

BIOGEOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN



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THE BIOGEOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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5.3. Antarctic free-living marine nematodes

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1. Introduction

Nematodes or roundworms are the most pervasive metazoans on the planet (i.e. 80% of all living terrestrial metazoans and >90% in deep-sea ecosystems; Danovaro 2012) and have successfully exploited nearly every imaginable habitat. They can be found from high mountains down to the deepest depths in the oceans; they have even been recovered from the deep subsurface biosphere at 3.5 km depth where they are able to exploit the available resources (Borgonie et al. 2011); and can live as parasites in many organisms. Nematodes come in different sizes, from minute worms in sediments a few tenths of millimeters in length, to large parasitical forms which may be a few meters long. Most nematodes, however, don't exceed a few millimeters in length. About 16,000 nematode species have been described as parasites causing numerous diseases in vertebrate organisms and plants, and these have been studied intensively in the context of socio-economical and medical interests (e.g. Chan 1997, Chitwood 2003). The free-living nematodes, on the other hand, are perhaps less known despite their ubiquity and high levels of biodiversity. Free-living nematodes are amongst the most speciose marine benthic organisms in the world (Snelgrove 1999), with nearly 7000 recognised marine species and many more undescribed or undiscovered (Appeltans et al. 2012). Estimates for marine nematode diversity may range from 10,000 to 1,000,000, depending on the source and how 'conservative' or 'liberal' the estimate itself was (Lambshead 1993, Mokievsky & Azovsky 2002, Snelgrove 1999). More recently, Appeltans and co-authors (2012) showed that about 50,000 species is a more accurate estimate of total expected nematode diversity, meaning that nearly 90% of nematode species remains undescribed. Recent investigations indicated that there are 638 valid species that have been recovered from deep-sea samples worldwide (Miljutin et al. 2010), but as for some other under-explored habitats, many deep-sea samples contain numerous unknown species. A study by Xu et al. (2013) showed that no fewer than 155 nematode species were described in the journal Zootaxa alone in the period 2007–2012, many of which are marine, and showing that nematode taxonomy is currently a rather active field of research, although much remains to be described



Photo 1 Desmodora campbelli (Allgén, 1932), South Georgia (Polarstern, ANT-XX-VII/3, stn. 214-4, 255 m). Image © F. Hauquier, University of Ghent.

With 10,000s to 1,000,000s of individuals per square meter of seafloor, marine free-living nematodes are the most abundant metazoan life form in marine sediments and often represent 70–90 % of metazoan meiofaunal organisms (organisms ranging 32–1000 µm in size). Despite their ubiquity and high abundance, we are only beginning to understand the role of nematodes in benthic communities. They have been identified as key contributors to different ecosystem functions in marine environments. Nematodes are characterised by a wide range of morphological features which can be used to infer their ecological roles. The size and morphology of their buccal cavities can serve to identify their feeding strategies (Moens & Vincx 1997). They can feed on microbiota such as bacteria, cyanobacteria, and algae; they may be fungi-

vorous or feed on small detrital particles freely available or attached to sediment grains; and even prey on small organisms, including other nematodes (Heip *et al.* 1982). The intermediate position they take in marine sediment food webs identifies them as important links, transferring energy available in sediments under the form of dissolved organic matter, detritus, microbes and other organisms to higher trophic levels (Bongers & Ferris 1999). Moreover, nematodes play an important role in decomposition processes and nutrient cycling in sediments. They are also known to interact with microbiota and other metazoan organisms (Heip *et al.* 1982), and may have an important role to play in bioturbating the sediments they live in. Moreover, nematode diversity has been linked to ecosystem functioning which may suggest an important functional role in sediments (Danovaro *et al.* 2008).

Given their small size and limited mobility, and the fact that they have a conservative reproductive method and lack an active dispersal phase in their life history, we might expect that species should have geographically limited distributions. Consequently, the species turnover between areas should be high compared to larger organisms which have a better chance of long-distance dispersal via pelagic larval phases (Lambshead 1993), leading to higher global species diversity. However, recently, Bik et al. (2010) provided molecular evidence of low endemism, continued shallow-deep water exchanges, and cosmopolitan species complexes within marine nematodes. Although these molecular analyses do not necessarily pertain to the species level, posing the question of the 'meiofauna paradox' is inevitable, i.e. how is it possible that meiofaunal organisms with limited active dispersal capacities are able to become cosmopolitan? The most likely answer to this question relies on the fact that it is their small size that makes them susceptible to entrainment by currents impinging the sediment surface, causing passive dispersal (Boeckner et al. 2009). Consequently, transport over larger distances by currents is likely to be more widespread than thought previously.

2. Methods

2.1. Data collection and geographical scope

The data used for this review on Antarctic nematode species distribution stems from different sources and was gathered and collated by the authors. Many nematode species data originated from studies conducted at the Marine Biology research group of Ghent University and data records available on the NeMys database (Deprez *et al.* 2005). In addition, historic literature was gathered based mainly on species lists in Gerlach & Riemann (1973). Subsequently, original descriptions were studied to obtain geographical locations, i.e. Antarctic and sub-Antarctic species records were extracted and added to the database. Taxonomic literature until 2012 was included in the database. For a more complete overview of the data sources used, we refer to the marked literature sources.

The species distribution maps presented in this Chapter include both true Antarctic and sub-Antarctic data, with a circum-Antarctic scope. Latitudinal range of included nematode species extends from roughly 46°S in the Kerguelen Islands region to approximately 78°S in Discovery Inlet.

2.2. Limitations of coverage and taxonomic resolution

Unfortunately, the geographical coverage of (sub-)Antarctic data on free-living nematode species is fragmental and is mostly based on taxonomical works for which the locations were recovered. This brings the limitation inherent to undersampling, and causes limited scope for biogeographical interpretation on the species level. Much more data is available on the genus level, the focus of many Antarctic nematode studies that address ecological questions. Whilst such data suffers from lack of species information, it is unlikely that information on genera occurrences in the Southern Ocean is useful to infer biogeographical patterns. Nematode genera in general are not limited to particular areas and most common genera are found all over the globe in marine environments, a phenomenon often referred to as the 'meiofauna paradox'. Nematode genera abundances are often thought to be associated with particular environmental conditions and so their occurrence is often studied in an ecological rather than a taxonomical or biogeographical context. Nevertheless, there are rare genera that seem limited in distribution, but this is often the result of limited sampling effort. To illustrate, a recent study showed that a newly described and relatively rare genus, Dystomanema, was recovered from both the Antarctic and North Atlantic (Bezerra et al. 2013).

