

From	Description	To
0	Nematode Specimen	1
1	Nematodes with a protrusible stylet (stomatostyle) or spear (odontostyle)	2
1	Nematodes without protrusible stylet or spear	24
2	Stylet and three-part esophagus with median bulb (metacarpus), males with or without bursa	3
2	Spear and two-part esophagus with posterior swollen (postcorpus), males usually without bursa but with supplements	16
3	Median bulb large with refractive valve, flattened against body wall, stylet knobs absent or small	4
3	Median bulb not refractive, stylet knobs obvious	5
4	Stylet without knobs, tail rounded, male with bursa	Aphelenchidae
4	Stylet with small knobs, tail pointed, male usually without bursa	Aphelenchoididae
5	Esophageal glands overlap intestine	6
5	Esophageal glands enclosed in bulb that abuts intestine	11
6	Cephalic framework well-developed, lip-region high; females with two gonads	7
6	Posterior gonad reduced to a post-uterine sac, vulva at 70-90%, lip-region flattened or cephalic framework absent	10
7	Tail tip, anus and vulva in close proximity on posterior of swollen female, male body twisted, male without bursa	8
7	Anus and vulva anterior to tail tip even when female swollen, male body not twisted, male with bursa	9
8	Juvenile and female stages are sedentary endoparasites, female greatly swollen; male without bursa, body twisted, migratory in soil. Body of dead female forms cyst and retains some or all eggs – subfam. Heteroderinae	Heteroderinae
8	Juvenile and female stages are sedentary endoparasites, female greatly swollen; male without bursa, body twisted, migratory in soil. Female body does not form cyst, eggs deposited in matrix – subfam. Meloidogyninae	Meloidogyninae
8	Adult females sedentary endoparasites, greatly swollen; pre-adults vermiform; male without bursa, body twisted, migratory in soil. Female body does not form cyst, eggs deposited in matrix – subfam. Nacoboderinae	Nacoboderinae
9	Stylet 2-3 x stylet body diameter, tail < 2 x anal body diameter, body spiral when heat-killed, vulva around 60% . Mature female remains vermiform – subfam. Hoplolaiminae	Hoplolaiminae
9	Stylet 2-3 x stylet body diameter, tail < 2 x anal body diameter, body spiral when heat-killed, vulva around 60%. Mature female saccate sedentary semi-endoparasite – subfam. Rotylenchulinae	Rotylenchulinae

	Tail > 2.5 x anal body diameter, phasmids on tail region. Long nematodes, stylet > 3 x stylet body diameter – subfam.	
9	Belonolaiminae	Belonolaiminae
9	Tail > 2.5 x anal body diameter, phasmids on tail region. Stylet < 1.5 x stylet body diameter – subfam. Telotylenchinae	Telotylenchinae
10	Lip-region flattened but cephalic framework well-developed Female remains vermiform – subfam. Pratylenchinae	Pratylenchinae
10	Lip-region flattened but cephalic framework well-developed. Female a saccate endoparasite – subfam. Nacobbinae	Nacobbinae
10	Cephalic-framework weak or absent	Anguinidae
11	Females with two gonads, males with caudal bursa	Dolichodoridae
11	Posterior female gonad reduced to a post-uterine sac, males with adanal bursa (if present)	12
12	Stylet short (< stylet body diameter), tail pointed to filiform	13
12	Stylet long so that knobs are close to median bulb valve, procorpus swollen and fused with metacarpus	14
13	Tail long and filiform (>5 x anal body diameter)	Tylenchidae
13	Tail pointed (<5 x anal body diameter), cephalic framework absent	Anguinidae
14	Thick cuticle with coarse striations	15
14	Female swollen, excretory pore posterior on body, female a saccate sedentary semi-endoparasite	Tylenchulinae
14	Cuticle with fine striations, male often without stylet, body C-shaped	Paratylenchinae
15	Large body diameter, sausage shape, slow moving, anchor-shaped stylet knobs	Criconematinae
15	Extra cuticular sheath, pointed tail, rounded stylet knobs	Hemicycliophorinae
16	Spear with complex configuration, loose-fitting cuticle	Diphtherophoridae
16	Spear simple, cuticle not loose but may be swollen	17
17	Spear dorsally curved, anus almost terminal	Trichodoridae
17	Spear straight, anus not terminal - tail present	18
18	Long, slender nematodes (1-12 mm), spear > 50 µm, long spear extension (odontophore)	Longidoridae
18	Short spear	19
19	Postcorpus of esophagus with muscular sheath	Belondiridae
19	No muscular sheath around esophagus	20
20	Spear extension (odontophore) thick and curved	Leptonchidae
20	Spear extension not curved	21
21	Plump nematodes, tail rounded, with or without point	22
21	Slender nematodes, tail conoid to filiform	23
22	Spear slightly curved, small opening	Nordiidae
22	Spear with large opening, cuticle appears layered at tail	Aporcelaimidae

23	Large nematodes (>2 mm), tail filiform (may be rounded in male)	Thornenematidae
23	Medium size (1-2 mm), tail conoid, body generally curved	Qudsianematidae
24	Body asymmetrical, caterpillar-like	Bunonematidae
24	Body symmetrical	25
25	Median bulb present, tail filiform	Diplogastridae
25	Median bulb absent	26
26	Esophagus with terminal bulb or swelling	27
26	Esophagus cylindrical, no swellings	37
27	Terminal bulb without valves	28
27	Terminal bulb with valves	29
28	Cuticle not striated	Monhysteridae
28	Cuticle clearly striated	Bastianiidae
29	Aquatic forms; cuticle striated and punctated	Chromadoridae
29	Cuticle without punctations	30
30	Stoma cavity with teeth, tail filiform	Diplogastridae
30	Stoma cavity without teeth	31
31	Head with labial extensions or crown	32
31	Head without extensions	34
32	Head with lateral cuticular extensions	Plectidae
32	Head with anterior extensions only	33
33	Labial extensions crown-shaped	Teratocephalidae
33	Labial-extensions thorn- or antler-shaped	Cephalobidae
34	Tail tip with spinneret, amphids easily visible, males with tubular supplements	Plectidae
34	Tail tip without spinneret	35
35	Stoma cavity cylindrical, cuticular walls, males with bursa	Rhabditidae
35	Stoma cavity funnel-shaped, walls not cuticular, posterior female gonad reduced, anterior gonad reflexed and extending beyond vulva	36
36	Stoma cavity clearly present, anteriorly cylindrical	Panagrolaimidae
36	Stoma cavity difficult to see, only anterior section open	Cephalobidae
37	Cuticle striated	Bastianiidae
37	Cuticle smooth	38
38	Slender nematodes, no obvious stoma cavity or setae	Alaimidae
38	Clear stoma cavity or setae	39
39	Amphids round, clearly visible	Monhysteridae
39	Amphids difficult to see, not round	40
40	Stoma cavity large, walls cuticular walls	41
40	Stoma cavity funnel-shaped or closed anteriorly, walls not cuticular	42
41	Tail filiform, setae present	Prismatolaimidae
41	Tail not filiform, large stoma cavity with teeth	Mononchidae
42	Funnel-shaped stoma with small teeth	Tobrilidae

42	Stoma closed anteriorly, one tooth and two tiny denticles in lumen	Tripylidae
----	--------------------------------------------------------------------	------------