



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Ginger burrowing nematode (161)



Photo 1. Rhizome infested by the burrowing nematode, *Radopholus similis*, showing brown sunken rots, and decay of the buds.



Photo 2. Ginger rhizomes damaged by the burrowing nematode, *Radopholus similis*, and rejected at harvest.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In tropics and sub-tropics. The nematode has a large host range, including: banana (see **Fact Sheet no. 257**), betel nut, black pepper, coconut, coffee, giant swamp taro (see **Fact Sheet no. 203**), and tea. An important disease.
- Nematodes enter roots and young rhizomes, killing the roots, and causing brown sunken areas on rhizome that later join together. Leaves are yellow, stunted and die early.
- Spread is in soil water, soil on footwear, machinery, and in rhizomes used for planting.
- Yield losses of 40%, and damage continues in storage.
- Cultural control: clean “seed” from healthy crops; treat “seed” with hot water (51°C for 10 mins.); apply manures; weed; 3-4-year crop rotation.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Ginger burrowing nematode

Scientific Name

Radopholus similis

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Information from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2013) *Final import risk analysis report for fresh ginger from Fiji*. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra; and from CABI (2013) Crop Protection Compendium *Radopholus similis* (burrowing nematode). (www.cabi.org/cpc). Photos 1&2 Mike Smith, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Maroochy Research Station, Nambour, Queensland.

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