3. Biodiversity

Nematodes are widespread in the Antarctic. On land, they are the most diverse and abundant invertebrate phylum (43 species; Wharton 2003). Antarctic nematode species numbers in the marine environment are much higher than for their terrestrial counterparts, and until recently limited at nearly 400 accepted marine species. In the framework of the present Atlas, a taxonomic revision was performed of all nematode species records, historical and recent



(until 2012) from marine Antarctic sediments (Appendix 1, at the end of volume). According to the latest literature sources and data records in our dataset 524 species are considered valid (see Map 1 for an overview of number of species per sector; see data reference list for literature sources). Nematode systematics has been shrouded in uncertainty because of their minute size (making identification more labor-intensive), taxonomic difficulties, and the relatively slow advent of molecular studies on nematodes. In addition, a huge number of nematode species were described in the first half of the 20th century following early Antarctic expeditions which yielded a large number of new taxa. The first descriptions of marine nematodes from (sub-) Antarctic regions date back to 1891, when you Linstow (1891) described a number of nematode species from South Georgia. Since then and with much disagreement between authors, many poor descriptions of Antarctic marine nematode species have appeared, resulting in confused taxonomy and contradicting descriptions. Some descriptive efforts following the Antarctic expeditions resulted in large numbers of species being described in a short space of time, leading to several synonymies. Scientists such as Cobb, De Man, von Linstow, and Ditlevsen, amongst others, described tens of species from the marine Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions. Undoubtedly one of the most prolific nematode taxonomists working on Antarctic samples was Carl Allgén; in his report on free-living marine nematodes from the Swedish Antarctic Expedition in 1901-1903 (Allgén 1959), no less than 343 species were described, 200 of which were new to science. His work strongly influenced later developments in nematode taxonomy, not merely because he contributed significantly to our knowledge on the diversity of Antarctic marine nematodes, but also because the limited descriptive and illustrative material and sometimes doubtful diagnoses that he provided, causing species to be synonymised or considered "species inquirendae" or "incertae sedis" in many later instances — the result of inadequate descriptions. After several other collations of species lists, "The Bremerhaven Checklist of Aquatic Nematodes" provided an exhaustive list of all hitherto known nematodes worldwide (Gerlach & Riemann 1973). Since then, several studies have added new species to the list and several genera and family reviews have been conducted. The dataset presented here is an updated account of valid Antarctic and sub-Antarctic marine free-living nematodes ("sp. inq." and "sp. inc. sedis". are excluded from this list). This data is partially based on the NeMys database (Deprez et al. 2005) and has been updated with geographical location data (coordinates and water depth, when available) and taxonomical information contained within the original descriptive and ecological literature. The data is available through SCAR-MarBIN (http://www.scarmarbin.be) and further details on the methods can be found in the previous section "Methods"

4. Biogeography of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic nematodes

Because most observations of nematode species have been conducted as part of taxonomic works, geographical information on Antarctic marine nematodes is limited to the occurrences reported in species descriptions. In addition, studies focusing on the ecology of nematodes reported many valuable distribution data, but are generally restricted to the genus level – species are often not considered. Notwithstanding the over 2200 records of nematode species in the (sub-)Antarctic, there are only a handful of studies which have reported on the biogeography of selected groups of marine free-living nematodes

Vermeeren et al. (2004) discussed the distribution of species belonging to the genus Dichromadora, a genus that occurs regularly in the Southern Ocean over a wide range of water depths. The authors compared samples from the Indian, Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic continental margins for Dichromadora occurrences and noted the absence of this genus in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. A number of Dichromadora species were present in the Arctic and Atlantic (two and three species, respectively), but the Southern Ocean samples contained eight species in addition to one previously described by Timm (1978) (Maps 2-6). A high degree of endemism was observed, with seven of the eight species only occurring in the Southern Ocean. To be noted, however, is the fact that seven of the eight Southern Ocean species discovered in the study, as well as all Arctic and Atlantic species, were new to science. This suggests that the deep-sea nematode fauna in the Southern Ocean and possibly all other oceans are undersampled. The Dichromadora species exhibited either a very limited distribution (e.g. D. antarctica, D. quadripapillata; Maps 2-3) or they appeared across various locations in the Southern Ocean (e.g. D. weddellensis, D. southernis, D. parva, D. polarsternis, D. polaris; Maps 2-6), the latter indicating that nematode species may have wide ranges over regional scales in the deep sea. The species studied did not show any bathymetric limitations, at least for the depth range studied (1000-2000 m water depth). The results of Vermeeren et al. (2004) were complemented with results from Ingels et al. (2006) in that two Dichromadora species were recognised from the Scotia Arc at about 300 m water depth (D. polaris; Map 6), reinforcing the hypothesis that bathymetry per se does not seem to limit nematode distributions in the Southern Ocean, at least for the genus Dichromadora. This is perhaps not surprising considering the genus is also common in coastal areas, but species comparisons are needed with shallow-water samples to confirm this. A study conducted by De Mesel et al. (2006), on the other hand, showed a considerable degree of species turnover for the 55 putative Acantholaimus species identified in different parts of the Southern Ocean. In addition to high species turnover as a result of the restricted species distributions and their rarity, the number of congeneric species in assemblages was high, leading to high local and regional biodiversity levels for this genus. Fourteen species had a distribution extending from the shelf to the lower slope, pointing to a strong degree of eurybathy too. The occurrence of the otherwise typical deep-sea genus *Acantholaimus* in high densities and diversity on the continental shelf is a unique feature of the Southern Ocean. (De Mesel *et al.* 2006).

