

Checklist of free living nematodes recorded from freshwater habitats in Southern Africa

J Heyns*

Department of Zoology, Rand Afrikaans University, PO Box 524, Auckland Park 2006, South Africa

Abstract

A checklist is given of about 150 species of aquatic and semi-aquatic free living nematodes recorded from freshwater as well as from mud and wet soil adjoining water bodies, from South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

Introduction

The recently published key to genera of freshwater nematodes of Southern Africa (Heyns, 2002) did not list species, except in the case of a very few genera. A checklist is now presented for all freshwater species recorded from South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. It may serve as a supplement to the key. It should be noted, however, that while the key included all genera or higher taxa of which representatives have been recorded from freshwater, or semi-aquatic habitats often bordering on water bodies, the present checklist is limited to those species only which are known or assumed to be able to live and reproduce in aquatic or semi-aquatic habitats, where they occupy a variety of niches in the ecosystem. At the same time it excludes those soil-living species, which are frequently washed into water bodies through the action of runoff rain or irrigation water. They end up in the benthos where they may survive for relatively long periods, but since they do not feed or reproduce here, they cannot play any significant role in the

aquatic ecosystem (Heyns 1976; 2002). For this reason they are not included in the checklist, even though most publications on freshwater nematodes record these accidentals, probably for the sake of completeness. On the other hand there are some species, which can apparently live equally well in aquatic, semi-aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Where a particular publication lists such a species from more than one habitat, this is indicated in the checklist by using the following codes: aq (aquatic); s-aq (semi-aquatic) and t (terrestrial).

Synonyms are cited only when the species concerned have been recorded under names or genus-species combinations different from those currently in use. The number of the reference together with the code is then given after the name under which the species was recorded. Where the same species has been recorded more than once, but under different names or combinations, the relevant reference numbers and codes are given after each listing.

The classification followed in the checklist is a synthesis of those employed by Andr assy (1976; 1984) and Goodey (1963).

Order Rhabditida Oerley, 1880 (Chitwood, 1933)		
Family Rhabditidae Oerley, 1880 Genus <i>Rhabditis</i> Dujardin, 1845 <i>R. oxycerca</i> (De Man, 1895) Dougherty, 1955 Genus <i>Mesorhabditis</i> Osche, 1952 (Dougherty, 1953) <i>M. striatica</i> Dassonville and Heyns, 1984 Genus <i>Diploscapter</i> Cobb, 1913 <i>D. coronata</i> (Cobb, 1893) Cobb, 1913	Dassonville (1981): Dassonville & Heyns (1984): Dassonville (1981):	aq aq aq
Family Cephalobidae Filipjev, 1934 Genus <i>Paracrobeles</i> Heyns, 1968 <i>P. laterellus</i> Heyns, 1968	Rashid et al. (1990):	s-aq

* Posthumously submitted by corresponding author: Prof. A Avenant-Oldewage, Rand Afrikaans University, PO Box 524, Auckland Park 2006, South Africa.

☎ 011 489-2449; fax 011 489-2286; e-mail: ao@na.rau.ac.za

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