

Influence of Rice Rotation Systems on Soil Nematode Trophic Groups in Arkansas

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Abstract

The effects of crop rotation sequences and combinations on soil nematode populations were investigated. Tillage versus non-tillage treatments were applied to crop rotation sequences dominated by flooded rice in a split plot design. The rotated crops were rice, soybean, and corn, including a fallow for a total of eight rotation treatments. All nematode feeding groups were recovered i.e bacterial feeding-, fungal feeding-, plant feeding-, carnivorous-, and omnivorous- nematodes. A total of 24 nematode genera in 20 families were identified and categorized into their respective trophic groups and colonizer persister (cp) values. All rotations that included soybean significantly ($P<0.05$) or numerically increased soil nematode populations, irrespective of trophic groups, while all rotations that included rice and corn, had a nematode reductive effect. No-tillage plots recorded significantly higher populations of the predatory nematodes. The effectiveness of a rotation sequence depends primarily on the crop species and secondarily on soil conditions e.g anaerobic.

Keywords: Arkansas, Nematodes, Trophic groups, Rice rotations, Tillage, Anaerobic

1. Introduction

The success of crop rotations in soil pest suppression is predicated on mixing crop species sequences so as to create varying patterns of resource competition, allelopathic interference, soil disturbance, and mechanical disruptions. These conditions in turn lead to an unstable and frequently inhospitable environment that prevents the proliferation of a particular pest species (Roger *et al.*, 1989). How well a specific rotation might prevent pest species proliferation may or may not be mediated by tillage practices; particularly no-till where plant residues remain on the field. In this investigation, we measured nematode populations in a series of crop rotations (dominated by rice) that were conventional-and no-till managed. Arkansas ranks first among the six major rice-producing states, accounting for approximately 48 percent of the U.S. rice production. Rice production is concentrated in the eastern half of the state, stretching from the Louisiana to the Missouri borders. Arkansas rice is known for its versatility and can be used in a wide variety of cuisines. It is enjoyed in the United States and throughout the world. Rice production is a major backbone to the State's economy.

Aung and Prot (1990) reported on the effects of corn, cowpea, mungbean, rice, and sorghum on the population densities of *Pratylenchus zeae* in upland rice fields in the Philippines, they reported that the three cereal crops were very good nematode hosts, while the two legumes crops were resistant to this parasite. However, they observed that two successive cropping seasons were necessary to reduce nematode population densities to an acceptable low level. Rice grain yield when grown after cowpea and/or mungbean was significantly higher than that obtained after cereal crops. Grain yield of rice following rice was 37% lower than when it followed cowpea. Aung and Prot (1990) concluded that the control of *P. zeae* by crop rotations using cowpea or mungbean is

feasible. However, since the surviving nematodes multiply very rapidly on rice, rotating will protect only one rice crop (Aung and Prot, 1990).

In the past, several studies have been devoted to establishing a relationship between soil tillage and cropping patterns effects on soil organisms (Neher, 2001; Ferris and Matute, 2003; Smiley *et al.*, 2004; Adediran *et al.*, 2005; Roberts *et al.*, 2005) and in the case of soil nematodes, the emphasis has been on the plant-parasitic nematode populations. A strong influence of tillage practices and cropping patterns on nematode faunal composition and the soil food web has been reported in a legume-vegetable rotation system in California (Sanchez-Moreno *et al.*, 2006).

Crop rotation sequences that will reduce populations of plant feeding nematodes and increase populations of decomposer nematode guilds are desirable. We investigated the influence of crop rotation sequences on soil nematode populations in the rice agroecology of Stuttgart, Arkansas. Tillage versus non-tillage treatments were applied to crop rotation sequences in a split-plot design. While information on the effects of rotations and tillage on soil nematode populations already exists (Ferris and Matute, 2003; Minoshima *et al.*, 2007; Sanchez-Moreno *et al.*, 2006), this investigation includes specific rotations that are ecologically and economically relevant to rice production in Arkansas. Plant-parasitic nematodes are known to reduce the productivity of rice fields and also certain free-living nematodes are known to increase soil fertility. We were specifically interested in elucidating crops that should not be included in a rice rotation because they increased populations of plant-parasitic nematodes and also to elucidate crops that increased populations of free-living nematodes. Such information will be useful in the rice agroecology zone of Arkansas.