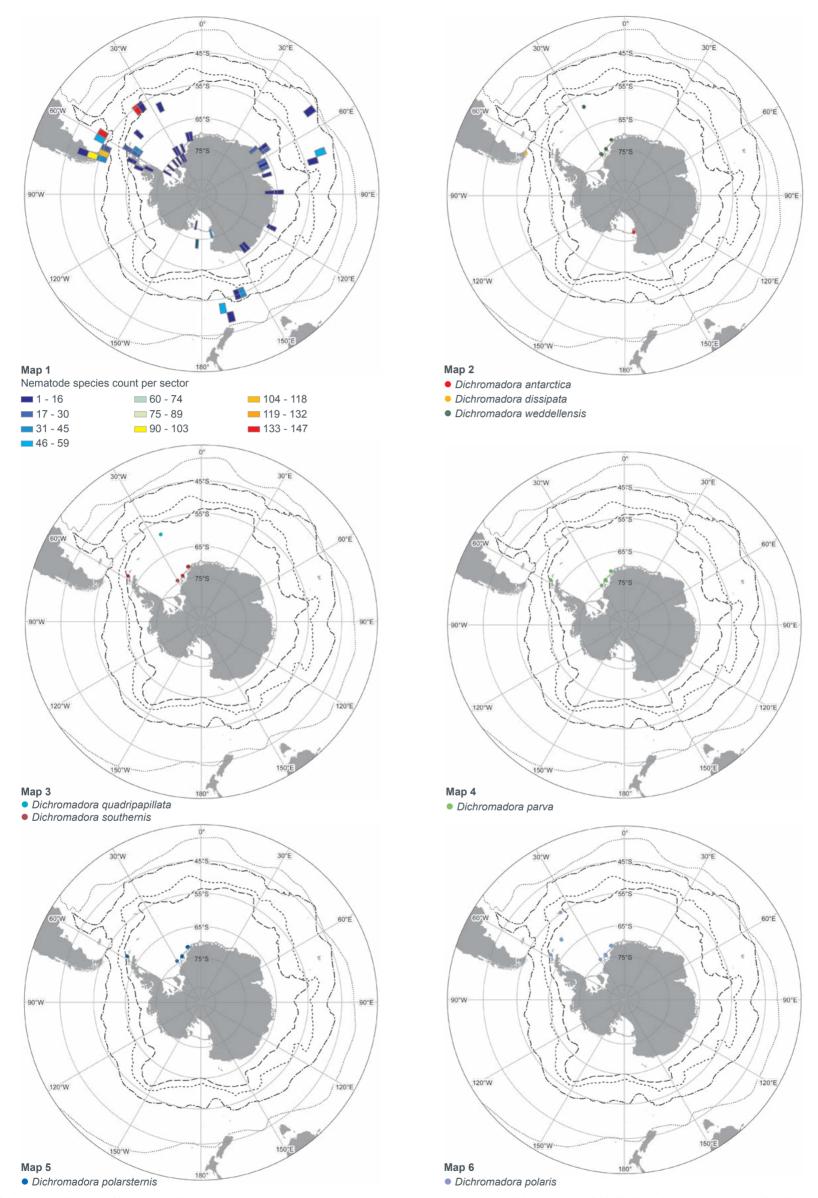
Ingels et al. (2006), in a biodiversity and biogeographical nematode study, focussed mainly on the genera Desmodora and Desmodorella. They found that two species, Desmodora campbelli and Desmodorella aff. balteata had wide geographical distributions in the Southern Ocean, while the other eight species had very limited distributions (see Maps 7-8). In contrast to Vermeeren et al. (2004), however, Ingels et al. (2006) found bathymetric restrictions for several species, indicating that shallow-water island chains such as the Scotia Arc may provide the means for species that are depth-restricted to disperse over larger geographical areas. Although the Scotia Arc islands are surrounded by deep ocean, this does not necessarily prevent strong water column currents to transport small animals between similar depth ranges of the islands' margins. Preliminary molecular results reported in the same study suggest that certain nematode species exhibit extremely slow evolution with conservation of certain species-specific genes or that hydrodynamic processes and sediment disturbance may be behind the high rates of genetic exchange observed between species populations of distant geographic locations (Ingels et al. 2006). Whatever the case, some species seem geographically or bathymetrically restricted, whilst others have circum-Antarctic or eurybathic distributions. If we appreciate genus-level differences along bathymetric gradients in the Antarctic, there are indications of distinct communities at different depth zones but genera are not restricted bathymetrically (Vanhove et al. 2004). This means that perceived bathymetric gradients are caused by changes in relative abundance of genera rather than genus composition. Noteworthy in this context is the fact of sampling intensity; while presence observations can confirm biogeographical distributions we have to be cautious on how to interpret the absence of species — absence in a sample does not mean that the species is not present, it may merely mean that the area is undersampled

Fonseca et al. (2006) studied the occurrence of species of the deep-sea genus Molgolaimus (Map 9) — a particularly species-rich genus in the deep sea — in different oceans and concluded that geographical rather than environmental clustering of morphologically similar species does not support the idea of a common origin of deep-sea species. In addition, the genus Molgolaimus seems to have many species with restricted distributions in the Southern Ocean (compared to the western Indian Ocean for instance), making Molgolaimus species suitable for distinguishing between biogeographical provinces in the Southern Ocean (Fonseca et al. 2007). Here, the authors propose that evolutionary history may have shaped nematode species composition at the ocean scale, while at local and regional scales ecological processes are promoting species co-existence and speciation (e.g. higher number of Molgolaimus species co-occurring at Peninsula tip and eastern Weddell Sea; see Map 9). Whether this is also the case for other nematode genera needs to be verified. Moreover, definite conclusions can't be drawn because of the lack of insight into the true presence or absence of species in the limited quantity of samples that are available.

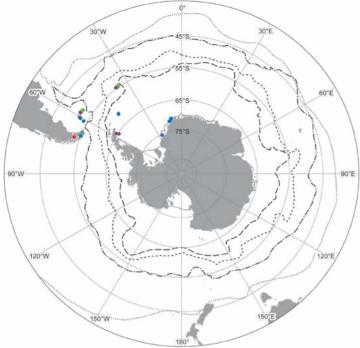
Undoubtedly, the abiotic environment has a significant impact on the community structure of shallow and deep-sea nematode communities. Various environmental factors have been shown to influence benthic nematode community structure although studies rarely involve species level information. Disturbance by physical, biological or biogeochemical processes, sediment grain size, food quantity and quality, and other trophic conditions have been evoked as regulating community structure by creating conditions that are more favourable for some nematode genera whilst unfavourable for others. Food input seems to be a major determinant in the Antarctic along with the seasonality of its availability (Sebastian *et al.* 2007, Vanhove *et al.* 1998, Vanhove *et al.* 1999, Vanhove *et al.* 2000). However, despite several ecological studies positing the link between environment and nematode community structure, the role of ecology in biogeographical ranges remains unresolved.

5. Conclusion

In this review, we give an overview of the scarce information available on nematode species distributions in the Southern Ocean. Due to taxonomic difficulties and the general lack of species information, biogeography of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic nematodes remains rather elusive. Based on the information we could find and verify, it seems that, indeed, some species might be limited to certain regions or depths in the Southern Ocean, while others may have circum-Antarctic and eurybathic distributions. Faunal connections between the southernmost South America and the Antarctic Peninsula are present for some taxa but remain to be verified for others. More taxonomic studies with distribution data at species level may help to overcome the problems of lack of knowledge and undersampling. The advent of molecular techniques is definitely something to welcome in the search of biogeographic patterns in Southern Ocean nematode diversity.

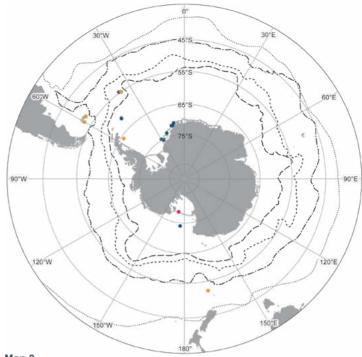


Meiobenthos: Nematoda Map 1 Antarctic and sub-Antarctic nematode species counts per sector, based on latest valid taxonomy (until 2012); all depth ranges are included (0–4000 m) and the latitudinal range extends from roughly 46°S (Crozet Islands) to 78°S (Discovery Inlet). Maps 3–5. Species distribution of the genus *Dichromadora* (bathymetric range 0–2285 m). Map 2. *D. antarctica* Timm, 1978 (data: Cobb 1914), *D. dissipata* Wieser, 1954 (data: Guotong 1999) and *D. weddellensis* Vermeeren et al., 2004 (data: Vermeeren et al. 2004). Map 3. *D. southernis* Vermeeren et al., 2004 and *D. quadripapillata* Vermeeren et al., 2004 (data: Vermeeren et al., 2004). Map 5. *D. polaris* Vermeeren et al., 2004 (data: Vermeeren et al., 2004). Map 5. *D. polaris* Vermeeren et al., 2004 (data: Vermeeren et al., 2004). Map 6. *D. polaris* Vermeeren et al., 2004 (data: Vermeeren et al., 2006).



