

Descriptions of two new species of *Tricoma* (Nematoda: Desmoscolecidae) and comments on the taxonomic status of *T. (T.) tertia* Blome, 1982 and *T. (T.) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) Steiner, 1916

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Summary. A study of type material of *Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia* Blome, 1982 revealed a mixture of two species: *T. (T.) tertia* and an unidentified *Tricoma (Tricoma)* species. *Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia*, currently known by the male holotype and one female paratype, is redescribed and the second species is described as *Tricoma (Tricoma) blomei* sp. n.. *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) Steiner, 1916 is reviewed. *Tricoma brevirostris* and *T. euxenica* are considered *species inquirendae* and *T. brevirostris* in Decraemer (1978, 1984) is here described as *T. (T.) parabrevirostris*, a new species.

Key words: *Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia*, *T. (T.) blomei* sp. n., *T. (T.) parabrevirostris* sp. n.

During a study of desmoscolecids from the White Sea (Decraemer & Tchesunov, 1996), a new *Tricoma (Tricoma)* species was found which resembled *Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia* Blome, 1982. To clarify its relationships the type material of *T. (T.) tertia* was studied. *Tricoma (T.) tertia* was originally described from a holotype male and 5 paratype specimens (1 male, 3 females and 1 juvenile). The holotype specimen is deposited in the nematode collection of the Institut für Meeresforschung, Bremerhaven, slide n° NSIMB 549; the other specimens, all on one slide, are in the author's collection. They were kindly placed at my disposal by Dr. F. Riemann and Dr. D. Blome respectively.

Blome (1982) characterized *Tricoma (T.) tertia* by its large and variable number of main body rings and by its body variable length (= sexual dimorphism).

Reexamination of the slide with paratype specimens (labelled *Tricoma tertia*, male, female and juvenile) revealed a mixture of two species: *T. (T.) tertia*, represented by a young female with 76-77 main body rings, resembling the male holotype, which has 80 main rings, and an unknown species represented by one male with 100-101 rings and two female specimens with 101-104 and 113-114 main body rings respectively. No juvenile specimen was found on the slide. The latter specimens belong to a new species, described below as *Tricoma (Tricoma) blomei*

sp. n.

Tricoma (T.) tertia most closely resembles *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) *sensu* Decraemer (1984). *Tricoma (T.) brevirostris* is reviewed. The original description lacks data on some important diagnostic features (e.g. on the arrangement of somatic setae), and thus some subsequent identifications or descriptions assigned to *T. (T.) brevirostris* probably represent different species.

DESCRIPTIONS

Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia Blome, 1982 (Fig. 1A-D)

Holotype male: L = 600 µm; mbd = 36 µm; (mbd) = 28 µm; hd = 20x20 µm; cs = 24 µm; t = 137 µm; tmr = 34 µm; spic = 32 µm; gub = 21 µm; sl₂ = 12.5 µm; sv₆ = 18 µm; sv₁₀ = 18 µm; sv₇₂ = 12.5 µm; sv₇₅ = 16.5 µm; sd₇ = 20 µm; sd₁₂ = 18 µm; sd₇₀ = 18 µm; sd₇₆ = 16 µm; a = 16.7; c = 4.4; N = 80; n°sv+sl = 18/20; n°sd = 11 pairs.

Paratype female: L = 465 µm; mbd = 24.5 µm; (mbd) = 21.5 µm; hd = 15.5x16 µm; cs = 20 µm; ph = 64 µm; t = 85 µm; tmr = 31 µm; sl₃ = 14 µm; sv₇ = 19.5 µm; sv₁₂ = 20 µm; sv₇₄ = 12 µm; sd₈ = 18 µm; sd₁₅ = 18 µm; sd₆₀ = 14 µm; sd₆₉ = 14.5 µm;



a = 15.0; b = 7.3; c = 5.5; V = 55%; N = 76-77; n°sl+sv = 13/14; n°sd = 8/10.

Male. Body relative slender, about equally wide except for conical tail. Cuticle with 80 tricomoid main rings, with broad raised cuticular zone (secondary annulation not clearly visible) covered by secretion and fine to coarse foreign particles, and separated by a narrow, low, naked interzone of one cuticular ring.