2. Research Methods

2.1 Study Site

Sampling plots for this field study were located at the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center, Stuttgart, Arkansas. Soil at the study site is a Dewitt silt loam. This is the prevalent soil type used for rice production in Arkansas. Soil properties measured following preparation of the site and before initial plantings indicate a pH range of 5.5 and a mean content of 0.71 g C Kg⁻¹ soil and 0.07 g N Kg⁻¹ soil. The study site was not previously used for cropping.

2.2 Experimental Design

Tillage versus non-tillage treatments were applied to crop rotation sequence in a split plot design. Main plots (76 m by 12 m) consisted of seven crop rotations. The main plots were split into sub-plots based on two tillage treatments (Conventional tillage and no-tillage). Each treatment had four replications. The rotated crops were *Oryza sativa* (rice), *Glycine max* (soybean), and *Zea mays* (corn/maize). The rotation combinations were as outlined in table I and each plot has been grown to three crops. Samples were collected at plant establishment and at harvest during the third rotation or cropping season. Conventional tillage treatments are tilled in the fall and spring as per standard farming practices while the no-till plots are not tilled and all residues remains on the plots. Rice plots were flooded before planting. For the cropping sequences, there were eight(8) rotation combinations designated as R-R-R, S-S-R, R-C-S etc including the control adjacent natural areas devoid of crops (= fallow) designated as F-F-F (table 1). When samples were collected planting was done between April and June and these crops harvested by October.

2.3 Soil sampling, nematode extraction and identification

Initial soil samples were collected in June after all crops have emerged and another set of samples collected from same plots in November, following crop harvest. Soil samples were collected using a 2.5 cm diameter foot driven soil sampler. Samples were collected to the hardpan depth (approximately 15-22 cm). A total of six-core sub-samples were collected and pooled by plot. These composite samples were mixed and nematodes were extracted from a 100 mL sub-sample using a combination of decanting, sieving and Baermann funnels methods (Barker, 1985). Nematodes were harvested after 72 hours. The first 15 mL were collected from each sample and all the nematodes counted at low magnification, and then at least 100 nematodes from each sample were identified to genus or family level at higher magnification (Ferris and Matute, 2003) and then adjusted to the total nematode count per sample. Nematodes recovered were categorized according to their trophic groups, families, genera, and colonizer persister (cp) classes (Yeates *et al.*, 1993).

2.4 Statistical Analyses

The parameters tested for statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$) on nematode categories included, rotation(R), tillage (T), sampling time (ST), and the interactions R x T, R x ST, T x ST, and R x T x ST. The statistical analyses were completed using SYSTAT 12 GLM procedure. Time of sampling was included in the

ANOVA in order to determine changes within each nematode feeding group attributable to rotation and /or tillage. A Turkey test at a $P<0.05$ level was used to separate treatment means.

3. Results

All nematode feeding guilds or groups were recovered i.e bacterial feeding-, fungal feeding-, plant feeding-, carnivorous-, and omnivorous- nematodes. A total of 24 nematode genera in 20 families were identified and categorized into their trophic groups and colonizer persister values (table 2). Trophic groups describe nematode feeding habits for example *Prismatolaimus* is a bacterial feeder (= Ba), *Helicotylenchus* is a plant feeder or plant parasite (= Pl), and *Mylonchulus* is a carnivore or predator (= Ca). Additionally, cp values (Bongers and Bongers, 1998) are numerical values that describe the size, length of life course, sensitivity to environmental perturbation, etc. For example, cp1 represents a small sized nematode with a very fast reproductive rate and it is not sensitive to environmental perturbation, while cp5 represents a large bodied nematode, with a slow reproductive rate, and is very sensitive to environmental disturbances.