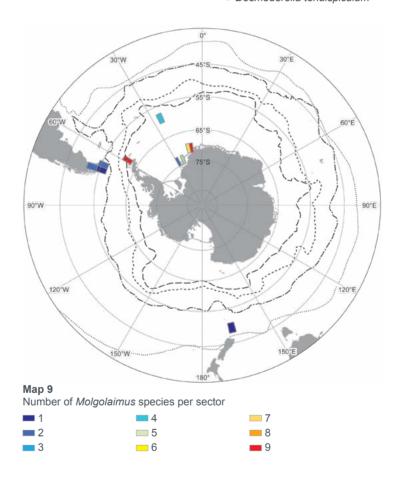
Map 7

- Desmodora campbelli
- Desmodora microchaeta
- Desmodora minuta
- Desmodora scaldensis



Map 8

- Desmodorella abyssorum
- Desmodorella aff. balteata
- Desmodorella tenuispiculum



Meiobenthos: Nematoda Maps 7-9 Map 7. Species distribution of the genus Desmodora (data: Allgén 1959; Ingels et al. 2006; bathymetric range: 0-502 m). Map 8. Species distribution of the genus *Desmodorella* (data: Allgén 1959; Ingels *et al.* 2006; bathymetric range: 0–681 m). Map 4. Species distribution, expressed as number of species per sector, of the genus *Molgolaimus* (data: Ditlevsen 1921; Guotong 1999; Fonseca *et al.* 2006; bathymetric range 79–4000 m).

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- Appendix 1 at the end of volume



Appendix 1: Nematoda (Chap. 5.3)

Table 1 Phylogenetic species list of (sub-)Antarctic marine free-living Nematoda

PHYLUM NEMATODA Potts, 1932 Class ENOPLEA Inglis, 1983 Subclass ENOPLIA Pearse, 1942 Order Enoplida Filipjev, 1929
Suborder Enoplina Chitwood & Chitwood, 1937
Family Enoplidae Dujardin, 1845
Enoplus heardensis Mawson, 1958
Enoplus michaelseni Linstow, 1896

Enoplus micrognathus Allgén, 1947 Enoplus paralittoralis Wieser, 1953

Family Thoracostomopsidae Filipjev, 1927 Enoplolaimus acanthospiculum Allgén, 1959 Enoplolaimus arcospiculum Allgén, 1959 Enoplolaimus falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Enoplolaimus filiformis (Allgén, 1935) Enoplolaimus niger Allgén, 1959 Enoplolaimus notopropinquus Allgén, 1959 Enoplolaimus opacus Allgén, 1959 Enoplolaimus propinquus de Man, 1922 Enoplolaimus vulgaris (de Man, 1893) Epacanthion brevispiculosum Mawson, 1958 Epacanthion brevispiculum Mawson, 1956 Epacanthion filicaudatum Mawson, 1956 Fenestrolaimus antarcticus Mawson, 1956

Mesacanthion brachycolle Allgén, 1959 Mesacanthion infantile (Ditlevsen, 1930) Mesacanthion kerguelense Mawson, 1958 Mesacanthion pacificum Allgén, 1947 Mesacanthion virile (Ditlevsen, 1930)

Mesacanthoides caputmedusae (Ditlevsen, 1918) Mesacanthoides latignathus (Ditlevsen, 1918)

Metenoploides alatus Wieser, 1953 Oxyonchus australis (de Man, 1904) Mawson, 1956

Oxyonchus brachysetosus Allgén, 1959 Oxyonchus crassicollis Allgén, 1959 Oxyonchus dentatus (Ditlevsen, 1918) Filipjev, 1927

Oxyonchus macrodon Allgén, 1959 Oxyonchus notodentatus Allgén, 1959 Oxyonchus parastateni Allgén, 1959 Oxyonchus stateni (Allgén, 1930) Oxyonchus subantarcticus Mawson, 1958 Paramesacanthion allgeni Mawson, 1958 Paramesacanthion estridium Wieser, 1953

Paramesacanthion oxycephalum (Ditlevsen, 1926) Paramesacanthion tricuspis (Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1950)

Family Anoplostomatidae Gerlach & Riemann, 1974

Anoplostoma campbelli Allgén, 1932 Anoplostoma tenuisetum Allgén, 1959 Chaetonema amphora Wieser, 1953 Chaetonema steineri (Filipjev, 1927)

Family Phanodermatidae Filipjev, 1927

Klugea longiseta Mawson, 1956 Klugea truncata Mawson, 1956 Micoletzkyia anomala Wieser, 1953 Micoletzkyia austrogeorgiae Allgén, 1954 Micoletzkyia falklandiae Allgén, 1954 Micoletzkyia nudicapitata Allgén, 1959 Phanoderma banzare Mawson, 1956 Phanoderma campbelli Allgén, 1927 Phanoderma cocksi Bastian, 1865 Phanoderma laticolle (Marion, 1870) Phanoderma paracampbelli Allgén, 1958 Phanoderma parasiticum Ditlevsen, 1926

Phanoderma speculum Schuurmans Stekhoven & Mawson,

Phanoderma tuberculatum (Eberth, 1863) Bastian, 1865 Phanoderma wieseri Mawson, 1956 Phanodermopsis ingrami Mawson, 1958

Family Anticomidae Filipjev, 1918

Anticoma acuminata (Eberth, 1863) Stekhoven, 1950
Anticoma aligeni Platonova, 1968
Anticoma campbelli Allgén, 1932
Anticoma columba Wieser, 1953
Anticoma curticauda Platonova, 1968 Anticoma filicauda Mawson, 1956 Anticoma graciliceps Platonova, 1968

Anticoma kerguelensis Mawson, 1958 Anticoma longissima Allgén, 1958 Anticoma major Mawson, 1956

Anticoma pellucida Bastian, 1865 Anticoma pushkini Platonova, Belogurov & Sheenko, 1979 Anticoma subsimilis Cobb, 1914 Anticoma tenuis Allgén, 1930 Anticoma trichura Cobb, 1898 Anticoma wieseri Mawson, 1958 Anticomopsis typica Micoletzky, 1930 Antopus serialis (Baylis, 1916)
Paranticoma antarctica Mawson, 1956 Paranticoma odhneri Allgén, 1959 Paranticoma tubuliphora Wieser, 1953

Suborder Trefusiina Siddiqi, 1983

Family Simpliconematidae Blome & Schrage, 1985 Simpliconema aenigmatodes Blome & Schrage, 1985

