

**On a new Tylenchid Nematode Parasite from soil  
around roots of safron corm *Crocus sativus*,  
in Pampore, Kashmir.**

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Large number of nematode parasites were collected from soil around the roots of safron corm (*Crocus sativus*) in the safron fields of Pampore, Kashmir, in the flowering season of October. The nematodes belong to the family Tylenchidae Orley, 1880 and sub-family Tylenchinae (Orley, 1880) Marcinowski, 1909. They were morphologically different from other Genera in the sub-family Tylenchinae (including the genus *Tylenchus* Bastian, 1865; under which *T. kashmirensis* has been described by Mahajan (1973) from soil around the roots of *crocus sativus* from Kashmir), in having deeply annulated cuticle, presence of aerolations in the lateral field, with a highly thickened and convoluted excretory duct leading into a large renett cell and a well developed spear with slightly assymetrical knobs.

The present Tylenchid is found to be nearer to *Irantylenchus* Kheri, 1972 but differs from it in the general structure of the spear knobs, position of dorsal oesophageal gland orifice, nature of excretory duct, shape of female tail and in the presence of aerolations in the lateral field.

The present tylenchid is accordingly assigned to a new genus, *Aerotylenchus* to accommodate the new species, *Aerotylenchus safroni*.

A revised key to the genera in sub-family Tylenchinae is proposed in the paper.