3.1 Bacterivorous Nematodes (Ba)

There was no significant difference ($P<0.05$) in bacterivorous nematode populations between tillage treatments (table 3). There was a significant interaction ($P=0.032$) between ST x R, while all other interactions did not have a significant effect on these nematodes. Higher numbers of these nematodes were recovered during plant establishment as compared to harvest and in no-tillage plots as compared to conventional tillage, though these differences were not significant. In general all rotations that included soybeans recorded higher populations of these nematodes as compared to rotations that excluded soybeans. On the other hand lowest numbers of these nematodes were associated with R-R-C and C-C-R treatments.

3.2 Fungivorous Nematodes (Fu)

Populations of fungivorous nematodes were significantly affected by ST, R, and the interactions ST x T and ST x R x T (table 4). Populations of these nematodes were higher during plant establishment as compared to harvest time ($P=0.021$). Also rotation sequences that included soybean and rice e.g R-C-S, S-S-R, R-R-S, recorded significantly higher populations of these nematodes ($P=0.035$) as compared to rotations that included rice and corn e.g R-R-C and C-C-R. In addition the interactions ST x R and ST x R x T, significantly affected populations of these nematodes. It is noted that all treatments except the fallow included rice. Our data in table 4 shows that the treatment F-F-F recorded the highest number of fungivorous nematodes. This seems to suggest that rice has a proliferative effect on fungivorous nematodes. Tillage had no significant effect on these nematodes though the conventional-tillage plots recorded higher populations. We attribute this to the fact that conventional-till treatments were tilled in the fall thus organic crop residues were incorporated into the soil and, with winter rains, this enhanced fungal decomposition activities. Crop residues were not incorporated into the soil for the no-till treatments thus they remained on the soil surface where they dried out. These results do not support earlier literature showing that no-till results in higher fungivorous nematodes as compared to tillage regimes where crop residues are incorporated into the soil. Our data seems to suggest that organic matter left on the soil surface might not be an ideal environment for fungal decomposition (quick drying) thus fewer fungivorous nematodes.

3.3 Plant parasitic Nematodes (Pl)

Plant-parasitic nematodes are most often studied because of their ability to reduce crop yields. In this study plant-parasitic nematode populations were very highly significantly ($P<0.001$) affected by rotation (table 5). There was a highly significant ($P<0.01$) interaction of ST x R on populations of these nematodes. Overall plant-parasitic nematode numbers were lowest in the R-R-R rotation treatment indicating that parasitic nematodes specific to rice growing conditions (anaerobic) and parasitic to rice are yet to establish high population densities in these fields. Nematode populations were highest following crop harvest for the F-F-F, R-R-S, R-C-S, and R-S-C rotations. For the most part, rotation sequences that included soybean, favored higher populations of the parasitic nematodes, while the R-R-R and R-R-C rotations significantly reduced the populations of these herbivorous nematodes ($P<0.0005$)(table 5). Continuous rice (R-R-R) was the most effective in reducing plant-parasitic nematodes with nematode numbers as low as 16 nematodes 100 mL^{-1} soils.

3.4 Omnivorous Nematodes (Om)

Of all the variables measured, only tillage had a significant affect ($P=0.03$) on the populations of the omnivorous nematodes (table 6). The no-till plots had higher populations of this nematode trophic group when compared to the conventionally tilled plots. Although no statistically significant difference was found for the effect of rotation on the omnivore nematode populations, table 6 shows that all crop rotations reduced populations of these nematodes when compared to the fallow treatment (F-F-F). The exception was the R-C-S rotation that supported

more of these nematodes than the fallow. Among the rotation combinations, R-R-R, R-C-S and R-S-C, recorded the highest numbers of these nematodes.

