill the roots.
- Spread is in ground water, and infested suckers.
- Cultural control: use non-host break crop (e.g., cassava, sweetpotato or a ground legume); before planting suckers: (i) remove soil and roots, inspect, cut out corm rots with knife wiped with bleach; (ii) treat with hot water - 53°C for 20 min.
- Chemical control: not recommended.

Common Name

Banana burrowing nematode, black head disease of banana

Scientific Name

Radopholus similis

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information (and Diagram) from Brooks FE (2008) Barrowing nematode. The Plant Health Instructor. DOI: 10.1094/PHI-I-2008-1020-01. Updated 2014; and from Hauser S, Coyne D (2010) A hot bath cleans all: Boiling water treatment of banana and plantain. (<https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/resources/4ea6bfdc-2658-4dac-bf31-03861661b3dc.pdf>). Photos 1-3 Fred Brooks, Plant and Environmental Protection Services, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests and Pathogens*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.



Copyright © 2019. All rights reserved.