

# HOST RESPONSES OF WHEAT GENOTYPES TO PRATYLENCHUS BRACHYURUS AND MELOIDOGYNE JAVANICA

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**Abstract** - This work aimed to evaluate the host response of twelve wheat genotypes to *Pratylenchus brachyurus* and *Meloidogyne javanica* in two distinct periods. Tests were carried out in greenhouse with an initial population of 1,200 nematodes per pot, each containing 700 mL substrate and seven wheat seedlings. Evaluation was done at 60 and 83 days after inoculation in the first and the second experiment, respectively. At 60 days after inoculation with *P. brachyurus*, all cultivars were resistant to the nematode, presenting reproduction factor RF <1. At 83 days after inoculation, only the cultivars F. Cristalina and IPR 85 showed RF <1, the others were susceptible to the *P. brachyurus*. At 60 days after *M. javanica* inoculation, BRS Sabiá, F. Cristalina, IPR 144, IPR Catuara Tm, Quartzo and FPS Nitron presented RF> 1. At 83 days, cv. Gralha Azul, in addition to those already mentioned, presented RF>1. The cultivars BRS Gaivota and IPR 85 were susceptible to *M. javanica* in both experiments. It was concluded that the twelve wheat genotypes presented different host responses to the studied nematodes and most of them were susceptible.

Keywords: root-lesion nematode; root-knot nematode; genetic resistance; Triticum.

**Resumo** - Este trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar a reação de doze genótipos de trigo a *Pratylenchus brachyurus* e *Meloidogyne javanica*, em dois períodos distintos. Os testes foram conduzidos em casa de vegetação, sob população inicial de 1200 nematoides por vaso contendo 700 ml de substrato e sete plântulas de trigo. As avaliações foram realizadas aos 60 e 83 dias após inoculação no primeiro e segundo experimento, respectivamente. Para *P. brachyurus* aos 60 dias todas as cultivares apresentaram fator de reprodução (FR) < 1. Aos 83 dias, apenas as cultivares F. Cristalina e IPR 85 apresentaram FR < 1, sendo as demais suscetíveis a *P. brachyurus*. 60 dias após a inoculação de *M. javanica*, BRS Sabiá, F. Cristalina, IPR 144, IPR Catuara Tm, Quartzo e FPS Nitron apresentaram RF> 1. Aos 83 dias, cv. A Gralha Azul, além dos já mencionados, apresentou RF> 1. As cultivares BRS Gaivota e IPR 85 foram suscetíveis a *M. javanica* em ambos os experimentos. Concluiu-se que os doze genótipos de trigo apresentaram diferentes respostas de hospedeiro aos nematoides estudados sendo a maioria susceptível.

Palavras-chave: nematoide das lesões radiculares; nematoide das galhas; resistência genética; Triticum.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Wheat (*Triticum aestirum* L.) is one of the most consumed crops in the world. Although wheat farming is an ancient practice, wheat areas have expanded in Brazil from the 40's, mainly in the southern. In Brazil, the produced wheat grains account for 6.23 million tons harvested in area of 2.7 million hectares (CONAB, 2015). Further expansion of the cultivated area is even expected mainly because the wheat cultivation in new areas of the Cerrado region.

Wheat is a winter crop commonly cultivated in succession to soybean, which is susceptible to different nematode species. About 100 nematode species are related to soybean cultivation worldwide. In Brazil, the most important are the root-lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus brachyurus* (Godfrey) Filipjev and Sch. Stekhoven), the root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne* spp.), the soybean cyst nematode (*Heterodera glycines* Ichinohe), and the reniform nematode (*Rotylenchulus reniformis* Linford and Oliveira) (DIAS et al., 2010). Various species of nematodes are also related to the Brazilian wheat crops, which includes the root-knot nematode and the root-lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus* spp.), the cereal cyst nematode (*Heterodera avenae* Wollenweber) and the wheat gall nematode (*Anguina tritici* Steinbuch), being the last two quarantine pests in Brazil.