3.5 Carnivorous or Predatory Nematodes (Ca)

Unlike the previous nematode trophic groups already listed above, carnivorous nematode numbers were not significantly different for any of the main effects (table 7). Only the ST x T interaction had a significant ($P<0.005$) effect on the populations of the carnivorous nematodes. Predatory nematode numbers were greater in the no-till plots regardless of when samples were collected. There was a significant decrease in nematode numbers for both tillage treatments in the later sampling but no significant difference in the tillage treatments in the same sampling time. These results represent a pooling of all rotation effects and suggest that predatory nematode populations increase between growing seasons and decrease during the growing season regardless of the crop grown. This off-season increase is attributed to a soil surface that is protected by crop residue and higher organic matter levels in no-till plots.

3.6 Total Nematode Abundance (N)

Pooling counts from all nematode families recovered resulted in no significant ($P<0.05$) differences in ST or T (table 8). The main effect of rotation was significantly different ($P=0.029$) along with ST x T interaction. This finding is consistent with previous data reported for the respective nematode trophic groups i.e bacterial feeders, fungal feeders, plant-parasitic, omnivores, and predatory nematodes.

Summary: All rotations that included *G. max* significantly ($P<0.05$) or numerically increased soil nematode populations, irrespective of trophic groups, while all rotations that included *O. sativa* and *Z. mays*, had a nematode reductive effect. For example, there were 428 bacterivorous nematodes per 100 mL soil in the R-C-S rotation compared to the 336 nematodes/100 mL soil for the R-R-R ($P=0.06$). Similarly, for the plant feeders the rotation combination R-C-S recorded 140 nematodes per 100 mL soil compared to 16 nematodes per 100 mL soil for the R-R-R combination ($P<0.001$). These data indicate that rice and corn are not suitable hosts to the nematodes recovered in this study. The relative contributions of the bacterivore, fungivore, herbivore, omnivore, and carnivore nematode guilds to total nematode numbers was 42.1, 42.1, 9.5, 5.6, and 0.7 percent respectively.

4. Discussion

In our study all five nematode trophic groups (bacterivores, fungivores, plant-parasites or herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores or predators) were recovered. Consistently, all rotation treatments containing soybean provided a conducive environment for the proliferation of these nematodes. Accordingly, all rotations with a soybean component had significantly or numerically higher nematode populations than rotations excluding soybean. In a previous study, Ferris and Matute (2003) reported that cumulative amounts of N mineralization in field plots was directly related to the nematode Enrichment Index (EI) which is based on the abundance of opportunistic bacterial- and fungal-feeding nematodes. Fungi- and bacterial-feeding nematodes and other organisms that graze on primary decomposers accelerate the decomposition of soil organic matter and increase mineralization, thus releasing nutrients for plant growth (Chen and Ferris, 1999; Akhtar and Malik, 2000; Neher, 2001; Ferris and Matute, 2003). In our investigation, the bacterial and fungal feeding nematodes constituted over 85 percent of total nematode numbers.

With the exception of omnivorous nematodes, there was no significant difference between convention- and no-till fields in their bacterivorous, fungivorous, plant-parasitic, and carnivorous nematode populations. Previously, it was reported that bacterial-feeding nematodes were stimulated by tillage and were dominant in tilled plots (Wardle, 1995; Lenz and Eisenbeis, 2000). However, in our investigation bacterial-feeding nematode populations were slightly higher in no-till plots when compared to tilled plots. A probable explanation for this apparent discrepancy is attributed to the fact that our rotation study included soybean that created a hospitable microenvironment for the proliferation of these nematodes regardless of tillage or intact soils. In our investigation, a hospitable or conducive environment was one that contains lots of decomposing plant residue as was the case with the no-till as compared to the conventional till.

Our investigation concludes that rotations including soybean resulted in significantly or numerically higher nematode populations irrespective of trophic groups and also that no-till fields did not necessarily result in increased nematode populations as would have been expected (Nakamoto *et al.*, 2006). It is possible that the inclusion of rice (a flooded crop) disrupts the habitat to such an extent that nematode numbers do not follow trends reported in studies that do not contain a flooded crop. With rice, we do not only change the available food source but the field is anaerobic which results in habitat changes.

