

Short note

***Mesodorylaimus aestuarii* (Timm, 1952) Andrássy, 1959 (Dorylaimida: Dorylaimidae): the description of a male**

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The nematode *Dorylaimus aestuarii* was found in the green algae encrustation on stilts off the coast of the Maryland state, USA and was described based on a single female (Timm, 1952). Hereafter, this species has never been found again but its

validity has been maintained in the genus *Mesodorylaimus* after the revision by Andrássy (Andrássy, 1959, 1988). The brief description and the drawing of the species were reproduced in the book by Eliava (Eliava, 1984).

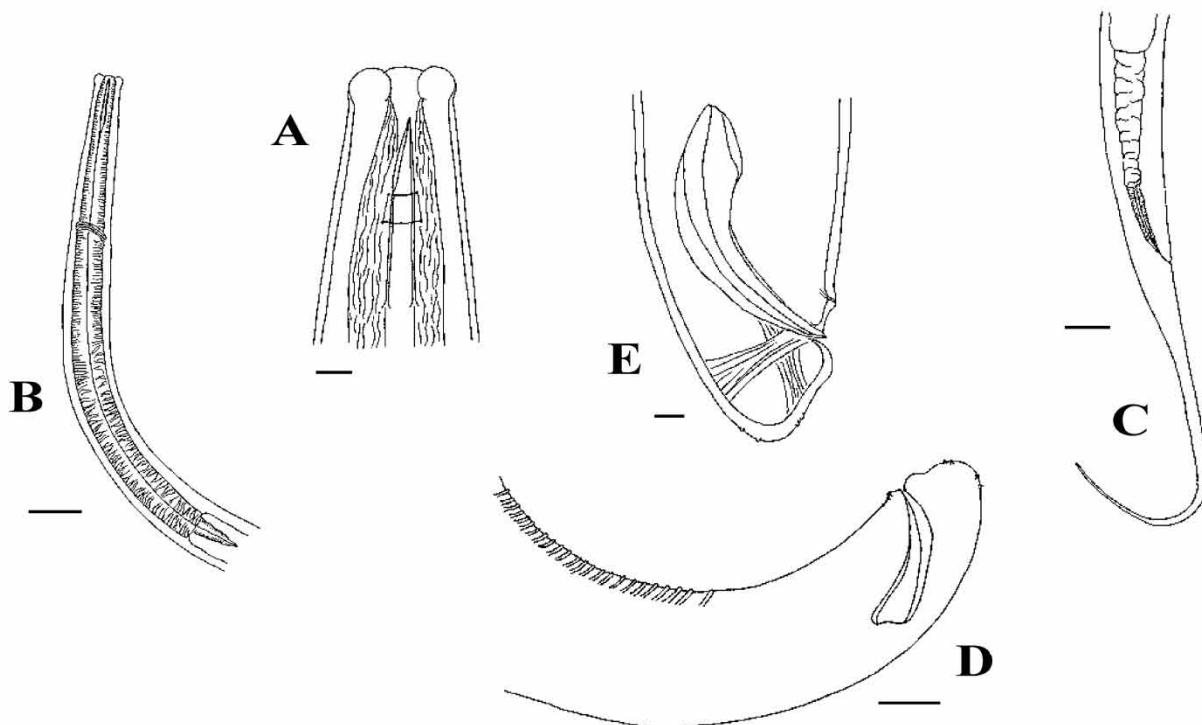


Fig. 1. *Mesodorylaimus aestuarii* (Timm, 1951): A: head; B: oesophagus; C: tail of female; D: posterior region of male; E: tail of male. Scale bars: A, E: 5 μm ; B: 50 μm ; C, D: 20 μm .

Table 1. Morphometrics of *Mesodorylaimus aestuarii* (Timm, 1952) Andrassy, 1959

Characters*	Male	Female	Female (Timm, 1952)
L	1782	2127	1700
a	37.9	36.6	30.6
b	3.9	4.7	5
c	84.9	10.5	16
c'	0.8	8.4	-
V%	-	46	45
Body width	47	58	55
Oesophagus	461	456	340
Tail	21	203	106
Anal diameter	25	24	-
Prerectum	-	87	-
Rectum	-	41	-
V-anus/tail	-	4.7	-
Vagina	-	18	-
Spicules (along chord)	45	-	-
Supplements	24	-	-
Head width	14	13	-
Length of odontostyle	24	22	19.5
Width of odontostyle	2.5	~3	-
Cut of odontostyle	9	8	6.5
Odontophore	13	21	22.5
Cardium	25	26	-
NR.%	32	32	-

* All absolute dimensions in μm

The material from the brackish waters of the Indian western coast contained some dorylaims along with other species of nematodes (Tsalolikhin, 2015). Two specimens of Dorylaimidae found are of the species *Mesodorylaimus aestuarii* (Fig. 1). The finding of a male is of particular interest, as it was not previously known for this species. The comparison of females from the original description (Timm, 1952) and our material (Table 1) has shown significant morphological similarity of these two specimens. Although the specimen from the brackish waters of India was slightly larger than the American one, the values of de Man indices in both cases were similar. The morphological similarity of the male and female specimens from India, peculiar to the given taxonomic group, has enabled us to consider them as the same species. As to the remoteness of the new finding from the typical habitat, the cosmopolitan way of life characteristic of many marine (and freshwater) species of nematodes should not been considered as an obstacle for accepting the species identity of both findings.

Male. Cephalic end slightly separated from the body contour. Cuticle 1 μm thick at level of spear and slightly more than 2 μm at tail region. Spear expands slightly to its base. Guiding ring double with its distal part pressed tightly against walls of spear giving impression of a simple ring. Amphid nearly indistinguishable, diameter of aperture about 40 μm . Pharynx with slightest expansion posterior to odontophore base and strong muscular system in posterior half (45%) of its length. Reproductive

system amphiorhic, testes about 250 μm in length, filled with large spermatozoa with slightly pointed ends, 6 μm in length. Supplementary apparatus consisting of 24 closely-adjoining supplements and one poorly expressed precloacal supplement. Supplementary row 68 μm in length. First supplement located at 65 μm from cloaca level. Spicules typical dorylaimoid, broad. Pre-rectum exceeding length of supplementary row. Tail rounded, with 4 pairs of papillae.

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