

- GOLDEN, A. M. (1971). Classification of the genera and higher categories of the order Tylenchida (Nematoda), Chapt. 8, p. 191-232. In B. M. Zuckerman *et al.* (eds.), Vol. 1, *Plant Parasitic Nematodes*, Academic Press, New York.
- SEINHORST, J. W. (1959). A rapid method for the transfer of nematodes from fixative to anhydrous glycerin. *Nematologica* 4: 67-69.
- SIDDIQI, M. R. (1963). Four new species of the genus *Tylenchus* Bastian, 1865 (Nematoda) from North India. *Z. f. Parasitenkunde* 23: 170-180.

FIRST REPORT OF THE MALES OF *SPORONCHULUS IBITENSIS*
 (CARVALHO, 1951) ANDRÁSSY, 1958 (NEMATODA : MYLONCHULIDAE)

BY

C. MOHANDAS

Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, Trivandrum, India

Sporonchulus ibitensis is known only from females (Carvalho, 1951; Mulvey, 1963). During the present study a few males along with numerous females were collected. The males are described here. Since this species is being recorded for the first time from India, diagnostic features of the females are also included in this report (Fig. 1, A-C).

4 ♂♂: L=1.18-1.28 mm; a=26.6-29.5; b=3.8-4.0; c=22.7-23.7; tail length=52-54 μ ; buccal cavity=30-31 \times 15-16 μ .

11 ♀♀: L=1.24-1.43 mm; a=20-28; b=3.9-4.4; c=23-28; tail length=47-60 μ ; buccal cavity=28-30 \times 14-16 μ ; V=59.5-63.0.

Males: Body cylindrical, tapering at the extremities and ventrally arcuate upon fixation. Buccal cavity about twice as long as wide, dorsal tooth anterior, opposed by four longitudinal rows of denticles of which the middle two rows are arranged each on a longitudinal rib. Posterior denticles larger than the rest. Amphids anterior and situated just below the lateral lips, about 9-11 μ from anterior end. Oesophago-intestinal junction non-tuberculate. Reproductive system with two well developed testes, opposed and outstretched, leading to a common vas deferens, enlarging in the posterior part at the region of the sixth supplement to form the ejaculatory duct. Spicules slender and poorly sclerotized measuring 30-35 μ through the middle. Gubernaculum and lateral accessory pieces absent. About 11 to 12 poorly developed supplements present. Tail short, elongate conoid and ventrally arcuate. Subdorsal and subventral anal papillae distinct in most of the specimens. Male to female ratio approximately 1:5.

Females: Body less arcuate. Buccal cavity similar to that of males. Ovary didelphic, amphidelphic and reflexed. Vagina short and vulva distinctly elevated from the body line. Vulva a transverse slit measuring about 4.5 μ long and 0.5 μ wide. Vulval papilla absent. Tail similar to that of male except for the presence of caudal glands arranged in tandem, its terminal opening observed only in a few specimens.

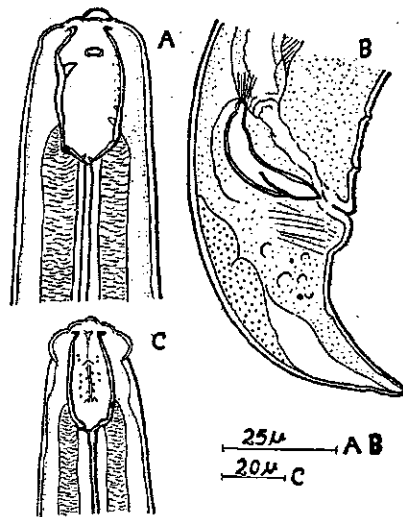


Fig. 1. A—C, *Sporonchulus ibitensis*: A—Male, head end, lateral view; B—Male, tail end; C—Female, head end, dorsoventral view.

Habitat and locality: Soil around roots of a mixed stand of vegetation from the University campus, Kariavattom and of banana plants from Trivandrum; collected after the early summer showers in May—June, 1972.

Distribution: Sao Paulo, Brazil; Ceylon; Nigeria; India.

Jairajpuri (1971) considered that *S. ibitensis* along with *S. coronatus* (Carvalho, 1956) Andrassy, 1958 may represent a new genus as these two species possess longitudinal ribs in the buccal cavity, a character in which they significantly differ from other known species of *Sporonchulus*. However he still retained the two species in the present genus for want of adequate material for study. While Carvalho (1951) in his original description of *S. ibitensis* stated that there are four longitudinal ribs in the buccal cavity of the Brazilian specimens, each with six denticles, Mulvey (1963) found only two longitudinal ribs in the Ceylonese specimens he examined, with three to six denticles along each rib and two rows of denticles which are not arranged along a rib. Mulvey considered that Carvalho's description may be an interpretation based on a lateral view, but from dorsoventral view there appeared only two ribs in his specimens. The structure of the females (and males) closely fits into the description given by Mulvey (1963) which is adopted here for identification purposes.

Thanks are due to Dr. N. R. Prabhu for guidance, to Professor K. K. Nayar for encouragement and facilities in the Department and to Dr. R. H. Mulvey for confirming the identity of the species and offering his comments.

REFERENCES

- CARVALHO, J. C. DE. (1951). Uma nova espécie de *Mononchus* (Nematoda, Mononchidae). *Bragantia* 11: 51-54.