Omnivorous nematode numbers were significantly higher in no-till plots when compared to conventional-till plots. The positive effects of limiting physical disturbance may include increases in the abundance of nematode fauna (Kakamoto *et al.*, 2006). Most organisms are more abundant in no-till than in conventional-till systems and larger-bodied organisms are especially sensitive to soil disruption (Kladivko, 2001). The omnivorous nematodes recovered in this study included *Mesodorylaimus*, *Eudorylaimus* and *Thornenema*. These nematodes have colonizer-persister (cp) values of cp4 and cp5 respectively. These values place them in the larger-bodied nematode category and thus would be expected to be less prevalent in soils that are disturbed or conventionally-tilled. Our results therefore corroborate earlier reports.

Plant-parasitic nematodes are a leading biotic cause of plant yield reduction (second only to drought) (Opperman and Bird, 2001). World-wide, 10 percent of annual rice production is lost due to plant-parasitic nematodes (Sasser and Freckman, 1987) and up to 50-90 percent in parts of Asia (Hashioka, 1963). An abundance of plant parasitic nematodes in rice plots will therefore be an indication of poor soil health, poor plant growth, and poor grain yield. In our study, rotations containing a rice or corn phase significantly reduced parasitic nematode populations, especially in the continuous rice rotation. In a crop rotation study by Aung and Prot (1990), they reported that grain yield of rice following rice was 37% lower than when it followed cowpea. Aung and Prot (1990) concluded that the control of *Pratylenchus zeae* (plant-parasitic nematode) by crop rotations using cowpea or mungbean was feasible. However, in our investigation we found that the continuous rice rotation treatment (R-R-R) was the most effective in keeping rice parasitic nematode populations at very low levels (16 nematodes 100 mL⁻¹ soil). In the Stuttgart Arkansas area there are rice fields that have been under continuous rice production for up to 50 years and they are still very productive. This suggests that continuous rice cropping does not necessarily lead to a build-up of rice parasitic nematodes but rather seems to have a suppressive effect on their population densities. However, a reduction in these root-feeders and an increase in the populations of the decomposer guilds (bacterivores and fungivores) will be ideal for maintaining healthy soils and improving soil fertility.

Overall higher fungivorous nematode numbers at plant establishment as compared to following harvest suggests that plots that are flooded (anaerobic) do not promote high populations of these nematodes. Flooding and soil fumigation effectively control several diseases and weeds and are harmful to many other soil organisms (van Os *et al.*, 2008). In a study to investigate the effects of flooding and non-flooding on Earthworm communities, Ivask *et al.* (2006) reported that flooded plots had less species diversity when compared to non-flooded plots. Our results corroborate these earlier reports in that we had lower fungal-feeding nematode populations in flooded or previously flooded plots.

Depending on the component crops in a rotation, rotations may either result in an increase in the abundance of soil nematodes or a decrease. In our study we note that rice and corn rotations have a nematode population suppressive effect while on the other hand soybean rotations have a nematode population proliferative effect. We also note that an additional factor to rotation combination is management practice. Thus continuous rice plots that were flooded created anaerobic conditions that were very effective in the suppression of nematode populations, especially the plant-parasitic nematodes.

There have been numerous studies that have attempted to make a direct correlation between soil nematode numeric abundance and conventional-tillage and/or intact soils. For example the studies by Wardle (1995), Bulluck *et al.* (2002), Liphadzi (2005), Lenz and Eisenbeis (2000), Ferris and Matute (2003), and many others. The only consistency in such studies is the establishment of a direct relationship between large-bodied nematodes particularly predators and no-till soils i.e predatory nematodes are absent or significantly reduced in disturbed soils. For all other nematode trophic groups, varied results have been reported. From our results, it seems the crop type and the respiratory conditions of the soil are the primary and secondary determinants respectively of nematode suppressivity or proliferation as opposed to tillage and intact soils. Thus soybean containing rotations promote nematode proliferation as compared to rotations without soybean and flooded anaerobic conditions were suppressive to nematode population density build-up.

