

From	Key to Orders of Nematodes	To
Start	Specimen	1
1	Esophagus cylindrical or bottle-shaped; amphids usually post-labial; excretory system single-cell hypodermal glands; male usually with 2 testes; caudal alae rare; phasmids absent	2
1	Esophagus often subdivided into bulbs; amphid apertures on lips, often difficult to see, or posterior to lips and obvious - round or coiled; gonads single or paired in both male and female	8
2	Anterior sensillae often in 3 whorls of inner labial papillae, outer labial setae and cephalic setae; metanemes (filamentous structures in lateral chors) present; caudal glands present; esophageal glands open in or near stoma	3
2	Anterior sensillae rarely setiform; stoma with teeth or odontostyle; esophagus cylindrical, bottle-shaped or a stichosome; caudal glands usually absent; esophageal glands open in posterior region of esophagus	4
3	Spicule protractor muscles attached to proximal enlargement; metanemes present; marine and fresh water	10
3	Spicule protractor muscles form a pouch around spicules; protrusible tooth in some forms	11
4	Movable hollow spear; esophagus expanded posteriorly - bottle-shaped.	12
4	Glandular esophageal stichosome and intestinal trophosome; juveniles are parasites of invertebrates.	15
4	Esophagus vestigial; parasites of vertebrates in all life stages	17
4	Esophagus cylindrical throughout	5
5	Juveniles are parasites of invertebrates; adults free-living	19
5	All stages parasitic; adults are vertebrate parasites, juveniles with or without intermediate hosts	6
5	All stages free-living	7
6	Posterior esophagus a stichosome; onchiostyle present; monovarial; amphids pore-like	16
6	Anterior end has a sucker; males with bell-shaped bursa	18
7	Strong, large, cuticularized stoma with prominent dorsal tooth; predators of nematodes	13
7	Long and slender; tubular stoma without teeth; stoma without lips; soil inhabitants	14
8	Amphids usually pore-like, on lips; cephalic sensillae on lip region; phasmids present; caudal glands absent; mainly terrestrial, rarely freshwater or marine; include free-living, animal parasites, plant parasites	26
8	Amphids post-labial, varied shapes; phasmids absent; somatic seta common; mainly free-living aquatic organisms	9

9	Anterior sensillae in three whorls, inner labial, outer labial and cephalic; amphids var from circular to complex spirals, post-labial and usually posterior to cephalic setae; stoma funnel-shaped with a dorsal tooth and two smaller subventral teeth; esophagus cylindrical with posterior bulb; females diovarial; mainly marine	20
9	Brownish cuticle; anterior sensillae in three whorls, inner labial, outer labial and cephalic; amphids spiral, posterior to cephalic setae; dorsal and smaller subventral teeth; esophagus cylindrical with enlarged end bulb	21
9	Anterior sensillae in three whorls, inner labial, outer labial and cephalic, cephalic setae on peduncles; amphids large, on head; ocelli may be present; small stoma with small teeth; esophagus cylindrical; females diovarial; mainly marine	23
9	Small, slender nematodes with a slender tail region; three whorls of anterior sensilla; amphids round; both sexes with one or two gonads; Mainly aquatic and wet soil environments	22
9	Anterior sensillae in three whorls, inner labial, outer labial and cephalic; stoma with 3 to 6 teeth on anterior edge; amphids loop-shaped; ocelli may be present; esophagus cylindrical with no posterior enlargement	24
9	Labial sensilla papilliform, cephalic sensilla usually setiform; amphids circular or simple spiral; esophagus cylindrical, with or without basal bulb; females usually diovarial	25
10	Enoplida; amphids pocket-shaped; esophagus cylindrical; 3 esophageal glands opening in or near stoma; excretory canal present; marine and freshwater	Enoplina
10	Enoplida; amphids pocket-shaped; stoma elongated, without teeth or with 3-5 moveable teeth; esophagus cylindrical; excretory canal present; mainly marine but also freshwater	Ironina
10	Enoplida; amphids pocket-shaped; stoma large, refractive, with 3 teeth; esophagus cylindrical; excretory canal present; mainly marine but also freshwater	Oncholaimina
10	Enoplida; amphids spiral; stoma with 1 or more teeth; esophagus cylindrical; females diovarial; mainly marine	Tripyloidina
10	Enoplida; amphids pocket-shaped; stoma with dorsal tooth; esophagus cylindrical with terminal bulb; excretory canal present; females diovarial; soil and freshwater inhabitants	Campydorina
10	Enoplida; amphids pore or pocket-shaped; stoma vestigial, without teeth; esophagus slender, cylindrical, enlarged posteriorly; soil and freshwater inhabitants	Alaimina
10	Enoplida; amphids spiral; stoma with teeth; esophagus cylindrical; females diovarial; mainly marine, some freshwater	Trefusiina

11	Triplonchida; stoma with curved or complex spear; sensilla papilliform; esophagus with elongate prosterior bulb	Diphtherophorina
11	Triplonchida; stoma wide and refractive or funnel-shaped; usually with teeth; spinneret at tail tip	Tobrilina
11	Triplonchida; stoma narrow with a dorsal and two small subventral teeth; well-developed caudal glands opening at terminal spinneret	Tripylina
12	Dorylaimida; stoma with axial odontostyle	Dorylaimina
12	Dorylaimida; stoma with grooved subventral mural tooth	Nygolaimina
13	Mononchida; stoma large, wide with 1 to 3 teeth and/or rows of denticles	Mononchina
13	Mononchida; Stoma narrow with a single subventral tooth	Bathyodontina
14	Isolaimiida;	Isolaimiina
15	Mermithida;	Mermithina
16	Trichinellida;	Trichinellina
17	Muscipeicida;	Muscipeicina
18	Dioctophymatida;	Dioctophymatina
19	Marimermithida;	Marimermithina
20	Chromadorida;	Chromadorina
21	Desmodorida;	Desmodorina
22	Monhysterida;	Monhysterina
22	Monhysterida;	Linhomoeina
23	Desmoscolecida;	Desmoscolecina
24	Araeolaimida;	Araeolaimina
25	Plectida;	Plectina
26	Rhabditida; stoma with a protrusible stomatostyle; lip region simple; posterior esophageal region either a bulb without valve or overlapping glands	Tylenchina; Tylenchomorpha
26	Rhabditida; stoma without teeth or with denticles; lip region simple; esophageal corpus without bulb; posterior bulb with valve	Tylenchina; Panagrolaimophora
26	Rhabditida; stoma without teeth or with denticles; lip region with probolae; esophageal corpus without bulb; posterior bulb with valve	Tylenchina; Cephalobomorpha
26	Rhabditida; stoma with teeth; lip region simple; corpus with muscular metacarpus; no valve in posterior bulb	Rhabditina; Diplogasteromorpha
26	Rhabditida; stoma without teeth or with denticles; lip region simple; corpus with metacarpus; posterior bulb with valve	Rhabditina; Rhabditomorpha
26	Rhabditida; juveniles with cephalic hooks; multinucleate esophageal glands; parasites of animals	Spirurina