

Update on Nemys/WoRMS – An evolving online database with taxonomic and ecological information on nematodes

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Nemys is an online Taxonomic database that was created in the 1990's to help students and researchers with the identification of marine nematodes. In 2014 Nemys was integrated with WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species) to provide a broader access platform. The progress of Nemys in the last four years involved, among other activities, the inclusion of new editors. The editor's team grew from 10 to 15, adding mainly experts on continental (terrestrial and fresh-water) nematodes. This move expanded the scope of Nemys by providing taxonomic and ecological expertise and information across a wider range of ecosystems. The editors' workshops in 2015 and 2018 provided an opportunity to discuss ongoing issues and ways to improve the usefulness of the database to researchers and end-users. The list of missing authorities and environment, for each species, was completed; new taxa have and are continuously being uploaded; the database is being expanded to include soil, plant- and animal parasitic nematodes; information on type material, original description and distribution are also being updated. The importance of complete and accurate morphological descriptions was also discussed and a manuscript with a review of morphological characters used for species descriptions and their presentation in taxonomic papers is being drafted (see also poster by Mokievsky et al.). Our aim is to enhance the use of Nemys for ecological studies and as a tool for biomonitoring of marine and freshwater sediments in addition to its taxonomic usefulness. The Nemys database remains a work in progress, and in order to help us improve the database in the future, we encourage users to provide their feedback or queries directly to the editors who will be happy to help.

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