The Stuttgart agroecology zone is the major rice production area of Arkansas. Rice, Corn and Soybean are the major crops grown, often in rotation. Our investigation concludes that rice plots should exclude soybeans in a rotation because they create a microenvironment conducive for the proliferation of plant-parasitic nematodes that could lead to low rice yield. However, considering that soybeans significantly increases the populations of bacterivorous and fungivorous nematodes associated with soil fertility, the decision to use or not to use soybean in a rice rotation therefore, may need further study from a yield perspective.

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Table 1. Crops, rotation combinations, rotation sequences and designation of rotation treatments

Crops/Treatment	Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation Designation
Fallow	Fallow	Fallow	Fallow	F-F-F
Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	R-R-R
Rice, Soybean	Rice	Rice	Soybean	R-R-S
Soybean, Rice	Soybean	Soybean	Rice	S-S-R
Rice, Corn	Rice	Rice	Corn	R-R-C
Corn, Rice	Corn	Corn	Rice	C-C-R
Rice, Corn, Soybean	Rice	Corn	Soybean	R-C-S
Rice, Soybean, Corn	Rice	Soybean	Corn	R-S-C

Table 2. Trophic guilds, families, genera, and cp values for nematodes recovered from one fallow and seven rotations that were sampled following plant establishment and following harvest

Trophic Guilds	Families	Genera	cp values
Bacterial Feeders	Rhabditidae, Panagrolaimidae	<i>Rhabditis, Mesorhabditis, Poikilolaimus, Panagrolaimus</i>	Ba ₁
	Cephalobidae, Plectidae	<i>Acrobeloides, Cephalobus, Plectus</i>	Ba ₂
	Prismatolaimidae	<i>Prismatolaimus</i>	Ba ₃
Fungal Feeders	Aphelenchoididae, Aphelenchidae	<i>Aphelenchoides, Aphelenchus</i>	Fu ₂
Plant Feeders or Plant parasites	Tylenchidae, Psilenchidae, Paratylenchidae	<i>Tylenchus, Psilenchus, Paratylenchus</i>	Pl ₂
	Belonolaimidae, Pratylenchidae, Heteroderidae, Hoplolaimidae	<i>Tylenchorhynchus, Pratylenchus, Heterodera, Helicotylenchus</i>	Pl ₃
	Trichodoridae	<i>Paratrichodorus</i>	Pl ₄
	Longidoridae	<i>Xiphinema</i>	Pl ₅
	Mononchidae	<i>Mylonchulus, Mononchus</i>	Ca ₄
Omnivorous nematodes	Dorylaimidae, Qudsianematidae	<i>Mesodorylaimus, Labronema</i>	Om ₄
	Thornenematidae	<i>Thornenema</i>	Om ₅

Symbols are Ba = Bacterivore, Fu = Fungivore, Pl = Plant feeder or plant parasite, Ca = Carnivore or Predator, Om = Omnivore, cp = colonizer-persister (cp) value

Table 3. Summary of ANOVA main effects, probability values, and main effect treatment mean square values for Bacterivorous nematode numbers in 100ml soil samples collected at plant establishment and following harvest from one fallow and seven rotation plots

<i>Variable</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Value</i>
Sample Time (ST)	0.2594	Harvest = 295 Plant establishment = 356
Rotation (R)	0.0601	F-F-F = 280 R-R-R = 336 R-R-S = 351 S-S-R = 330 R-R-C = 237 C-C-R = 275 R-C-S = 428 R-S-C = 366
Tillage (T)	0.9035	Conventional = 320 No-till = 330
ST x R	0.0325	
R x T	0.4103	
ST x T	0.1322	
ST x R x T	0.5889	

Symbols are R= rice, S= soybeans, C= corn, F= fallow.

