



## Type material housed in the Helminthological Collection of the Museo de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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### Abstract

A catalogue of type specimens of the Helminthological Collection of the División Zoología Invertebrados, of Museo de La Plata (FCNyM-UNLP), Argentina, is presented. It includes Platyhelminthes, Nematoda, Nematomorpha and Acanthocephala. The collection comprises type lots for 217 species: 90 nematodes, 50 digeneans, 28 Nematomorpha, 19 monogeneans, 17 turbellarians, 8 cestodes and 5 acanthocephalans. Specific names are listed systematically, followed by type host, type locality, specimens, collection number and bibliographic reference.

**Key words:** Helminthes, catalogue, type material, Museo de La Plata Collection

### Introduction

Natural history collections play an important role in the study and understanding of biodiversity. In this regard, type specimens are the base units of zoological nomenclature. The Invertebrate Collections of Museo de La Plata (MLP) of the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, are a significant resource of information about the invertebrate (excluding insects) biodiversity of Argentina. The Helminthological Collection contained within the collections of invertebrates at MLP includes species of Platyhelminthes (both free-living and parasitic), Acanthocephala, Nematoda, and Nematomorpha.

### History and composition of the collection

The Helminthological Collection of the MLP, was established around 1970 and was based on the research work of Dr. Carola Sutton, primarily on nematodes of mammals. This collection began to grow, first by the great effort of the researchers of the Invertebrate Zoology Division, and then also by other researchers from different institutions of our country. During the last two decades the collection has grown rapidly. Today it is the biggest Helminthological Collection in Argentina, and one of the most important in South America, not only by the number of types specimens, but also for the number of vouchers specimens, representing a large fraction of the known Helminthological fauna of the region.

All the material in this collection is organized according to lots and registered in an entry book. All the material of the collection is digitalized in a database, including record, taxonomy, locality, collection-event, biological-events (including host species and its systematic position, and site of infection in parasite species) and bibliographic elements.

A first catalogue of slide preparation type and non-type specimens was published in 2000 (Sutton & Damborenea 2000). It included only the slide preparations, with a total of 106 species. Between them, the type material corresponds to 41 species. Subsequent to the publication of this summary, the collection has grown substantially and the number of types has increased significantly as well. Currently, the type specimens of 213 nominal species are deposited in the collection.