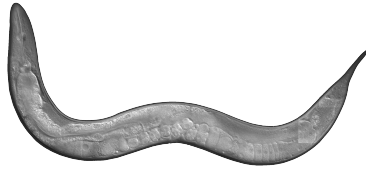


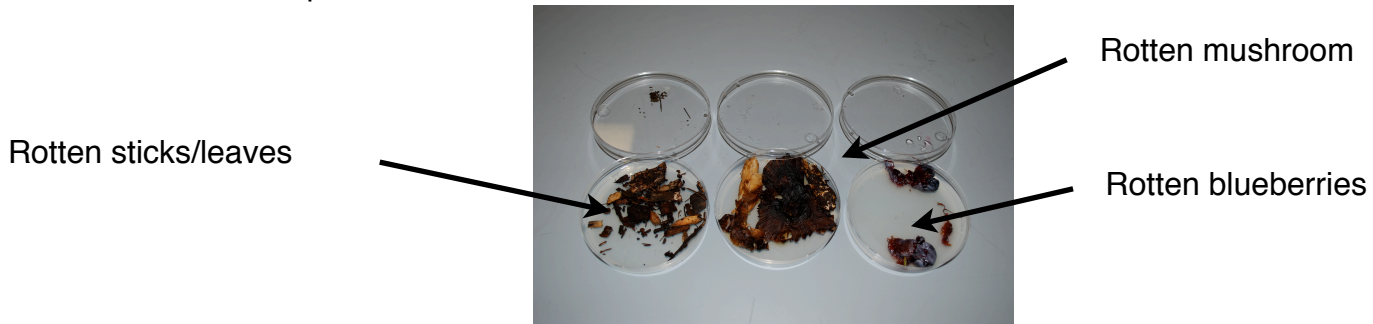
Thank you for collecting worms!



Nematodes are small invertebrate worms about a millimeter long. This image is magnified many times. The actual size of this animal is about the size of this period.

Nematodes eat bacteria and fungi that grow on decaying material. These animals are found in soil, compost, and rotting vegetation (fruit, flowers, cacti, mushrooms, etc), but we encourage you to collect any rotting vegetation. No one knows how rotten the material has to be. We've collected nematodes from two-day old tomatoes left in the soil and from two-week old apples next to the tree.

Here are some examples:



You can collect from anywhere. If you collect near your home, leave old fruit or vegetables outside for a few days, wait until the material is collapsed from rotting, then collect after a few more days.

The collection process:

1. Read through these directions entirely. Email us with any questions.
2. Note the location, date, time, material collected. Photographs and GPS coordinates of the location are great!
3. Label the top and bottom of the outside of the plate with the information from step 2.
4. Put several small pieces of rotting material on the surface of the agar plate (see picture). Harmless bacterial food is growing on the surface of the agar plate. Please wear the gloves we provided when handling rotting material. Cover the plate with the lid. Don't worry if it doesn't close all the way.
5. Keep the plate for two days away from direct sunlight, if outside keep the plate away from scavenging animals.
6. After two days, remove and dispose of the rotten material.
7. Seal the plate with parafilm (provided in the envelope) by stretching and wrapping the plate.
8. Stack all of the plates you collected.
9. Put on the plastic sleeve by sliding it over the vertical stack of plates.
10. Put in the box shipped to you.
11. Affix the pre-paid shipping label to the box.
12. Drop off the box at a FedEx location not long before pick up. Do not leave it in the hot box all day!

If you have any questions, please email erik.andersen@northwestern.edu

Thank you very much for advancing biomedical science!

Erik

Box contents: This protocol, agar plates, plastic bag, marker, envelope of parafilm, gloves, shipping labels.

Thank you for collecting worms!

Name:				
Plate number	Date of isolation	Time of day	Location	Material collected
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
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19				
20				