The susceptibility or reduction in wheat yield related to root-lesion nematode was reported in American researches (SMILEY et al., 2005), as well as observed smaller wheat plants parasitized by the rootknot nematode (NYCZEPIR et al., 1984).

Nematodes are difficult to control because the most management techniques have limitations when applied singly. Crop rotation is usually recommended practice for the control of nematodes, but the number of botanic species that can be used is reduced due the wide host range of some nematodes genera, such as root-knot and root-lesion nematodes.

Some researchers have been progressed in identifying and mapping genes of resistance to rootlesion nematodes. However, these studies focus only on species from temperate countries, such as *P. thornei* Sher and Allen and *P. neglectus* Rensch (WILLIAMS et al., 2002; LINSELL et al., 2014; SMILEY et al., 2014). Research about wheat susceptibility to *Meloidogyne* spp. is scarce. Little information is found in Brazil, especially from the last two decades.

The knowledge of wheat susceptibility to the soybean nematodes is essential, since cultivation in succession favors an increased nematode population in soybean-wheat areas. Due to the lack of information about the subject, the present study aimed to evaluate the susceptibility of twelve wheat genotypes to *Meloidogyne javanica* (Treub) Chitwood and *P. brachyurus*.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Experiments occurred in greenhouse at coordinates 23°47'28.46 " S and 53°15'23.46 " W, 430 m above sea level. For tests in pots, twelve wheat genotypes and one control were grown under greenhouse conditions. Completely randomized design was used for statistical analyses with six replicates for each treatment, in two experimental periods. The first experiment with P. brachyurus occurred between September and November 2015 and was evaluated at 60 days after inoculation (DAI). The second experiment was done between February and May 2016 and evaluated at 83 DAI. The minimum and maximum average temperatures during these two experimental periods were 19.77 and 29.30 °C and 21.13 and 30.00 °C, respectively. The experiments with M. javanica occurred between January and March 2016 and between May and August 2016 and were evaluated at 60 DAI and 83 DAI, respectively. The minimum and maximum average temperatures during these two experimental periods were 21.47 and 31.00 °C and 14.32 and 24.10 °C, respectively.

The experimental plots contained 700 mL of a mixture of soil and sand (2:1), previously autoclaved at 120 °C for two hours. Soil was constituted by 84.20% sand, 1.15% clay and 14.65% silt. Based on chemical analysis, soil acidity was corrected with 0.4 g of limestone (PRNT=85%) and fertility with 0.24 g of NPK 02:06:06 and 0.01 g of KCl per plot.

Then, 10 wheat seeds were sown into each experimental plot and the treatments were characterized by the following cultivars: IPR Catuara TM, IPR 144, IPR 85, BRS Gralha Azul, BRS Sabiá, BRS Gaivota, BRS Tangará, Marfim, FPS Nitron, T.Bio Iguaçu, Quartzo and F. Cristalina. For the viability (control) of the *P. brachyurus* and *M. javanica* inoculum, soybean cv. Syngenta 1363 RR and tomato cv. Santa Clara were used, respectively.

At 10 days after germination, thinning was performed for keeping only seven wheat seedlings (treatments), one soybean or tomato plant (controls) per experimental plot. On the same day, plants were inoculated with 1,200 specimens of P. brachyurus or 1,200 eggs and second stage juveniles (J2) of M. javanica, by pipetting of 2 mL aliquots of nematode suspension into two 3 cm-deep holes in either side of the seedling. After inoculation, the holes were covered with soil. The both inoculum were obtained from pure populations of nematodes kept in soybeans under greenhouse conditions. P. brachyurus and M. javanica were extracted from soybean roots according to methodology proposed by Coolen and D'Herde (1972) and Boneti and Ferraz (1981), respectively. The nematode extracts were quantified in Peters slide under optical microscope.

