

M16: An introduction to identifying the feeding groups of nematodes

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When assessing soil health, a number of chemical, physical and biological indicators can be measured. Nematodes have proven to be valuable bio-indicators. They have a high diversity and abundance, are widespread and have known high and species-specific sensitivity to various environmental conditions. In this workshop we will discuss the application of nematodes as biological soil quality indicators through the online tool NINJA, and you will get an introductory hands-on training explaining the basic morphology of nematodes. At the end of the masterclass you will be able to use the NINJA tool and to classify nematodes into feeding groups.

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An Introduction to Identifying the Feeding Groups of Nematodes & use of NINJA

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Let me assist you with learning the basic morphology of nematodes & the calculation of indices through NINJA

Output of NINJA

Output Table

Automatic Calculation of:

- Maturity Index
- Structure, Enrichment & Channel Index
- Trophic groups
- Life history groups
- Energy foot-prints
- Index of Compost Maturity
- Explorative statistics

Visual Output

Automatic Construction of:

- Box Plots
- Bar Diagrams
- Food-Web Diagnostic Graphs
- CP-triangle

Why Would You Use NINJA?

- Automatic Calculation of All Nematode Indices
- Up-to-Date Nematode Database:
 - Taxonomy
 - Trophic Group Classification
 - C-P and P-P classification
- Reduction of Calculation Errors
- Fast and Reliable Insight in Results

Is it Difficult to Use NINJA?

No, Not At All!

Put your Nematode Data in an Excel File.
Go to the NINJA Website.
Upload Your Excel File.
That's All!
...Your Results are Available at One of the Tabs

What if I am a Headstrong Nematologist?

There Are Options to Deviate From the Default Settings

- Adjustment of feeding type designation
- It is optional to exclude or include dauerlarvae
- Warning system for presence of cyst or root-knot nematodes
- And... the developers are accessible to extension of the tool

NINJA
<http://sectiebiocennalou.shinvaags.nl/ninja/>

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