

From	Description	To
Most Common Nematode Genera		Terrestrial nematodes with stylet and median bulb
Most Common Nematode Genera		Terrestrial nematodes with a spear, median bulb absent
Most Common Nematode Genera		Terrestrial nematodes without a stylet or spear
Most Common Nematode Genera		Freshwater nematodes with a spear, median bulb absent
Most Common Nematode Genera		Freshwater nematodes without stylet or spear
Most Common Nematode Genera		Freshwater nematodes with a stylet and median bulb
Terrestrial nematodes with stylet and median bulb		Esophageal glands overlapping Two gonads
Esophageal glands overlapping Two gonads	head frame strongly developed, body spiral-shaped	Hoplolaimidae
Hoplolaimidae	tail often with little tip, ventrally overlapping	Helicotylenchus;
Hoplolaimidae	tail without tip, dorsal overlap	Rotylenchus;
Terrestrial nematodes with stylet and median bulb		Esophageal glands overlapping. One gonad
Esophageal glands overlapping. One gonad	short stylet strongly developed, tail blunt	Pratylenchidae
Pratylenchidae	lip region flattened	Pratylenchus
Esophageal glands overlapping. One gonad	stylet weak, tail conical	Anguinidae
Anguinidae	median bulb weakly developed	Pseudhalenchus
Esophageal glands overlapping. One gonad	median bulb light-refracting, stylet weak	Aphelenchoididae
Aphelenchoididae	tail conical, often with mucro	Aphelenchoides
Aphelenchoididae	tail bluntly rounded	Aphelenchus
Terrestrial nematodes with stylet and median bulb		Esophageal glands not overlapping Two gonads
Esophageal glands not overlapping Two gonads	tail bluntly rounded	Dolichodoridae
Dolichodoridae	with longitudinal grooves	Dolichorynchus
Dolichodoridae	lateral field with six lines	Merlinius

Dolichodoridae	lateral field with four lines	Tylenchorynchus
Dolichodoridae	lateral field with four lines	Bitylenchus
Terrestrial nematodes with stylet and median bulb		Esophageal glands not overlapping One gonad
Esophageal glands not overlapping One gonad		tail long, acute
tail long, acute	stylet as long as half the distance from anterior to median bulb	Tylodoridae
Tylodoridae		Cephalenchus
tail long, acute	stylet short, tail elongated conical	Tylenchidae
Tylenchidae	with longitudinal grooves	Coslenchus
Tylenchidae	cuticle strongly annulated, folded	Malenchus
Tylenchidae	with vulva_flaps	Aglenchus
Tylenchidae	the large group for the remaining species	Filenchus
Esophageal glands not overlapping One gonad	body with conspicuously broad annules, little, plump nematodes several genera	Criconematidae
Esophageal glands not overlapping One gonad	double, annulated cuticle	Hernicycliophoridae
Hernicycliophoridae	body behind vulva narrowing	Hemicycliophora
Hernicycliophoridae	body behind vulva not narrowing	Loofia
Esophageal glands not overlapping One gonad	little C-shaped nematodes, procorpus gently widens into median bulb	Paratylenchidae
Paratylenchidae	stylet long	Paratylenchus
Terrestrial nematodes with a spear, median bulb absent		Spear structure simple
Spear structure simple		broadened esophageal part surrounded by a muscle-sheath
broadened esophageal part surrounded by a muscle-sheath	spear short	Belondiridae
Belondiridae	oesophagus constricted, body tapering anteriorly	Axonchium
Spear structure simple		Broadened esophageal part is not surrounded by a muscle-sheath

