



Underground sex

Worms display 'maternal love', shows Wim van Egmond's latest time-lapse video. The microphotographer has been working for years with Wageningen soil scientists to record what goes on in the underground world of worms. Producing not just stunning shots (like this mating *Aporrectodea caliginosa*) but also scientific findings. After mating, the worm creates a nursery (a tunnel) and lays its 'egg' (a cocoon) there, tucking it in carefully. 'We had no idea they did it like this,' says worm expert Jan-Willem van Groenigen with enthusiasm. True 'mother love'. In quotes, since worms are hermaphrodites. RK