

## **International perspectives on the United States Department of Agriculture Nematode Collection, past, current and future.**

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The United States Department of Agriculture Nematode Collection (USDANC) is one of the largest and most valuable nematode collections in the world which includes millions of nematode specimens. The collection was established in 1960 by A. Morgan Golden [1,2,3]. Over the years, nematode samples from 149 countries were incorporated into the collection. Moreover, if we take into consideration all the territories and former countries that were split in different countries, the total number of depositions increased to 172 countries and territories. Deposition of specimens to the USDANC were made from collaborators from all over the world as well as from U.S. point of entries. Today the USDANC is comprised of several collections, which include the Type Collection, General, Thorne Steiner Mermithid, Mass, Gates and a Demonstration Collection. The revised list of the type specimens added to the USDANC since 1998 was published in 2018 [3]. The collection database is accessible online at: <https://nt.ars-grin.gov/nematodes/>. The database also provides a detailed list of specimens that are deposited in the USDANC available to interested scientists for loan for limited periods of time. Currently, efforts are being made to digitize the images of all the specimens deposited in the collection. To expand the collection, we encourage all nematologists and scientists throughout the world to enrich our collection by depositing valuable type and other specimens in the USDANC for future generations.

**Keywords:** Collection - Deposition - Nematode slides - Type Collection - USDANC.

### **References:**

- [1] Golden. 1962. *Nematologica* 8:84-5
- [2] Handoo et al. 1998. *Journal of Nematology* 30:108–158
- [3] Handoo et al. 2018. *Journal of Nematology* 50(1):51-68