Family Trefusiidae Gerlach, 1966

Trefusia axonolaimoides Allgén, 1953

Family Xenellidae De Coninck, 1965 Xennella filicaudata (Allgén, 1954)

Suborder Oncholaimina De Coninck, 1965 Family Oncholaimidae Filipjev, 1916
Adoncholaimus austrogeorgiae Allgén, 1959 Adoncholaimus crassicaudus Wieser, 1953

Adoncholaimus falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Adoncholaimus thalassophygas (de Man, 1876)

Curvolaimus decipiens Wieser, 1953 Metaparoncholaimus macrouraios Mawson, 1958 Metoncholaimoides squalus Wieser, 1953

Metoncholaimus antarcticus (Linstow, 1896) Oncholaimellus carlbergi Allgén, 1947

Oncholaimus dujardinii de Man, 1876 Oncholaimus leptos Mawson, 1958

Oncholaimus longissimus Allgén, 1959 Oncholaimus notolangrunensis Allgén, Oncholaimus notoviridis Allgén, 1958

Oncholaimus notoxyuris Allgén, 1959 Oncholaimus paradujardini Allgén, 1959

Oncholaimus paraegypticus Mawson, 1956 Oncholaimus paralangrunensis (Allgén, 1947)

Oncholaimus paredron Mawson, 1958 Oncholaimus rotundicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Oncholaimus thysanouraios (Mawson, 1958)

Oncholaimus viridis (Bastian, 1865) Pelagonema longicaudum (Allgén, 1953)

Pelagonema obtusicauda Filipjev, 1918 Pelagonema tenue (Kreis, 1928) Pontonema cobbi Mawson, 1956

Pontonema leidyi Mawson, 1956 Pontonema propinquum (Allgén, 1930)

Pontonema serratodentatum Mawson, 1956 Viscosia antarctica Allgén, 1959 Viscosia brachydonta Allgén, 1959 Viscosia brevicaudata Mawson, 1958

Viscosia brevilaima Allgén, 1959 Viscosia carnleyensis (Ditlevsen, 1921) Viscosia cryptodentata Allgén, 1959

Viscosia falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Viscosia glabra (Bastian, 1865) de Man, 1890

Viscosia graham Allgén, 1959 Viscosia langrunensis (de Man, 1890) Viscosia parafalklandiae Allgén, 1959 Viscosia parapellucida (Cobb, 1898) Viscosia propinqua Allgén, 1959

Viscosia similis Allgén, 1959 Viscosia subantarctica Allgén, 1959 Viscosia tenuilaima Allgén, 1959 Viscosia tenuissima Allgén, 1959

Viscosia viscosa (Bastian, 1865) de Man, 1890 Viscosia wieseri Mawson, 1958

Family Enchelidiidae Filipjev, 1918

Calyptronema axonolaimoides Allgén, 1959 Calyptronema mawsoni Mawson, 1958 Calyptronema retrocellatum (Wieser, 1953) Catalaimus maxweberi (de Man, 1922) Ditlevsenella tertia Wieser, 1953 Enchelidium filicolle Allgén, 1959 Eurystomina fenestella Wieser, 1953 Eurystomina filicaudatum (Allgén, 1959) Eurystomina ornata (Eberth, 1863) Eurystomina stenolaima (Ditlevsen, 1930) Eurystomina tenuicaudata Allgén, 1932

Ledovitia fallae Mawson, 1958
Polygastrophora hexabulba (Filipjev, 1918) Polygastrophora octobulba Micoletzky, 1930 Symplocostoma tenuicolle (Eberth, 1863)

Suborder Ironina Siddiqi, 1983 Family Ironidae de Man, 1876

Dolicholaimus marioni (de Man, 1888) Syringolaimus striatocaudatus de Man, 1888 Thalassironus bipartitus Wieser, 1953

Family Leptosomatidae Filipjev, 1916

Deontostoma antarcticum (Linstow, 1892) Deontostoma arcticum (Ssaweljev, 1912) Deontostoma aucklandiae (Ditlevsen, 1921) Deontostoma demani (Mawson, 1956) Deontostoma timmerchioi Hope, 1974

Leptosomatides antarcticus Mawson, 1956

Leptosomatides conisetosus Schuurmans Stekhoven & Mawson, 1955

Mawson, 1955
Leptosomatum arcticum Filipjev, 1916
Leptosomatum clavatum Platonova, 1958
Leptosomatum crassicutis Platonova, 1958
Leptosomatum gracile Bastian, 1865
Leptosomatum kerguelense Platonova, 1958
Leptosomatum sabangense Steiner, 1915
Paraleptosomatides elongatus Mawson, 1956
Paraleptosomatides spiralis Mawson, 1956

Paraleptosomatides spiralis Mawson, 1956 Platycomopsis dimorphica Mawson, 1956

Platycomopsis paracobbi Mawson, 1956 Pseudocella brachychaites Mawson, 1958

Pseudocella elegans (Ditlevsen, 1926) Pseudocella panamaensis (Allgén, 1947) Pseudocella polychaites (Mawson, 1958)

Pseudocella tabarini (Inglis, 1958) Pseudocella trichodes (Leuckart, 1849)

Synonchus fasciculatus Cobb, 1893 Thoracostoma angustifissulatum Mawson, 1956 Thoracostoma anocellatum Schuurmans Stekhoven & Mawson, 1954

Thoracostoma arcticum Ssaveljev, 1912 Thoracostoma campbelli Ditlevsen, 1921 Thoracostoma chilense (Steiner, 1921)

Thoracostoma coronatum (Eberth, 1863) Marion, 1870 Thoracostoma falklandiae Allgén, 1959

Thoracostoma microfenestratum Allgén, 1959

Thoracostoma papillosum Ditlevsen, 1921 Thoracostoma parasetosum Mawson, 1958 Thoracostoma schizoepistylium Mawson, 1958 Thoracostoma setosum (Linstow, 1896) Thoracostoma unifenestratum Allgén, 1959

Family Oxystominidae Chitwood, 1935

Halalaimus brachyaulax Mawson, 1958 Halalaimus ciliocaudatus Allgén, 1932 Halalaimus comatus Wieser, 1953 Halalaimus diacros Mawson, 1958

Halalaimus filicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Halalaimus fletcheri Mawson, 1958

Halalaimus gracilis de Man, 1888 Halalaimus longicollis Allgén, 1932 Halalaimus macquariensis Mawson, 1958

Halalaimus marri Mawson, 1958 Nemanema brachyure Allgén, 1959 Nemanema campbelli Allgén, 1932 Nemanema cylindraticaudatum de Man, 1922

Nemanema obtusicauda (Allgén, 1959) Oxystomina antarctica Mawson, 1956

Oxystomina elongata Bütschli, 1874 Oxystomina filicaudata Allgén, 1959 Oxystomina greenpatchi Allgén, 1959

Oxystomina mirabilis Allgén, 1959 Oxystomina oxycaudata (Ditlevsen, 1926)

