

NemaNINJA game: interpretation of nematode-based soil quality indicators.

Organiser: Ron de Goede

Institution: Soil Biology Group, Wageningen University & Research

Co-organisers: Gerard Korthals, Giulia Bongiorno

Description:

Currently, there are many tools available to assess soil quality. Besides soil physical and chemical parameters, also soil biological information can provide information on the functioning of the soil ecosystem. Nematodes are perfectly suited for this and many nematode community-based indices are available (Du Preez et al. 2022, see: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soilbio.2022.108640>). Among the most popular indices are the Structure index and the Enrichment index. They can be presented in a 2-dimensional graph (food-web diagnostic square) that can be used to provide a diagnosis of your soil ecosystem. This afternoon you are invited to play the interactive board game NemaNINJA to learn how to relate ecosystem functioning to nematode community structure. While playing the game, you will also learn how to recognize some dominant nematode taxa. If you bring your laptop, you can also test your learned skills by analyzing a real dataset with the online tool NINJA (<https://shiny.wur.nl/ninja/>).

Theme: Advances in measuring and modelling soil processes

Keywords: Bioindicators, Board-game, NINJA, Nematodes, Education

Type of masterclass: Playing an educational boardgame and data collection