Broadened esophageal part is not surrounded by a muscle-sheath	very long (3 - 12 mm) nematodes, extremely slender	Longidoridae
Longidoridae	guiding tube positioned anteriorly, extension not flanged	Longidorus
Longidoridae	guiding tube positioned posteriorly, extension flanged	Xiphinema
Longidoridae	short spear with large aperture	Aporcelaimidae
Aporcelaimidae	tail - cuticle obviously two - layered	Aporcelaimellus
Aporcelaimidae	body straight, tail blunt, spear curved body content often gets loose from cuticle, light-refracting particle around oral aperture	Pungentus
Aporcelaimidae	large nematodes, female tail greatly extended, males with a bluntly rounded tail, guiding tube single	Mesodorylaimus
Aporcelaimidae	tails of both sexes identical, longly extended, guiding tube double	Prodorylaimus
Aporcelaimidae	tail conical and bent ventrally	Eudorylaimus group
Terrestrial nematodes with a spear, median bulb absent		Spear structure complex
Spear structure complex	spear curved, tail blunt, anus almost terminal	Trichodoridae
Trichodoridae	cuticle not swollen, males curved	Trichodorus
Trichodoridae	cuticle swollen, males straight	Paratrachodorus
Spear structure complex	spear short, "badly fixated animals"	Diptherophoridae
Diptherophoridae	cuticle hangs loose around body	Diptherophora
Diptherophoridae	C-shaped, body contents not visible	Tylolaimophorus
Spear structure complex	(heterogenous group)	Leptonchidae

Leptonchidae	minute nematodes, spear extension with knobs, lip region cap-like	Tylencholaimus
Terrestrial nematodes without a stylet or spear		The mouth cavity is wide
The mouth cavity is wide		Mouth cavity tubular
Mouth cavity tubular	tail without spinneret, mouth cavity walls parallel	Rhabditidae
Rhabditidae	most common soil-inhabitor	Rhabditis terricola
Mouth cavity tubular	tail with spinneret, mouth cavity slightly funnel-shaped	Plectidae
Plectidae	amphid circular, mouth cavity anteriorly not widened	Plectus
Plectidae	with wing-like expansions in neck region	Wilsonema
Plectidae	amphid slit-like, inconspicuous mouth cavity with saucer-shaped widening, males common	Anaplectus
The mouth cavity is wide		Mouth cavity barrel-shaped
Mouth cavity barrel-shaped	tail hair-like elongated	Prismatolaimidae
Prismatolaimidae	head setae present	Prismatolaimus
Mouth cavity barrel-shaped	mouth cavity strongly sclerotized, three teeth, base of mouth cavity flat, base of oesophagus with vesicles	Anatonchidae
Anatonchidae	teeth in posterior half of mouth cavity	Anatonchus
Anatonchidae	teeth in anterior half of mouth cavity	Miconchus
Mouth cavity barrel-shaped	tail hair-like elongated mouth cavity strongly sclerotized, with one large dorsal tooth, at opposite of it usually an ridge, oesophagus base without vesicles	Mononchidae
Mononchidae	head setae present	Clarkus
Mononchidae	edge absent, tail curved, caudal glands absent	Coomansus

Mononchidae	edge absent, tail straight, caudal glands present	Mononchus
Mononchidae	edge rasped	Prionchulus
Mononchidae	with little teeth in regular cross-rows	Mylonchulus
Mononchidae	with irregular arranged teeth	Granonchulus
The mouth cavity is wide		Mouth cavity closed or with an inconspicuous space
Mouth cavity closed or with an inconspicuous space		Lip region with outgrowths or bubbles
Lip region with outgrowths or bubbles	"mouth cavity" with a wide ring followed by four narrow rings	Cephalobidae
Cephalobidae	lip ornaments conspicuous, forked, fringed	Acrobeles
Cephalobidae	lip ornaments finely forked, not fringed	Cervidellus
Cephalobidae	small nematodes, oesophagus corpus spool-shaped	Acrobeloides
Cephalobidae	six lips	Eucephalobus
Cephalobidae	three lips, tail blunt	Cephalobus
Cephalobidae	three lips, tail acute	Heterocephalobus
Lip region with outgrowths or bubbles	lip region with a crown	Teratocephalidae
Teratocephalidae	cuticle annulated, tail relatively long	Teratocephalus
Teratocephalidae	cuticle punctated, tail conical	Metateratocephalus
Mouth cavity closed or with an inconspicuous space		Lip region without outgrowths
Lip region without outgrowths	spiral- shaped nematodes with a tooth in a closed mouth cavity	Tripylidae
Tripylidae	spiral-shaped after heat fixation	Tripyla
Lip region without outgrowths	nematodes conspicuously slender, little structure	Alaimidae
Alaimidae	amphid inconspicuous	Alaimus
Alaimidae	amphid sickle-shaped	Paramphidelus
Lip region without outgrowths	spear hardly visible, covered by grains	Diptherophoridae