Oxystomina pulchella Vitiello, 1970 Oxystomina tenuicollis Allgén, 1959 Oxystomina vespertilio Wieser, 1953

Thalassoalaimus spissus (Allgén, 1932)

Suborder Tripyloidina De Coninck, 1965

Bathylaimus australis Cobb, 1894
Bathylaimus australis Cobb, 1894
Bathylaimus austrogeorgiae Allgén, 1959
Paratripyloides viviparus (Cobb, 1930) Wieser, 1956

Order Triplonchida Cobb, 1920 Suborder Tobrilina Tsalolikhin, 1976

Family Rhabdodemaniidae Filipjev, 1934 Rhabdodemania calycolaimus Schuurmans Stekhoven & Mawson, 1955

Rhabdodemania minor (Southern, 1914) Family Pandolaimidae Belogurov, 1980

ndolaimus latilaimus (Allgén, 1929)

Subclass DORYLAIMIA Inglis, 1983 Order Mononchida Jairajpuri, 1969 Suborder Mononchina Kirjanova & Krall, 1969 Family Mononchidae Chitwood, 1937

Mononchus gerlachei (de Man, 1904)

Class CHROMADOREA Subclass CHROMADORIA Order Chromadorida Chitwood, 1933 Suborder Chromadorina Filipjev, 1929

Family Chromadoridae Filipjev, 1917

Acantholaimus quintus Gerlach, Schrage & Riemann, 1979

Actinonema longicaudatum (Steiner, 1918)

Actinonema pachydermatum Cobb, 1920 Atrochromadora microlaima (de Man, 1889)

Atrochromadora parva (de Man, 1893) Wieser, 1954 Chromadora nudicapitata (Bastian, 1865) Chromadorella cobbiana Johnston, 1938

Chromadorita brachypharynx (Allgén, 1932)

Chromadorita brachyphrafynx (Aligelt, 1932) Chromadorita ceratoserolis Lorenzen, 1986 Chromadorita gracilis (Filipjev, 1922) Chromadorita minor (Allgén, 1927) Wieser, 1954 Chromadorita mucrodorita (Steiner, 1916)

Chromadorita pharetra Ott, 1972 Dichromadora antarctica (Cobb, 1914) Timm, 1978 Dichromadora dissipata Wieser, 1954

Dichromadora parva Vermeeren, Vanreusel & Vanhove, 2004 Dichromadora polaris Vermeeren, Vanreusel & Vanhove,

Dichromadora polarsternis Vermeeren, Vanreusel & Vanhove, 2004

Dichromadora quadripapillata Muthumbi & Vincx, 1998 Dichromadora southernis Vermeeren, Vanreusel & Vanhove, 2004

Dichromadora weddellensis Vermeeren, Vanreusel &

Vanhove, 2004 Euchromadora amokurae (Ditlevsen, 1921)

Euchromadora denticulata (sp incertae sedis) Cobb, 1914 Euchromadora meridiana (sp incertae sedis) Cobb, 1914 Euchromadora vulgaris (Bastian, 1865)

Graphonema amokurae (Ditlevsen, 1921) Inglis, 1971 Neochromadora aberrans Cobb, 1930

Neochromadora complexa Gerlach, 1953 Neochromadora craspedota (Steiner, 1916)

Neochromadora edentata (Cobb, 1914) Neochromadora notocraspedota Allgén, 1958 Neochromadora poecilosoma (de Man. 1893) Micoletzky.

Prochromadorella antarctica (Cobb, 1914)

Prochromadorella conicaudata (Allgén, 1927) Wieser, 1954 Prochromadorella paramucrodonta (Allgén, 1929) Wieser,

Spiliphera dolichura de Man, 1893 Spiliphera edentata (Cobb, 1914) Spiliphera gracilicauda (de Man, 1893) Wieser, 1954 Spilophorella campbelli Allgén, 1928 Spilophorella paradoxa (de Man, 1888)

Family Neotonchidae Wieser & Hopper, 1966 nchus chamberlaini Wieser & Hopper, 1966

Family Cyatholaimidae Filipjev, 1918

Cyatholaimus gracilis (Eberth, 1863) Longicyatholaimus longicaudatus (de Man, 1876) Marylynnia macrodentata (Wieser, 1959)

Marylynnia quadriseta Hopper, 1972 Metacyatholaimus spatiosus Wieser, 1954 Paracanthonchus arcospiculum Allgén, 1959 Paracanthonchus axonolaimoides Allgén, 1960

Paracanthonchus caecus (Bastian, 1865) Paracanthonchus elongatus (de Man, 1906) Paracanthonchus falklandiae Allgén, 1959

Paracanthonchus macrospiralis Allgén, 1959 Paracanthonchus paralongus Allgén, 1959

Paracanthonchus paramacrodon (Allgén, 1951) Paracanthonchus spectabilis Allgén, 1931 Paracanthonchus stateni Allgén, 1930 Pomponema multipapillatum Filipjev, 1922 Praeacanthonchus kreisi (Allgén, 1929)

Praeacanthonchus punctatus (Bastian, 1865)

Family Selachnematidae Cobb. 1915

Cheironchus conicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Halichoanolaimus chordiurus Gerlach, 1955 Halichoanolaimus dolichurus Ssaweljev, 1912 Halichoanolaimus minor Ssaweljev, 1912 Halichoanolaimus ovalis (Ditlevsen, 1921) Halichoanolaimus robustus (Bastian, 1865)

Order Desmodorida De Coninck, 1965 Suborder Desmodorina De Coninck, 1965 Family Desmodoridae Filipjev, 1922

Acanthopharynx merostomacha (Ste Chromaspirina crinita Gerlach, 1952 Croconema stateni Allgén, 1928 Desmodora campbelli (Allgén, 1932) Desmodora microchaeta (Allgén, 1929) Desmodora minuta Wieser, 1954 Desmodora scaldensis de Man, 1889

Desmodorella abyssorum (Allgén, 1929)
Desmodorella aff. balteata Verschelde, Gourbault & Vincx, 1998

Thalassomonhystera parva (Bastian Permodorella aff. balteata Verschelde, Gourbault & Vincx, 1998

Family Sphaerolaimidae Filipjev, 1918

Desmodorella tenuispiculum (Allgén, 1928) Laxus septentrionalis Cobb, 1914 Molgolaimus allgeni Allgén, 1935

Molgolaimus australis Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus carpediem Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer 2006

Molgolaimus drakus Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus exceptionregulum Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006

Molgolaimus falliturvisus Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer

Molgolaimus galluccii Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus gigaslongicus Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006

Molgolaimus gigasproximus Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer,

Molgolaimus liberalis Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus macilenti Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus mareprofundus Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006

Molgolaimus nettoensis Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006

Molgolaimus sabakii Muthumbi & Vincx, 1996 Molgolaimus sapiens Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus tenuispiculum Ditlevsen, 1921

Molgolaimus unicus Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer 2006 Molgolaimus walbethi Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2006 Molgolaimus xuxunaraensis Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer,