At the end of the experimental periods, plants were collected and aerial parts removed. Roots were carefully washed and dried on absorbent paper. The root fresh weight was obtained prior to nematode extraction. The samples were evaluated for total number of nematodes per roots, obtained in Peters slide under optical microscope. The total number of nematodes was divided by the root weight to determine the nematodes number per gram of root. In addition, the total number of nematodes was used to calculate reproduction factor (RF), according to the methodology proposed by Oostenbrink (1966), RF = FP/IP; FP = final population; IP = initial population. Thereby, plants with RF> 1.0 are susceptible, with RF  $\leq$  1.0 are resistant, and with RF=0.0 are immune.

Data were submitted to variance analysis and means compared by Scott-Knott test at 5% probability. Original values were transformed by  $\sqrt{(x+0.5)}$  using the computer statistical analysis system Sisvar (Ferreira 2008).



#### RESULTS

At 60 DAI, the wheat genotypes inoculated with *P. brachywrus* presented RF<1.0 (Table 1) and total number of nematodes lower than the control. No statistical difference was observed among them (Table 1). However, the number of nematodes per gram of root revealed two distinct groups: the first, less susceptible with 11-88 nematodes/g of root and the second, more susceptible with more than 144 nematodes/g of root. Both groups presented values lower than soybean (211 nematodes/g of root).

At 83 DAI, the total number of *P. brachyurus* in BRS Gaivota, Quartzo, BRS Gralha Azul, FPS Nitron and Marfim were statistically equal to the control (Table 1). The number of nematodes per gram of root of BRS Sabiá and FPS Nitron cultivars was statistically equal to the control, with averages higher than the other treatments. Only F. Cristalina and IPR 85 cultivars presented RF < 1.0 at 83 DAI, the others were considered susceptible. Cultivars BRS Gaivota, Quartzo, BRS Gralha Azul, FPS Nitron and Marfim presented RF statistically equal to the control. Cultivars IPR 144, IPR Catuara TM, BRS Tangará, BRS Sabiá, T. Bio Iguaçu presented RF ranging from 1.22 and 1.85 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total nematode, nematode/g of root and Reproduction Factor (RF) of *Pratylenchus brachyurus* in different wheat cultivars inoculated with 1,200 nematode specimens at two different experimental periods.

	Year 2015 (evaluated at	60 days after inoculation)	
Treatment	Total Nematode	Nematode/g of root	RF
Soybean	2023 a	211 a	1.69 a
F. Cristalina	553 b	80 c	0.46 b
IPR 85	870 b	144 b	0.72 b
IPR 144	557 b	88 c	0.46 b
IPR Catuara Tm	463 b	86 c	0.39 b
BRS Tangará	425 b	62 c	0.35 b
BRS Gaivota	128 b	11 c	0.11 b
Quartzo	275 b	35 c	0.23 b
BRS Sabiá	283 b	49 c	0.24 b
BRS Gralha Azul	378 b	41 c	0.31 b
T. Bio Iguaçu	510 b	88 c	0.42 b
FPS Nitron	375 b	56 c	0.31 b
Marfim	745 b	75 c	0.62 b
CV(%)	28.2	27.9	26.7
	Year 2016 (evaluated at	83 days after inoculation)	
Soybean	5002 a	1461 a	4.17 a
F. Cristalina	640 b	239 b	0.53 b
IPR 85	860 b	553 b	0.72 b
IPR 144	1992 b	561 b	1.66 b
IPR Catuara Tm	1462 b	607 b	1.22 b
BRS Tangará	1939 b	390 b	1.62 b
BRS Gaivota	3462 a	352 b	2.89 a
Quartzo	3138 a	630 b	2.62 a
BRS Sabiá	2220 b	884 a	1.85 b
BRS Gralha Azul	4522 a	538 b	3.77 a
T. Bio Iguaçu	2190 b	720 b	1.82 b
FPS Nitron	3580 a	1076 a	2.98 a
Marfim	3648 a	603 b	3.04 a
CV(%)	25.9	29.8	23.6

Means followed by the same letters within a column do not differ statistically according to Scott-Knott test at 5%. Original means were transformed by  $\sqrt{(x + 0.5)}$  for statistical analysis. CV = coefficient of variation (%).

