

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787706503321
Titolo	Gastrotricha, cycloneuralia and gnathifera . Volume 2 Nematoda // edited by Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin : , : De Gruyter, , [2014] ©2014
ISBN	3-11-027425-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (776 p.)
Collana	Handbook of zoology, , 2193-4231 ; ; volume 2
Classificazione	WP 1003
Disciplina	592.57
Soggetti	Nematodes Plant nematodes Soil nematodes
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Introduction / Schmidt-Rhaesa, Andreas -- Dedication / Junker, Kerstin / Mutafchiev, Yasen -- Contents -- List of contributing authors -- 1. Morphology of Nematoda / Decraemer, Wilfrida / Coomans, August / Baldwin, James -- 2. Reproduction and development in Nematodes / Schierenberg, Einhard / Sommer, Ralf J. -- 3. Ecology of free-living marine nematodes / Moens, Tom / Braeckman, Ulrike / Derycke, Sofie / Fonseca, Gustavo / Gallucci, Fabiane / Gingold, Ruth / Guilini, Katja / Ingels, Jeroen / Leduc, Daniel / Vanaverbeke, Jan / Van Colen, Carl / Vanreusel, Ann / Vincx, Magda -- 4. Ecology of Freshwater Nematodes / Traunspurger, Walter -- 5. Outline on nematode phylogeny / Schmidt-Rhaesa, Andreas -- 6. Palaeontology of nematodes / Poinar, George O. -- 7 Taxonomy -- 7.1 Order Benthimermithida Tchesunov, 1995 / Miljutin, Dmitry M. -- 7.2 Order Rhaptothyreida Tchesunov, 1995 / Miljutin, Dmitry M. -- 7.3 Order Enoplida / Smol, Nic / Muthumbi, Agnes / Sharma, Jyotsna -- 7.4 Order Triplonchida Cobb, 1919 / Holovachov, Oleksandr / Shoshin, Alexander -- 7.5 Order Dorylaimida Pearse, 1942 / Peña-Santiago, Reyes -- 7.6 Order Mononchida Jairajpuri, 1969 / Peña-Santiago, Reyes -- 7.7 Order Isolaimiida Cobb, 1920 / Holovachov, Oleksandr -- 7.8 Order Dioctophymatida / Schmidt-Rhaesa, Andreas -- 7.9 Order Muspiceida / Spratt, David M. -- 7.10 Order Marimermithida Rubtzov

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Sommario/riassunto

This section of the Handbook of Zoology is intended as a comprehensive and exhaustive account of the biology of the taxa Gastrotricha, Nematoda, Nematomorpha, Priapulida, Kinorhyncha, Loricifera, Gnathostomulida, Micrognathozoa, Rotifera, Seisonida and Acanthocephala, covering all relevant topics such as morphology, ecology, phylogeny and diversity. The series is intended to be a detailed and up-to-date account of these taxa. As was the case with the first edition, the Handbook is intended to serve as a reliable resource for decades. Many of the taxa of this volume are comparatively unknown to many biologists, despite their diversity and importance for example in meiofaunal communities (Gastrotricha, Rotifera, Gnathostomulida), their fascinating recent discoveries (Loricifera and Micrognathozoa), their importance as parasites (many nematodes, Nematomorpha, Acanthocephala) and their importance for evolutionary questions (e.g. Priapulida, Gastrotricha). The groups covered range from those poor in species (such as Micrognathozoa with 2 known species) to the species-rich and diverse Nematoda and their ca. 20.000 described species. While each taxon is covered by one chapter, nematodes are treated in several chapters dedicated to their structural, taxonomic and ecological diversity.