Onyx ferox (Ditlevsen, 1921) Gerlach, 1951 Paradesmodora campbelli (Allgén, 1932) Gerlach, 1963 Pseudometachromadora longilaima (Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1950)

Pseudonchus symmetricus De Coninck, 1942 Spirinia gnaigeri Ott, 1977

Spirinia garasitifera (Bastian, 1865) Gerlach, 1963 Spirinia septentrionalis (Cobb, 1914) Gerlach, 1963 Spirinia tenuicauda (Allgén, 1959) Gerlach, 1963

Family Epsilonematidae Steiner, 1927

Archepsilonema celidotum Steiner, 1931 Bathyepsilonema brachycephalum Steiner, 1931 Bathyepsilonema drygalskii Steiner, 1931 Epsilonema cyrtum Steiner, 1931 Epsilonema docidocricum (Steiner, 1931) Glochinema trispinatum Raes, Vanreusel & Decraemer, 2003

Family Draconematidae Filipjev, 1918

Cygnonema steineri Allen & Noffsinger, 1978 Draconactus suillus (Allgén, 1932) Allen & Noffsinger, 1978 Draconema antarcticum (Allen & Noffsinger, 1978) Draconema cephalatum (Cobb, 1913) Paradraconema antarcticum Allen & Noffsinger, 1978 Prochaetosoma campbelli (Allgén, 1932)

Family Microlaimidae Micoletzky, 1922

Bolbolaimus dentatus (Allgén, 1935) Microlaimus dimorphus Chitwood, 1937 Microlaimus falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Microlaimus honestus (de Man, 1922) Microlaimus kaurii Wieser, 1954 Microlaimus latilaimus Allgén, 1959 Microlaimus papilliferus Allgén, 1959 Microlaimus pinguis Wieser, 1954 Microlaimus sensus Wieser, 1954 Microlaimus texianus Chitwood, 1951

Prochaetosoma longicapitata Allgén, 1932

Family Monoposthiidae Filipjev, 1934 Monoposthia costata (Bastian, 1865) Monoposthia desmodoroides Allgén, 1959 Monoposthia falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Monoposthia grahami Allgén, 1959 Monoposthia mirabilis Schulz, 1932 Monoposthia paramediterranea (Allgén, 1959) Nudora campbelli (Schulz, 1935) Wieser, 1954

Order Desmoscolecida Filipjev, 1929 Family Desmoscolecidae Shipley, 1896

Antarcticonema comicapitatum Timm, 1978 Desmoscolex amaurus Lorenzen, 1972 Desmoscolex antarcticos Timm. 1970 Desmoscolex articulatus Timm, 1978 Desmoscolex campbelli Allgén, 1946 Desmoscolex cristatus (Allgén, 1932) Desmoscolex frigidus Timm, 1978 Desmoscolex gerlachi Timm, 1970 Desmoscolex labiosus Lorenzen, 1969 Desmoscolex max Timm, 1970 Desmoscolex parafalklandiae Allgén, 1955 Desmoscolex spinosus Decraemer, 1976 Greeffiella antarctica Timm, 1978 Quadricoma avicapitata Timm, 1978 Quadricomoides magna (Timm, 1970) Tricoma antarctica Timm, 1970 Tricoma curvicauda (Timm 1978) Tricoma maxima (Schepotieff, 1907)
Tricoma nematoides (Greeff, 1869) Tricoma pontica (Filipjev, 1922) Tricoma septentrionalis Timm, 1978

Order Monhysterida Filipjev, 1929

Suborder Monhysterina De Coninck & Schuurmans Stekhoven

Family Monhysteridae de Man. 1876

Usarpnema auriculatum Timm, 1978

Halomonhystera disjuncta Bastian, 1865 Halomonhystera uniformis Cobb, 1914 Longitubopharynx obtusicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Monhystera macquariensis Allgén, 1929 Thalassomonhystera parva (Bastian, 1865)

Sphaerolaimus arcospiculum Allgén, 1959 Sphaerolaimus campbelli Allgén, 1927 Sphaerolaimus gracilis de Man, 1876 Sphaerolaimus hirsutus Bastian, 1865 Sphaerolaimus pacificus Allgén, 1947

Family Xyalidae Chitwood, 1951 Austronema (Dub) spirurum Cobb, 1914 Cobbia dentata Gerlach, 1953 Cobbia mawsoni Cobb, 1930

Daptonema acanthospiculum (Allgén, 1959) Daptonema alternus (Wieser, 1956) Daptonema dentatus (Wieser, 1956) Daptonema filispiculum (Allgén, 1932) Daptonema fistulatus (Wieser & Hopper, 1967)

Daptonema normandicus (de Man, 1890) Daptonema resimus (Wieser, 1959) Daptonema septentrionalis (Cobb, 1914) Daptonema tortus (Wieser & Hopper, 1967)

Elzalia tenuis Allgén, 1959 Filipjeva crucis Blome & Schräge, 1985 Linhystera longa Pastor de Ward, 1985

Linhystera problematica Juario, 1974

Manganonema antarctica Fonseca, Vanreusel & Decraemer,

Paramonhystera biforma Wieser, 1956 Paramonhystera geraerti Chen & Vincx, 2000 Paramonhystera megacephala Wieser, 1956 Paramonhystera proteus Wieser, 1956 Rhynchonema megamphida Boucher, 1974 Steineria pilosa Cobb, 1914 Steineridora loricata (Steiner, 1916) Theristus acer Bastian, 1865 Theristus conicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Theristus filicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Theristus horridus Steiner, 1916 Theristus normandicus (de Man, 1890) Theristus oistospiculum (Allgén, 1930) Theristus paravelox Allgén, 1934 Theristus pellucidus Allgén, 1939 Theristus problematicus (Allgén, 1928) Theristus velox (Bastian, 1865)

Suborder Linhomoeina Andrássy, 1974 Family Siphonolaimidae Filipjev, 1918

Siphonolaimus falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Siphonolaimus smetti Chen & Vincx, 2000

Family Linhomoeidae Filipjev, 1922

Anticyathus septentrionalis (Cobb, 1914) Desmolaimus conicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Desmolaimus macrocirculus Allgén, 1959 Desmolaimus propinquus Allgén, 1959 Disconema falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Linhomoeus elongatus Bastian, 1865 Metalinhomoeus biformis Juario, 1974 Metalinhomoeus filiformis (de Man, 1907) Metalinhomoeus leptosoma Allgén, 1959 Metalinhomoeus longiseta Kreis, 1929 Metalinhomoeus retrosetosus Wieser, 1956 Metalinhomoeus setosus Chitwood, 1951 Metalinhomoeus tristis (Allgén, 1933) Notosouthernia obtusicauda Allgén, 1959 Paralinhomoeus lepturus de Man, 1907 Paralinhomoeus macquariensis Allgén, 1929 Paralinhomoeus meridionalis Cobb, 1930 Paralinhomoeus tenuicaudatus (Bütschli, 1874) Terschellingia claviger Wieser, 1956 Terschellingia communis de Man, 1888