Table 4. Summary of ANOVA main effects, probability values, and main effect treatment mean square values for Fungivorous nematode numbers in 100ml soil samples collected at plant establishment and following harvest from one fallow and seven rotation plots

<i>Variable</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Value</i>
Sample Time (ST)	0.0210	Harvest = 290 Plant establishment = 428
Rotation (R)	0.0359	F-F-F = 552 R-R-R = 260 R-R-S = 400 S-S-R = 421 R-R-C = 281 C-C-R = 255 R-C-S = 457 R-S-C = 249
Tillage (T)	0.7005	Conventional = 376 No-till 342
ST x R	0.0102	
R x T	0.0586	
ST x T	0.9373	
ST x R x T	0.0268	

Symbols are R= rice, S= soybeans, C= corn, F= fallow.

Table 5. Summary of ANOVA main effects, probability values, and main effect treatment mean square values for Plant-parasitic nematode numbers in 100ml soil samples collected at plant establishment and following harvest from one fallow and seven rotation plots

<i>Variable</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Value</i>
Sample Time (ST)	0.0629	Harvest = 129 Plant establishment = 46
Rotation (R)	0.0005	F-F-F = 175 R-R-R = 16 R-R-S = 109 S-S-R = 71 R-R-C = 35 C-C-R = 63 R-C-S = 140 R-S-C = 90
Tillage (T)	0.7005	Conventional = 82 No-till = 93
ST x R	0.0013	
R x T	0.6242	
ST x T	0.9882	
ST x R x T	0.7909	

Symbols are R= rice, S= soybeans, C= corn, F= fallow.

Table 6. Summary of ANOVA main effects, probability values, and main effect treatment mean square values for Omnivorous nematode numbers in 100ml soil samples collected at plant establishment and following harvest from one fallow and seven rotation plots

<i>Variable</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Value</i>
Sample Time (ST)	0.1684	Harvest = 29 Plant establishment = 63
Rotation (R)	0.7488	F-F-F = 59 R-R-R = 55 R-R-S = 26 S-S-R = 40 R-R-C = 38 C-C-R = 30 R-C-S = 64 R-S-C = 55
Tillage (T)	0.0267	Conventional = 34 No-till = 58
ST x R	0.4640	
R x T	0.1528	
ST x T	0.8096	
ST x R x T	0.2644	

Symbols are R= rice, S= soybeans, C= corn, F= fallow.

Table 7. Summary of ANOVA main effects, probability values, and main effect treatment mean square values for Carnivorous nematode numbers in 100ml soil samples collected at plant establishment and following harvest from one fallow and seven rotation plots

<i>Variable</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Value</i>
Sample Time (ST)	0.1350	Harvest = 12 Plant establishment = 0
Rotation (R)	0.2612	F-F-F = 10 R-R-R = 5 R-R-S = 4 S-S-R = 11 R-R-C = 4 C-C-R = 4 R-C-S = 5 R-S-C = 3
Tillage (T)	0.2083	Conventional = 3 No-till = 9
ST x R	0.2540	
R x T	0.1065	
ST x T	0.0052	
ST x R x T	0.1088	

Symbols are R= rice, S= soybeans, C= corn, F= fallow.

Table 8. Summary of ANOVA main effects, probability values, and main effect treatment mean square values for Total nematode numbers in 100ml soil samples collected at plant establishment and following harvest from one fallow and seven rotation plots

<i>Variable</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Value</i>
Sample Time (ST)	0.5750	Harvest = 838 Plant establishment = 810
Rotation (R)	0.0292	F-F-F = 1077 R-R-R = 672 R-R-S = 890 S-S-R = 874 R-R-C = 595 C-C-R = 627 R-C-S = 1095 R-S-C = 763
Tillage (T)	0.9341	Conventional = 815 No-till = 833
ST x R	0.0092	
R x T	0.2120	
ST x T	0.5423	
ST x R x T	0.3827	

Symbols are R= rice, S= soybeans, C= corn, F= fallow.