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STUDIES OF TERRESTRIAL NEMATODES IN THE VICINITY OF SYOWA STATION, ANTARCTICA (ABSTRACT)

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Species composition and distribution of terrestrial nematodes were studied in the vicinity of Syowa Station, East Antarctica. Nematode specimens were extracted from mosses, lichens, algae and sands collected at seven localities from 1982 to 1989: Strandnibba, Rundvågshetta, Skallen, Langhovde, Mt. Vechernaya, Mt. Riiser-Larsen, Einstödingen Isl. and East Ongul Isl. in the coastal area of this region, and the Sør Rondane Mts. inland. Six species were found in the study; *Plectus antarcticus* de Man, *P. frigophilus* Kirjanova, *Scottnema lindsayae* Timm, *Panagrolaimus davidi* Timm and two previously undescribed species, *Eudorylaimus* sp. and Cephalobidae sp. This was the first time for the latter three species to be recorded in this region. *Plectus antarcticus* was the most common and abundant in the coastal area of the region. *Scottnema lindsayae* was alss common in the coastal area but not as abundant in number as *P. antarcticus*. *Plectus frigophilus*, *Eudorylaimus* sp. and Cephalobidae sp. were rarely found in the coastal area. The distribution of *P. davidi* was restricted to the Sør Rondane Mts. of the inland area and its density was relatively high. It is characteristic of the nematode fauna in the vicinity of Syowa Station to show low diversity and consist of species endemic to the Antarctic. The nematode fauna is similar to that of the Ros Sea region in diversity but not in species composition.

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