

NEMYS: AN ONLINE NEMATODE IDENTIFICATION AND TAXONOMICAL TOOL.

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Nemys is an online biogeographical information system, accessible through <http://www.nemys.ugent.be/>. Due to its generic structure, this tool can be used for the storage of taxonomical and biogeographical data of many taxa. At the moment NeMys is used for data on mysids, nematodes, turbellaria, peperomia, amphibians, reptiles and ladybirds. In total, information on more than 8500 taxa is available. The nematode part of the database consist of 3500 references to 8727 taxa, 5862 distribution records and 13100 media files. From almost all nematode species, morphological and morphometric information is available thereby facilitating nematode identification at species level. Since the start of MarBEF-MANUELA, considerable effort is spent on providing online nematode identification keys to genus and species level. This was done to stimulate meiobenthology in areas where the pictorial keys of Platt & Warwick and Warwick, Platt & Somerfield are not readily available. Moreover, species descriptions provided in the latter pictorial key are limited to those species occurring around the UK. Since Nemys provides information on almost all marine species ever described, we make it possible to identify species in most parts of the world. In addition, “private workspaces” were made available in NeMys in order to facilitate communication between scientists working on the same project or within the same area. Here, pictures and drawings of undescribed species can be shared and discussed with a limited number of users while these are not accessible for scientists outside this workbench. As an extra tool, a methodological section provides information on sampling and lab treatment of samples, again in order to facilitate meiobenthic research around the globe.