Diptherophoridae	plump nematodes with a bluntly rounded tail	Tylolaimophorus
Freshwater nematodes with a stylet and median bulb		Stylet knobs conspicuous, median bulb not light-refracting
Stylet knobs conspicuous, median bulb not light-refracting	oesophagus overlapping	Pratylenchidae
Pratylenchidae	long slender nematodes, tail conical	Hirschmanniella
Freshwater nematodes with a stylet and median bulb		Stylet knobs are inconspicuous, median bulb light-refracting
Stylet knobs are inconspicuous, median bulb light-refracting	tail often with-mucro	Aphelenchoididae
Aphelenchoididae	vulva not covered by a membrane	Aphelenchoides
Freshwater nematodes with a spear, median bulb absent		Mouth cavity barrel-shaped
Mouth cavity barrel-shaped	mouth cavity with four teeth	Actinolaimidae
Actinolaimidae	cavity wall with minute teeth	Paractinolaimus
Freshwater nematodes with a spear, median bulb absent		Mouth cavity inconspicuous, tubular
Mouth cavity inconspicuous, tubular		Spear like a tooth implanted on mouth cavity wall
Spear like a tooth implanted on mouth cavity wall	tooth on right subventral wall	Nygolaimidae
Nygolaimidae	nematodes slender, tail short	Nygolaimus
Mouth cavity inconspicuous, tubular		Spear axial
Spear axial		Dorylaimids
Dorylaimids	cuticle with longitudinal grooves	Dorylaimus
Dorylaimids	guiding tube barrel-shaped, spear aperture minute	Chrysonemoides
Dorylaimids	spear extension pear-like swollen	Enchodelus
Dorylaimids	relative small, tail bluntly rounded	Thornia
Freshwater nematodes without stylet or spear		Median bulb present

Median bulb present	mouth cavity with dorsal tooth, subventrally at most small teeth	Diplogasteridae
Diplogasteridae	round chamber opposite of vulva	Diplogasteritus
Diplogasteridae	round chamber absent	Butlerius
Diplogasteridae	mouth cavity with a diagonal and a cross edge	Diplogaster
Median bulb present	dorsal and right subventral large teeth, left subventral no tooth	Neodiplogasteridae
Neodiplogasteridae	mouth cavity with one large chamber	Fictor
Neodiplogasteridae	two chambers, cheilostom without sculpture, tail relatively short, $c' = 4$	Pareudiplogaster
Neodiplogasteridae	two chambers, cheilostom with longitudinal sculpture, tail longer, $c' = 7 - 8$	Glauxinema
Freshwater nematodes without stylet or spear		Median bulb absent
Median bulb absent		Terminal bulb well developed
Terminal bulb well developed		cuticle punctated
cuticle punctated		amphids slit-like
amphids slit-like	oesophagus asymmetric around mouth cavity, ocelli absent	Hypodontolaimidae
Hypodontolaimidae	one dorsal tooth, opposite 5 - 6 rows of little teeth	Chromadorita
amphids slit-like	oesophagus symmetric, ocelli present (pigment not always evident)	Chromadoridae
Chromadoridae	mouth cavity with three teeth	Chromadorina
cuticle punctated		amphids spiral-shaped
amphids spiral-shaped	ocelli present, setae in one circle	Chromadoridae
Chromadoridae	excretion pore just behind lips	Punctodera
amphids spiral-shaped	setae in two circles	Achromadoridae
Achromadoridae	setae in two circles	Achromadora
amphids spiral-shaped	constricted oesophagus around mouth cavity	Ethmolaimidae

