

Giant swamp taro corm rot (203)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On giant swamp taro, coconuts and other palms, bananas, pepper, brassicas, coffee, ginger, and many more. An important disease.
- Shallow brown dry corm rots, leaving holes 5-20 mm diameter and 10-20 mm deep, sometimes to the corm centre. Fine roots mostly absent. Leaves die early.
- Spread is on the 'tops' used for planting. •
- Cultural control: clean planting material (i) remove roots; (ii) remove outer leaves; (iii) cut out any rots (wipe knife in bleach) wash to remove soil; avoid leaving plant parts removed in the field while preparing the tops: burn them.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Giant swamp taro corm rot

Scientific Name

Radopholus similis

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Information from Zhao ZQ, Crosby TK (2011) Burrowing Nematode (*Radopholus similis*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>; and from Jackson GVH (1986) Preliminary results from surveys of plant diseases in the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. Proceedings: UNDP/FAO/GTZ/IRETA Regional Crop Protection Workshop. 8-12 September, 1986, Apia, Western Samoa. Photo 3 Fred Brooks, Plant and Environmental Protection Services, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu.

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Photo 1. Extensive rot over the entire corm (right), and plants lacking fine feeder roots (left), caused by the nematode, *Radopholus similis*.



Photo 2. External (right) and internal (left) appearance of corms affected by dry corm rot caused by the nematode, *Radopholus similis*.



Photo 3. Head of the nematode, *Radopholus similis*, showing the spear in the mouth that is used to pierce plant cells and suck up the contents.

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