

Simplified Key of most common plant parasitic
nematode genera in California
Mundo-Ocampo and Baldwin, 2006

1. Enlarged spherical females. Vermiform* second stage juveniles _____ 2
Vermiform females and juveniles _____ 3
2. Females in host galls, juveniles with thin (delicate) stylet _____ *Meloidogyne*
Females attached to roots without galls, forming lemon shape cyst: second stage juveniles with
robust stylet _____ *Heterodera*
3. Cuticular annulation inconspicuous, visible only under high magnification _____ 4
Heavy annulation (corrugated) visible under dissecting microscope _____ *Criconemella*
4. Three part esophagus. Stylet with knobs _____ 5
Two part esophagus. Stylet with flanges _____ *Xiphinema*
5. One ovary, vulva located in the posterior region of the body (80%) _____ *Pratylenchus*
Two ovaries, vulva located at midbody _____ 6
6. Stylet length more than two times body width at level of knobs _____ *Belonolaimus*
Stylet less than two times body width at level of knobs and spiral body
shape _____ *Helicotylenchus*

*Vermiform= having a long, thin, cylindrical shape.