In the first experiment with *M. javanica*, the total nematodes and the number of nematodes per gram of root did not differ statistically among BRS

Gaivota, BRS Sabiá and control. Cultivars F. Cristalina, IPR85, IPR 144, IPR Catuara Tm, Quartzo and FPS



Nitron also presented RF > 1.0, therefore were considered susceptible (Table 2).

In the second experiment, cultivars BRS Gaivota and IPR 85 did not differ from the control for

the total number of nematodes and RF. However, all cultivars presented the number of nematodes per gram of root lower than the control (Table 2). The lowest value for RF was verified on the cultivar FPS Nitron.

*Table 2:* Total nematode, nematode/g of root and Reproduction Factor (RF) of *Meloidogyne javanica* in different wheat cultivars inoculated with 1,200 eggs and J2 at two different experimental periods.

Year 2016 (evaluated at 60 days after inoculation)				
Treatment	Total Nematode	Nematode/g of root	RF	
Tomato	2445 a	856 a	2.04 a	
F. Cristalina	1450 b	379 b	1.21 b	
IPR 85	1437 b	423 b	1.20 b	
IPR 144	1735 b	345 b	1.45 b	
IPR CatuaraTm	1345 b	384 b	1.12 b	
BRS Tangará	1120 b	316 b	0.93 b	
BRS Gaivota	2785 a	321 b	2.32 a	
Quartzo	1517 b	337 b	1.26 b	
BRS Sabiá	2702 a	747 a	2.25 a	
BRS Gralha Azul	837 b	132 b	0.70 b	
T. Bio Iguaçu	925 b	210 b	0.77 b	
FPS Nitron	1350 b	325 b	1.12 b	
Marfim	1117 b	218 b	0.93 b	
CV(%)	24.5	31.7	26.2	
	Year 2016 (evaluated at 83	days after inoculation)		
Tomato	1910 a	376 a	1.59 a	
F. Cristalina	890 b	67 b	0.74 b	
IPR 85	1628 a	156 b	1.36 a	
IPR 144	872 b	89 b	0.73 b	
IPR Catuara Tm	1190 b	102 b	0.99 b	
BRS Tangará	712 b	69 b	0.59 b	
BRS Gaivota	1990 a	113 b	1.66 a	
Quartzo	960 b	61 b	0.80 b	
BRS Sabiá	733 b	52 b	0.61 b	
BRS Gralha Azul	1304 b	83 b	1.09 b	
T. Bio Iguacu	876 b	57 b	0.73 b	
FPS Nitron	342 b	23 b	0.28 b	
Marfim	764 b	53 b	0.64 b	
CV(%)	28.72	36.48	24.64	

Means followed by the same letters within a column do not differ statistically according to Scott-Knott test at 5%. Original means were transformed by  $\sqrt{(x + 0.5)}$  for statistical analysis. CV = coefficient of variation (%).

### DISCUSSION

For analysis of the cultivars responses to *P. brachyurus*, 83 DAI was the best experimental condition to identify differences among treatments. Probably the longest period for nematode multiplication favored the observation of susceptible cultivars, since little difference in responses was verified in the temperatures between experimental periods. Such results corroborate

those of Silveira (2012), who observed better detection of *P. brachyurus* reproduction at more than 60 DAI, in an initial population of 1,200 nematodes in soybean. In addition, the author also observed that the ideal period to identify maximum nematode reproduction was 80 DAI.

Despite variations, the studied cultivars were generally susceptible to *P. brachyurus*, except the cultivars F. Cristalina and IPR 85. Even through there



are a few studies about wheat reaction to this nematode, our results corroborate the findings of Chiamolera et al. (2012), who observed that the wheat cultivar CD 117 was one of the winter crops most susceptible to *P. brachyurus* in both field and greenhouse experiments.

