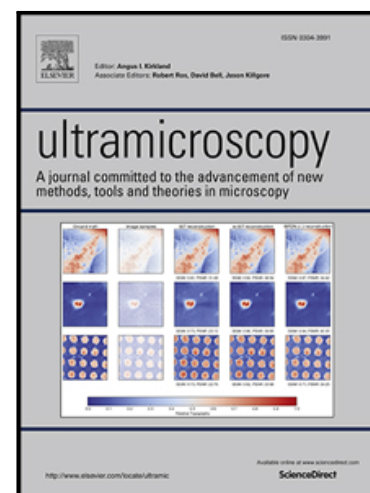


# Accepted Manuscript

Atomic force microscopy for imaging and nanomechanical characterisation of live nematode epicuticle: a comparative *Caenorhabditis elegans* and *Turbatrix aceti* study

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**Highlights**

- PeakForce tapping Atomic Force microscopy was applied to image live nematodes in native environments
- Nanomechanical mapping demonstrates non-uniform modulus and adhesion force distribution in adult nematodes
- High-resolution images and nanomechanical maps of *Caenorhabditis elegans* and *Turbatrix aceti* nematodes were comparatively investigated

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