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Editor's Corner

You can now send your newsletter items to the Nematology Newsletter editor via FAX. The number is 615-974-7448. Be sure your cover sheet directs the transmission to Dr. E. C. Bernard, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37901-1071.

In the challenge to find a *new* common name for *Meloidogyne arenaria* (NNL 35 [1], March 1989: Name That Nematode!), there were no entries or suggestions! For the present, it appears that "peanut root-knot nematode" will continue to be nematology's little inside joke.

Influence of parity of the year of publication on the validity of the species in the genus *Xiphinema* (Nemata: Longidoridae)

by Michel Luc¹ and Renaud Fortuner²

To date, the genus *Xiphinema* Cobb, 1913 includes 149 valid species. Another 25 species proposed in the genus were later shown to be minor synonyms of previously described species. Publication dates for all the species in this genus range from 1893 to 1987. This wide range, and the high number of described species, gave enough material for a statistical analysis of the parity of the year of publication of the successive species.

Of the 149 valid species, 98 were published in odd years, only 51 were published in even years. Table 1 shows the results of a chi-square test of goodness of fit for these data. The result (chi-square = 14.8255) is very highly significant (P 1% = 6.63).

Considering that there is a total of 174 nominal *Xiphinema* species, with 98 originally published in an odd year, and 51 published in an even year, and considering that 25 species were later synonymized, 155 synonym species should have been published during a odd year,

and 95 species during an even year. The actual numbers are respectively 10 and 15. Table 2 again shows a significant deviation from normality.

Conclusions:

1) We strongly recommend that authors of a new species in *Xiphinema* make sure that its description is published during an odd year. They will have the best chances that it is not later synonymized. 2) We also strongly recommend that the readers: i) do not take this note too seriously; and ii) do realize that it resembles many scientific articles written by authors quite serious.

Table 1. Chi-square test of goodness of fit for the parity of the year of publication of valid *Xiphinema* species

	fi observed	Fi expected	Probability
Odd years	98	74.5	7.411275
Even years	51	74.5	7.411275
Total	149	149	14.82555

Table 2. Chi-square test of goodness of fit for the parity of the year of publication of nonvalid *Xiphinema* species.

	fi observed	Fi expected	Probability
Odd years	10	15.5	1.951613
Even years	15	9.5	3.184211
Total	25	25	5.135824

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