Ethmolaimidae	mouth cavity with three teeth	Ethmolaimus
amphids spiral-shaped	lip region with a crown, mouth cavity without teeth	Euteratocephalidae
Euteratocephalidae	amphids one and a half times coiled	Euteratocephalus
Terminal bulb well developed		cuticle not punctated
cuticle not punctated		amphids hardly visible, caudal glands absent
amphids hardly visible, caudal glands absent	mouth cavity tubular	Rhabditidae
Rhabditidae	cuticle swollen	Cuticularia
Rhabditidae	cuticle with longitudinal striae	Pelodera
amphids hardly visible, caudal glands absent	mouth cavity funnel- shaped	Panagrolaimidae
Panagrolaimidae	body behind vulva narrowing	Panagrolaimus
cuticle not punctated		amphid varying from round to slit-like, caudal glands present
amphid varying from round to slit-like, caudal glands present	posterior from terminal bulb oesophagus with finger-like extension	Leptolaimidae
Leptolaimidae	terminal bulb with "saw-teeth"	Chronogaster
Leptolaimidae	body before vulva indented	Paraplectonema
amphid varying from round to slit-like, caudal glands present	head swollen	Microlaimidae
Microlaimidae	annulation coarse, amphid cryptospiral	Microlaimus
amphid varying from round to slit-like, caudal glands present	mouth cavity without teeth	Plectidae
Plectidae	anteriorly mouth cavity globular widened, amphid slit- like	Anaplectus
Plectidae	mouth cavity not widened, amphid circular, (crypto-spiral)	Plectus
amphid varying from round to slit-like, caudal glands present	mouth cavity tubular, with small teeth	Rhabdolaimidae
Rhabdolaimidae	mouth cavity with a small dorsal tooth, subventrally two swellings	Rhabdolaimus

Rhabdolaimidae	mouth cavity funnel-shaped, with small teeth	Desmodoridae
Desmodoridae	valvular apparatus divided by a cross groove	Prodesmodora
Freshwater nematodes without stylet or spear		Terminal bulb absent
Terminal bulb absent		Mouth cavity barrel-shaped
Mouth cavity barrel-shaped	mouth cavity with dorsal tooth	Mononchidae
Mononchidae	no edge opposite dorsal tooth	Mononchus
Mouth cavity barrel-shaped	mouth without conspicuous teeth	Prismatolaimidae
Prismatolaimidae	head setae present, tail thread - like	Prismatolaimus
Terminal bulb absent		mouth cavity tubular or absent, not barrel-shaped
mouth cavity tubular or absent, not barrel-shaped		Amphids are spiral-shaped or circular
Amphids are spiral-shaped or circular	cuticle smooth, one gonad at right - side of intestine, amphid circular	Monhysteridae
Monhysteridae	amphids at most one head diameter from front-side	Monhystera
Monhysteridae	amphids more than one head diameter from front - side	Eumonhystera
Amphids are spiral-shaped or circular	cuticle annulation fine, one gonad at left side of intestine, amphids circular	Xyalidae
Xyalidae	tail tip with setae, tip swollen	Daptonema
Xyalidae	tail tip without setae	Theristus
Amphids are spiral-shaped or circular	cuticle annulation coarse, two gonads amphids spiral - shaped	Aphanolaimidae
Aphanolaimidae	nematodes relatively slender	Aphanolaimus
mouth cavity tubular or absent, not barrel-shaped		amphids inconspicuous, aperture slit-like
amphids inconspicuous, aperture slit-like	nematodes extremely slender, hardly any structure visible	Alaimidae

Alaimidae	amphids pore-like	Alaimus
Alaimidae	amphids sickle - shaped	Paramphidelus
amphids inconspicuous, aperture slit-like	mouth cavity tubular, with three teeth anteriorly, which can protrude	Ironidae
Ironidae	lip region set off	Ironus
amphids inconspicuous, aperture slit-like	mouth cavity funnel - shaped, with teeth	Tobrilidae
Tobrilidae	three conspicuous cells at base of oesophagus	Tobrilus
amphids inconspicuous, aperture slit-like	nematodes spiral-shaped, when inactive mouth cavity closed, small tooth visible	Tripylidae
Tripylidae	females with two gonads	Tripyla
Tripylidae	posterior gonad degenerated	Trischistoma
amphids inconspicuous, aperture slit-like	mouth cavity tubular, with basal teeth	Bathyodontidae
Bathyodontidae	Esophagal lumen sclerotized	Cryptonchus