



SLOVENSKI STANDARD SIST EN ISO 21286:2020

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Kakovost tal - Identifikacija vrst preskusnih organizmov za ekotoksikološke preskuse s črtnim kodiranjem DNK (ISO 21286:2019)

Soil quality - Identification of ecotoxicological test species by DNA barcoding (ISO 21286:2019)

Bodenbeschaffenheit - Identifizierung der Testorganismenarten für ökotoxikologische Tests mit Hilfe von DNA-Barcoding (ISO 21286:2019)

Qualité du sol - Identification des espèces par codes-barres ADN dans les essais d'écotoxicologie (ISO 21286:2019)

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN ISO 21286

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

April 2020

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English Version

Soil quality - Identification of ecotoxicological test species by DNA barcoding (ISO 21286:2019)

Qualité du sol - Identification des espèces par codes-
barres ADN dans les essais d'écotoxicologie (ISO
21286:2019)

Bodenbeschaffenheit - Allgemeine Anleitung zur
Verwendung des DNA-Barcodes in ökotoxikologischen
Untersuchungen (ISO 21286:2019)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 April 2020.

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European foreword

The text of ISO 21286:2019 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190 "Soil quality" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 21286:2020 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 444 "Environmental characterization of solid matrices" the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2020, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2020.

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INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO
21286

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**Soil quality — Identification of
ecotoxicological test species by DNA
barcoding**

*Qualité du sol — Identification des espèces par code-bare ADN dans
les essais d'écotoxicologie*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Biological characterization*.

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Introduction

Currently, test species identification is usually based on morphological characters. However, this does not always give clear results because

- a) few taxonomic experts are available,
- b) closely related species can differ by a few, easily overlooked characters, and
- c) even more importantly, several test species are in fact complexes of cryptic species.

A good example is the compost worm *Eisenia fetida/andrei* (used in ISO 11268-1, ISO 11268-2 and ISO 17512-1), in which morphological traits alone may not be sufficient to discriminate between both species[5][36]. Another well-known case is the predatory mite, *Hypoaspis (Geolaelaps) aculeifer*[50], which might get confused with *H. miles*, widely used in biological pest control[31].

Species misidentifications, the use of a morphospecies which is actually a complex of cryptic species, or even species mixing in lab cultures, can be a serious problem for the reliability of the ecotoxicological tests. Sibling species in a morphospecies complex can exhibit ecological, behavioural, and physiological differences, and can differ also in their response to toxicants (e.g. References [2], [17], [35], [40]). This also seems to be the case of the springtail *Folsomia candida* (used in ISO 11267 and ISO 17512-2), in which considerable levels of genetic differentiation have been found among natural populations of *F. candida* and among laboratory strains[9][19][41]. Although different laboratory strains have been found to exhibit only minor differences in the sensitivity towards some chemicals[12][9], other studies have detected significant variation in phenanthrene avoidance behaviour and divergent fitness responses to cadmium exposure among genetically differentiated strains[14][30]. Moreover, even if two species have similar responses to toxicants, the presence of two species within the same laboratory culture can result in the production of sterile hybrids, which will bias the outcome of reproduction tests[36].

Implementing species identification via DNA barcoding can help to overcome these obstacles, ensuring that the species or strain used for testing is well characterized. As a result, quality assurance can be improved, making the results obtained by different ecotoxicological laboratories far more reliable and comparable. For *Eisenia fetida/E. andrei* this work, including an international ringtest, has already been performed[36], see Annex A. The conclusions of this ringtest can be summarized as follows.

- DNA barcoding is a reliable and practical method for identifying *Eisenia* species.
- Only 17 out of 28 ecotoxicological laboratories were correct in their taxonomic assignment. Most laboratories with wrong or unknown assignments actually have *E. andrei* in stock.
- The existence of a cryptic species pair within *E. fetida* is a plausible hypothesis.
- It is important that earthworms used for ecotoxicological tests are regularly (re-)identified by DNA barcoding.

Very probably, similar experiences and recommendations can be drawn for other invertebrates species used in terrestrial ecotoxicology, as well as plants. Indeed, DNA barcoding has proven to be useful for specimen identification and species delimitation in many organism groups, including other earthworms[13][37], enchytraeids[16], mites[15], collembolans[32], molluscs[42], nematodes[28] and terrestrial plants[8].

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