The knowledge on invertebrate fauna of Ranthambhore National Park (RNP) is meagre. Nematodes are found in all kinds of habitats. Several groups of nematodes inhabit soil, some are plant parasites others are predacious, while a large number of species are free living microphages. Each species plays a significant role in the ecosystem it inhabits. Baqri and Bohra (2003) have already published a paper reporting (Prothornenema capitatum & Latocephalus conicaudatus) one new genus and two new species from RNP. The present paper reports the species of plant and soil nematodes from soil samples collected by ZSI survey parties of Desert Regional Station, Jodhpur during 1999-2003 from RNP.

Study Area: Ranthambhore National Park is famous for its natural heritage and rich biodiversity including tigers. The total area of RNP is 1334.64 km². Popularly known as the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, it is situated in the south eastern part of Rajasthan. RNP is in Sawai Madhopur district stretching northeast of Sawai Madhopur town (76°23'-76°39'E & 25°84'-26°12'N).

Soil samples were collected and nematodes were fixed in hot 4% formalin and mounted in anhydrous glycerine. All the specimens included in the present study have been deposited and registered in National Zoological Collection of Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur.

The analysis yielded 23 species of plant and soil nematodes belonging to 21 genera of 12 families under four orders, viz., Tylenchida, Aphelenchida, Dorylaimida, and Mononchida. The results of the present study shows that great diversity of plant soil nematodes exist in Ranthambhore National Park. Among the recorded species, Longidorus pisi, Xiphinema orbum, Tylencholaimus paracassus and Aquatides aquaticus are being recorded for the first time from Rajasthan.

REFERENCES

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