During a survey of nematode attacks in the crop plants of the Southern Highlands Province, Tanganyika Territory, the writer found roots of banana plants at Makete and Rutengano, Rungwe district to be swollen and cracked. At first this was thought to be due to the invasion of the roots by a species of the nematode genus, *Meloidogyne* Goeldi but further examination revealed heavy populations of a new species of *Hoplolaimus* von Daday, 1905 in affected roots. Sher (1954) reported the occurrence of numerous specimens of *Hoplolaimus* sp. around declining banana plants in Hawaii. While the roots of banana plants are widely attacked in East Africa by species of *Pratylenchus* Filipjev, 1934, *Meloidogyne* Goeldi, 1887 and *Rotylenchus* Filipjev, 1934, invasions of *Hoplolaimus* spp. are not common. This is the first fully identified species of *Hoplolaimus* to be recorded as a parasite of the banana (*Musa paradisiaca* L. v. sapientum) and the first record of such an attack in East Africa.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DISEASE**

While a few specimens of *Hoplolaimus angustalatus* were found with an ecto-parasitic habit, the head being imbedded in the root cortex and the rest of the body lying outside the root, the majority of the large populations found were endoparasitic.

The earliest visible root symptom is the appearance of dark brown, narrow pustules about 1 or 2 mm long on the surface of the root, which lie parallel with the root axis. These pustules contain specimens of *H. angustalatus* and owe their dark brown coloration to the cortical necrosis, which arises in the vicinity of the head of each nematode. As the nematodes invade the deeper cortical tissue, the necrosis becomes more extensive and may develop along the length of the invaded root. The pustule distintegrates giving rise to an elongate, ulcerated lesion, which
enlarges with the growth in girth of the affected root (Fig. 1). The histopathology of this disease will be published later.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARASITE

(Figs. 2 and 3)

_Hoplolaimus angustalatus_ n. sp.

_Diagnosis._ — Hoplolaiminae. Head with six lips without papillae; four or five annules at least three of which divided longitudinally into numerous minute blocks, lowest annule bearing about twenty. Guide ring surrounds fore part of spear. Basal knobs of spear each bear three to five “teeth” on anterior margin. Body annules interrupted by vestigial lateral fields. Large posterior oesophageal region. Excretory pore situated opposite junction of isthmus with posterior region of oesophagus and on ventral surface, while hemizonid lies about eight annules posterior to excretory pore. Male only slightly shorter than female. Gubernaculum non-cephalate distally and without titillae. Telamon not observed.

**Dimensions**

\[18 \varnothing \varnothing : L = 1.045 - 1.620 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 1.399 \pm 0.028)\]

\[a = 20 - 30\]

\[b = 4.2 - 8.5\]

\[c = 52 - 89\]

\[V = 51.1 - 77.5\%\]

Body width at oesophago-intestinal junction

\[= 0.045 - 0.055 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 0.048 \pm 0.010)\]

Body width at anus \[= 0.031 - 0.039 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 0.035 \pm 0.01)\]

\[14 \delta \delta : L = 1.261 - 1.467 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 1.328 \pm 0.020)\]

\[a = 25 - 31\]

\[b = 5.3 - 8.2\]

\[c = 34 - 48\]

Length of spicule \[= 0.044 - 0.057 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 0.051 \pm 0.001)\]

Length of gubernaculum \[= 0.021 - 0.026 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 0.023 \pm 0.0004)\]

Length of bursa \[= 0.067 - 0.088 \text{ mm (}\bar{x} = 0.077 \pm 0.002)\]

_Holotype_ \(\varnothing \) \(L = 1.423 \text{ mm; } a = 23; b = 7.1; c = 89; V = 56.8\%\).

_Allootype_ \(\delta \) \(L = 1.405 \text{ mm; } a = 28; b = 5.9; c = 43\).