



First report of *Hirschmanniella gracilis* in the UK causing necrosis to roots of tall fescue

T. Prior^{1*}, S. Hockland¹, R. Lawson¹ and G. Karssen²

¹ The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ, UK; ² Plant Protection Service, P.O. Box 9102, 6700 HC Wageningen, The Netherlands

*E-mail: thomas.prior@fera.gsi.gov.uk

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In July 2009, the obligate migratory endoparasitic nematode *Hirschmanniella gracilis* (de Man, 1880) Luc & Goodey, 1964 was found parasitising roots of tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.) collected from a riverbank, in the grounds of Castle Howard, York, UK (54.1236°N 0.9165°W). Symptoms of infestation included large necrotic lesions and stunting of roots. This is a new UK record for this genus, in which 37 of the 38 valid species (Sturhan & Hallmann, 2010) are listed in Annex IAI of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. This population has regularly areolated outer bands of the lateral field with occasional commissures present between inner incisures. The subventral pharyngeal glands end in a narrow extension. The shape of tail terminus and length of post anal intestinal sac were variable. Morphometrics of adult females were within reported ranges and are summarised thus (n = 9): L = 2.2 ± 0.1 (2.1-2.3) mm, a = 67.0 ± 5.2 (54.6-74.0), c = 17.8 ± 1.1 (15.6-19.0), c' = 5.4 ± 0.5 (4.8-6.7), V = 52.5 ± 1.7 (49.8-54.8), stylet = 22.5 ± 0.3 (22.1-22.8) µm, tail = 123 ± 12.1

(108-146) µm.

Specimens were preserved in TAF, processed to glycerol (Hooper, 1986) and deposited as voucher specimens in The Food and Environment Research Agency nematode collection.

References

Sturhan D, Hallmann J, 2010. The genus *Hirschmanniella* (Tylenchida: Pratylenchidae) in Europe, with description of *H. halophila* sp. n. from Germany and notes on *H. caudacrena*. *Nematology* (in press).

Hooper, DJ, 1986. Handling, fixing, staining and mounting nematodes. In: outhey JF, ed. *Laboratory methods for work with plant and soil nematodes*. Sixth Ed:MAFF, London. 59-80.



Figure 1

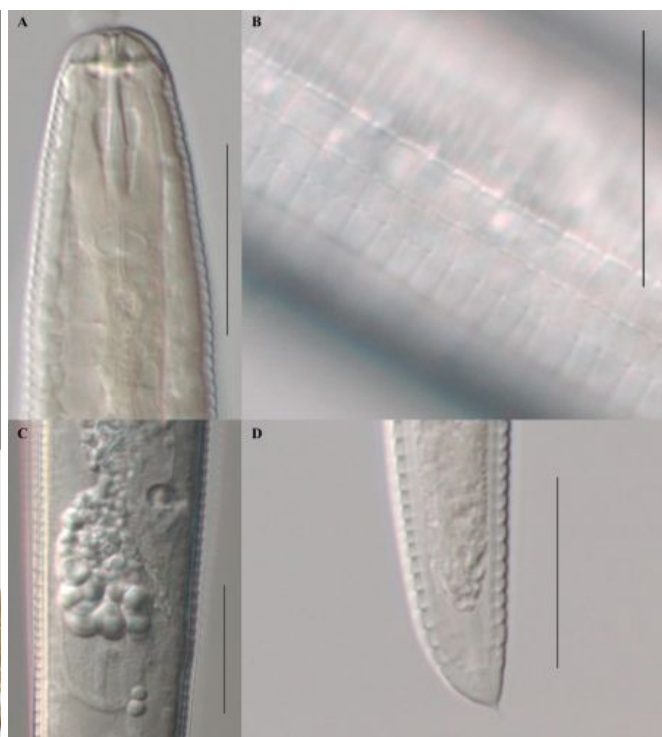


Figure 2

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