



PROTOZOA AND NEMATODES

Protozoa are single-celled animals that feed primarily on bacteria, other protozoa, soluble organic matter and sometimes fungi.

They are several times larger than bacteria – ranging from 5 to 500 µm in diameter.

As they eat bacteria, protozoa release excess nitrogen that can then be used by plants and other members of the food web.

Amoebae are a type of large protozoa.



Karl Ritz



Roberto Cenci

Nematodes are small cylindrical worms that are very numerous in the top layers of soil.

Nematodes are by far the most numerous invertebrates to be found in soil, both in terms of the number of individuals and for the huge range of species.

They are able to adapt to almost all habitats.

Nematodes can cause substantial economic losses in agriculture not only as a result of a decrease in the yield of crops but also in the cost of fumigants to sterilize the soil.