

HOST SPECIFICITY OF THE NEMATODE, *ORRINA PHYLLOBIA* (THORNE)
BRZESKI, A POTENTIAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT OF SILVER-LEAF
NIGHTSHADE (*SOLANUM ELAEAGNIFOLIUM* CAV.) IN AUSTRALIA

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Abstract. The leaf-galling nematode, *Orrina phyllobia*, was screened against 118 taxa of plants in host specificity tests to determine its suitability as a biological control agent of silver-leaf nightshade, *Solanum elaeagnifolium* in Australia. Only species in the genus *Solanum* and from the Sections Oliganthes and Melongena appeared to be suitable hosts for the nematode. No representatives screened from the Sections Solanum, Dulcamara, Jasminosolanum, Archaeosolanum, Brevantherum, Pseudocapsica, Androceras, Graciliflorum or Petota were galled. As the nematode produced galls on 13 native *Solanum* species and 13 of 15 *S. melongena* (egg plant) cultivars tested, the lack of adequate specificity of *O. phyllobia* makes this nematode an unsuitable agent for release in Australia.