However, our results differ from those obtained at North Carolina, where the population of *P. brachyurus* was decreased with winter wheat cultivation, when compared to fallow areas (KOENNING et al., 1985). In this case, factors such as soil type, wheat genotype and mainly climate have probably influenced the results. It is noteworthy that in addition to *P. brachyurus*, wheat hosts other species of root-lesion nematodes such as *P. penetrans* Cobb, *P. neglectus* and *P. thornei* (SMILEY et al., 2005; MOKRINI et al., 2016). Wheat cultivars resistant to *P. thornei* did not inhibit attraction and penetration of nematodes but restricted migration and reduced reproduction by inhibiting the maturation of second stage juveniles (J2) to third stage juveniles (J3) (LINSELL et al., 2014).

Greater multiplication of *M. javanica* was observed at 60 DAI. Probably this increased reproduction is related to the season in which experiment was performed. High temperatures on summer have probably facilitated nematode reproduction (KALOSHIAN et al., 1989) in the first experiment.

Our results for M. javanica agree with observations made in other works. Sharma (1981) found that 21 wheat varieties were susceptible to M. javanica by analyzing galls indices and egg masses of nematodes. In addition, the author verified the pathogenicity of *M. javanica* by comparing the cultivars Confiança (RF = 11.53) and Alondra 4546 (RF = 1.04). Both cultivars presented reduced root system and galls, followed by symptoms of dwarfism and yellowing (SHARMA, 1982). Howerver, Brida (2012) observed that cultivars CD-118, CD-104, CD-108, CD-150, BRS-220, BRS-Pardela and BRS-Tangará were resistant or immune to M. javanica and M. incognita (Kofoid and White) Chitwood. Costa and Ferraz (1990) verified that wheat did not have antagonistic effect to M. javanica when compared to pigeon pea (Cajanus cajan).

In our study, the cultivar BRS Tangará presented RF values of 0.93 and 0.59 in analyses at 60 and 83 DAI, whereas Brida (2012) classified the same cultivar as immune in two different experimental periods, both at 60 DAI. Substrate, experimental unit, cultural dealings are conditions that can influence in the nematode reproduction, among other factors. However, variations in response of the cultivar BRS Tangará could be also due to the initial population of nematode used in the study. Kaloshian et al. (1989) observed that different isolates of the same *M. incognita* race presented variable reproduction rate in wheat cultivars. The authors suggest that aggressive populations of a certain species of *Meloidogyne* can also reproduce in cultivars considered resistant. However, even with variations, BRS Tangará could still be used in areas infested with *M. javanica* since it would permit lower levels of reproduction than the other genetic materials evaluated in this study.

It is worth mentioning that some cultivars presented RF close to 1 under greenhouse conditions, where root systems developed in pots with a limited growth. Evidently this condition does not represent the reality of nematode reproduction and population maintenance under field conditions, where density of plants is higher as well as the volume of the root systems. In addition, a complete wheat cycle lasts approximately 120 days in the field.

The studied cultivars presented different responses to both nematodes in terms of multiplication. Therefore, in infested areas, the choice of a cultivar would influence the soil nematode population in terms of decrease, increase or maintenance.

Thus, this present study were possible to observe that wheat cultivars IPR Catuara TM, IPR 144, BRS Gralha Azul, BRS Sabiá, BRS Gaivota, BRS Tangará, Marfim, FPS Nitron, T.Bio Iguaçu and Quartzo were susceptible to *P. brachyurus*. Only cultivars F. Cristalina and IPR 85 were resistant to *P. brachyurus* under an initial population of 1,200 specimens. Cultivars BRS Gaivota, IPR 85, BRS Sabiá, F. Cristalina, IPR 144, IPR Catuara Tm, Quartzo, FPS Nitron and BRS Gralha Azul were susceptible to *M. javanica* in at least one experiment.

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