Terschellingia longicaudata de Man, 1907 Terschellingia longispiculata Wieser & Hopper, 1967

Order Araeolaimida De Coninck & Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1933

Family Axonolaimidae Filipjev, 1918

Axonolaimus antarcticus Cobb, 1930 Axonolaimus austrogeorgiae Allgén, 1959 Axonolaimus spinosus (Bütschli, 1874) Axonolaimus tenuicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Odontophora angustilaimoides Chitwood, 1951 Odontophora longisetosa (Allgén, 1928) Odontophora peritricha Wieser, 1956 Odontophora polaris (Cobb, 1914) Parodontophora pacifica (Allgén, 1947)
Parodontophora quadristicha (Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1950)

Family Comesomatidae Filipjev, 1918

Cervonema chilensis Chen & Vincx, 2000 Cervonema hermani Chen & Vincx, 2000 Cervonema papillatum Jensen, 1988 Cervonema shiae Chen & Vincx, 2000 Cervonema tenuicauda Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1950 Comesoma hermani Chen & Vincx, 1998 Comesoma tenuispiculum (Ditlevsen, 1921) Dorylaimopsis magellanense Chen & Vincx, 1998 Dorylaimopsis punctatus Ditlevsen, 1918 Hopperia beaglense Chen & Vincx, 1998

Hopperia dorylaimopsoides Allgén, 1959 Laimella annae Chen & Vincx, 2000 Laimella filipjevi Jensen, 1979 Laimella longicauda Cobb, 1920 Laimella sandrae Chen & Vincx, 2000 Laimella subterminata Chen & Vincx, 2000 Metacomesoma cyatholaimoides Wieser, 1954

Sabatieria celtica Southern, 1914 Sabatieria coomansi Chen, 1999 Sabatieria curvispiculum (Allgén, 1959) Sabatieria falcifera Wieser, 1954 Sabatieria furcillata Wieser, 1954 Sabatieria granifer Wieser, 1954 Sabatieria intermissa Wieser, 1954 Sabatieria kelletti Platt, 1983 Sabatieria lawsi Platt, 1983 Sabatieria mortenseni (Ditlevsen, 1921) Sabatieria ornata (Ditlevsen, 1918) Sabatieria parabyssalis Wieser, 1954 Sabatieria praedatrix de Man, 1907 Setosabatieria hilarula (de Man, 1922) Vasostoma spiratum (Jensen, 1979)

Family Coninckiidae Lorenzen, 1981 Coninckia macrospirifera Zhang, 1983

Family Diplopeltidae Filipjev, 1918

Araeolaimus australis Allgén, 1959 Araeolaimus conicaudatus Allgén, Araeolaimus dubiosus Allgén, 1959 Araeolaimus elegans (de Man, 1888) Araeolaimus obtusicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Araeolaimus ovalis Wieser, 1956 Araeolaimus paracylindricauda Allgén, 1959 Araeolaimus paradubiosus Allgén, 1959 Araeolaimus tenuicauda Allgén, 1959 Campylaimus inaequalis Cobb, 1920 Diplopeltis cirrhatus (Eberth, 1863) Diplopeltula bulbosa Vitiello, 1972 Diplopeltula cylindricauda (Allgén, 1932) Diplopeltula incisa (Southern, 1914) Southerniella nojii Jensen, 1991. Southerniella simplex (Allgén, 1932)

Order Plectida Malakhov, 1982 Family Leptolaimidae Örley, 1880

Camacolaimus ampullocaudatus Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus austrogeorgiae Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus cylindricauda Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus guillei de Bovée, 1977 Camacolaimus longicauda de Man, 1922 Camacolaimus macrocellatus Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus paratardus Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus spissus Allgén, 1959 Camacolaimus tardus de Man, 1889 Camacolaimus zostericola (Filipjev, 1918) Ionema cobbi (Steiner, 1916) Leptolaimus antarcticus (Cobb, 1914) Leptoplectonema fuegoense Coomans & Raski, 1991

Necolaimus austrogeorgiae Allgén, 1959 Notocamacolaimus australis Allgén, 1959

Family Aegialoalaimidae Lorenzen. 1981

Aegialoalaimus conicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Aegialoalaimus elegans de Man, 1907 Aegialoalaimus paratenuicaudatus Allgén, 1959 Aegialoalaimus tenuicaudatus Allgén, 1932

Family Plectidae Örley, 1880

Plectus falklandiae Allgén, 1959 Plectus gisleni Allgén, 1951 Plectus grahami Allgén, 1951

Order Rhabditida Chitwood, 1933 Suborder Tylenchina Thorne, 1949 Family Cephalobidae Filipjev, 1934 Cephalobus incisocaudatus Allgén, 1951

Suborder Rhabditina Chitwood, 1933 Family Rhabditidae Örley, 1880 Rhabditis marina Bastian, 1865



THE BIOGEOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

Biogeographic information is of fundamental importance for discovering marine biodiversity hotspots, detecting and understanding impacts of environmental changes, predicting future distributions, monitoring biodiversity, or supporting conservation and sustainable management strategies

The recent extensive exploration and assessment of biodiversity by the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML), and the intense compilation and validation efforts of Southern Ocean biogeographic data by the SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network (SCAR-MarBIN / OBIS) provided a unique opportunity to assess and synthesise the current knowledge on Southern

The scope of the Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean is to present a concise synopsis of the present state of knowledge of the distributional patterns of the major benthic and pelagic taxa and of the key communities, in the light of biotic and abiotic factors operating within an evolutionary framework. Each chapter has been written by the most pertinent experts in their field, relying on vastly improved occurrence datasets from recent decades, as well as on new insights provided by molecular and phylogeographic approaches, and new methods of analysis, visualisation, modelling and prediction of biogeographic distributions.

A dynamic online version of the Biogeographic Atlas will be hosted on www.biodiversity.aq.

The Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML)

CAML (www.caml.aq) was a 5-year project that aimed at assessing the nature, distribution and abundance of all living organisms of the Southern Ocean. In this time of environmental change, CAML provided a comprehensive baseline information on the Antarctic marine biodiversity as a sound benchmark against which future change can reliably be assessed. CAML was initiated in 2005 as the regional Antarctic project of the worldwide programme Census of Marine Life (2000-2010) and was the most important biology project of the International Polar Year 2007-2009.

The SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network (SCAR-MarBIN)
In close connection with CAML, SCAR-MarBIN (www.scarmarbin.be, integrated into www.biodiversity.aq) compiled and managed the historic, current and new information (i.a. generated by CAML) on Antarctic marine biodiversity by establishing and supporting a distributed system of interoperable databases, forming the Antarctic regional node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS, www.iobis.org), under the aegis of SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, www.scar.org). SCAR-MarBIN established a comprehensive register of Antarctic marine species and, with biodiversity.aq provided free access to more than 2.9 million Antarctic georeferenced biodiversity data, which allowed more than 60 million downloads.

The Editorial Team



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