

# FREE-LIVING NEMATODES IN EPIPHYTIC MOSSES OF THE CHERNIHIV POLESIE (UKRAINE)

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The total number of species of nematodes found in European mosses growing on different types of substrates is 234. The nematode fauna of the mosses growing on soil, stones, and rocks is studied comparatively better. However, the information about nematodes of epiphytic mosses worldwide is fragmentary.

This study was conducted during 2009 – 2014 of the Chernihiv Polesie (the recreational green plantations of Chernihiv, the Mezin National Nature Park, natural reserved territories of Horodnianskyi region). Moss samples were collected from the trunks of the trees at a height of 100–120 cm. Nematodes were extracted by a modified Baermann's method. Exposition time was 48 h. Extracted nematodes were fixed in the TAF (2 % triethanolamine, 7 % formaldehyde solution, 91 % water), and mounted on the temporary hydroglyceric slides.

Nematodes were found in all collected samples. They are, therefore, considered as common inhabitants of epiphytic mosses in the studied area. In total were present 47 species, which were distributed 34 genera, 20 families and 8 orders. The quantity of nematodes differed from 60 to 35300 specimens per 100 g in separate samples.

Species from 4 orders comprised the core of the studied nematode communities. The order Rhabditida was the richest in species number; it was represented by 12 species, or 25.5 % of the species composition. Less diverse were Tylenchida, Plectida, Dorylaimida, (10, 8, 7 species, respectively). In terms of quantitative representation, species of Plectida were dominant (proportion in the community 40.75 %). This proportion was 2 times higher than the number of representatives of Dorylaimida (21.30 %) and Monhysterida (18.65 %). Representatives of the order Rhabditida comprised only 3.74%. The dominant species were *Plectus cirratus* Bastian, 1865 and *Geomonhystera villosa* Bütschli, 1873 (portion in the community 18.59 % and 17.96 %, respectively).