NEMYS: AN ONLINE NEMATODE INDICATION AND TAXONOMICAL TOOL

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NeMys is an online biogeographical information system, accessible through 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, ladybirds and phytoplankton. In total, information on more than 15,000 taxa is available. The taxonomic content of the nematode part of the database has been updated and all non-marine species have been removed. It now consists of 2,353 references, 8,895 taxa, 5,733 map records and 11,929 media files. From almost all nematode species, morphological and morphometric information is available thereby facilitating nematode identification at species level. New online nematode identification keys to genus and species level have been added and the pictorial keys of Platt and Warwick (1988) and Warwick *et al.* (1998) have been incorporated. 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 not yet described 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.

Keywords: database, nematodes, taxonomy, bioinformatics, online repository

References

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