



# Nematodes Live in the Soil!



## DIY: Catching Nematodes – Baermann Extraction

### What you need:

- Soil (preferably high in organic matter)
- Cheesecloth
- Rubber band
- Funnel
- Tube & clamp
- Water
- Shallow glass
- Microscope

### What to do:

- Make a “tea bag” with soil, cheesecloth, and rubber band (Photo A)
- Connect a tube to the bottom of the funnel
- Clamp bottom of tube shut and place the soil “tea bag” in the funnel (Photo B)
- Fill the funnel with water – make sure the end of the tube is clamped!
- Wait a day or two and release the water into a vial or shallow glass
- Look under the microscope to see if you “caught” any nematodes!

Photo A: Soil “tea bag”



Photo B: Assembled Baermann funnel



*Acrobeles mariannae*, bacteria-eating



*Mylonchulus sigmaturus*, predator



*Prodorylaimus filarum*, omnivorous

## Did you know...

1. There are about 25,000 known species of nematodes, but it is estimated that about 10,000,000 different species exist!
2. Nematodes are able to survive stressful conditions (such as heat, freezing, drought) by entering a state called “cryptobiosis”.
3. Nematodes are important for the environment and are often indicators of environmental quality.
4. The various types of nematodes have different food sources: some eat bacteria, some eat fungi, some eat plants, and others eat each other!