Somatic setae arranged as follows: subdorsally, right side: 7, 12, 18, 22, 29, 37, 47, 53, 61, 70, 76 = 11, left side: 7, 11, 17, 21, 27, 35, 41, 49, 57, 68, 75 = 11 and subventrally, right side: 2 (sublateral), 6, 10, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 31, 35, 39, 42, 47, 51, 56, 59, 63, 67, 72, 75 = 20, left side: 2 (sublateral), 6, 10, 13, 16, 20, 23, 26, 30, 35, 39, 44, 48, 51, 55, 59, 63, 71, 75 = 18. Somatic setae fine, tapering to an open tip, and inserted directly on the cuticular rings (= without peduncle). Subdorsal and subventral setae about equally long; shortest setae anteriorly on the body.

Head long triangular in side view, tapering anteriorly to a rather narrow truncated end, and about as long as maximum width (maximum width measured dorso-ventrally between peduncles of cephalic setae near head base). Cuticle thickened and sclerotized, except in lip region. Each lip with a minute papilla. Cephalic setae longer than the maximum head width, slender, flanked over their whole length by a membrane, and inserted on high peduncles which protrude from posterior head region. Amphidial fovea vesicular, covering the head laterally almost completely. Amphidial canal ending subterminally on head.

Stoma narrow, 5 µm deep, with at its base the protruding end of pharynx with three minute teeth. Internal structures largely disrupted. Ocelli, large (5.5-6 µm), shifted posteriorly.

Spicules, 32 µm long, slightly ventrally curved, mostly equally wide, except at tapered distal end, manubrium hardly marked. Gubernaculum, 21 µm long, consisting of a well sclerotized distal part, 9 µm long, and two long and fine, caudally orientated apophyses, weakly sclerotized. Cloacal tube slightly protruding from main ring 69.

Tail with 11 main rings. End ring 37 µm long, conical, its anterior half covered by desmos (desmos anteriorly partly subdivided); phasmata obscure. Three well developed caudal glands with terminal spinneret.

Female. Similar to male in general habitus, but body shorter (L = 465 µm) and slenderer, comparable number of main body rings (left side: 76 ventrally - 77 main rings dorsally) and narrow triangular

head shape. Somatic setal pattern with lower number of setae and arranged as follows: subdorsally, right side: 8, 15, 23, 32, 40, 50, 60, 69 = 8, left side: 8, 15, 19, 24, 32, 40, 50, 60, 66, 71 = 10; subventrally, right side: 3 (sublateral), 12, 17, 18, 23, 30, 37, 43, 48, 59, 64, 74 = 13, left side = 2 (sublateral), 7, 12, 17, 22, 26, 32, 38, 43, 49, 56, 63, 70, 75 = 14.

Stoma as in male. Pharynx narrow, almost cylindrical, extending to main ring 10. Intestine anteriorly narrow and finely granular; posterior to level of ocelli, intestine ventrally flanked by a ventral organ extending over 4 rings, then intestine widening to a broad cylinder. Anal tube short (1.5 µm long), protruding from main ring 66. Ocelli oval, 4.5 µm, located opposite main rings 13-14.

Reproductive system of a young female with rather short branches, each branch 19 µm long. No spermathecae observed. Vulva located between main rings 44 and 45 i.e. at 55% of the body length from anterior end.

Tail with 11 main rings and similar as in male.

Type material. Holotype male and one paratype female.

Type locality. Sylt Island, North Sea (see Blome, 1982)

Diagnosis. *Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia* is characterized by its habitus, number of main body rings (80 in male, 76-77 in female), setal pattern (11 pairs of subdorsal setae and 18-20 subventral setae in male and 8-10 subdorsal setae and 13-14 subventral setae in female), narrow triangular head-shape in side view with high peduncles of the insertion of cephalic setae at the posterior head end, tail with 11 main rings, and in male, by length and shape of the copulatory apparatus (spicules 32 µm long, gubernaculum with long caudally orientated apophyses).

Relationship. *Tricoma (T.) tertia* most closely resembles *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevisrostris* (Southern, 1914) *sensu* Decraemer, 1984 in habitus, number of main body rings and shape of gubernaculum in male. It differs in spicule length and shape [32 µm vs 25 µm and spicules stouter but shorter in relation to the anal body diameter than in *T. (T.) brevisrostris* in Decraemer (1984)], in setal pattern [11 pairs of subdorsal setae and 18-20 subventral setae in male vs 8-10 subdorsal and 12 pairs of subventral in *T. (T.) brevisrostris sensu* Decraemer (1984)].

Tricoma (Tricoma) blomei sp. n. (Fig. 1E-I)

Holotype male: L = 840 µm; mbd = 33 µm; (mbd) = 27 µm; hd = 26x20 µm; cs = 21 µm; ph =

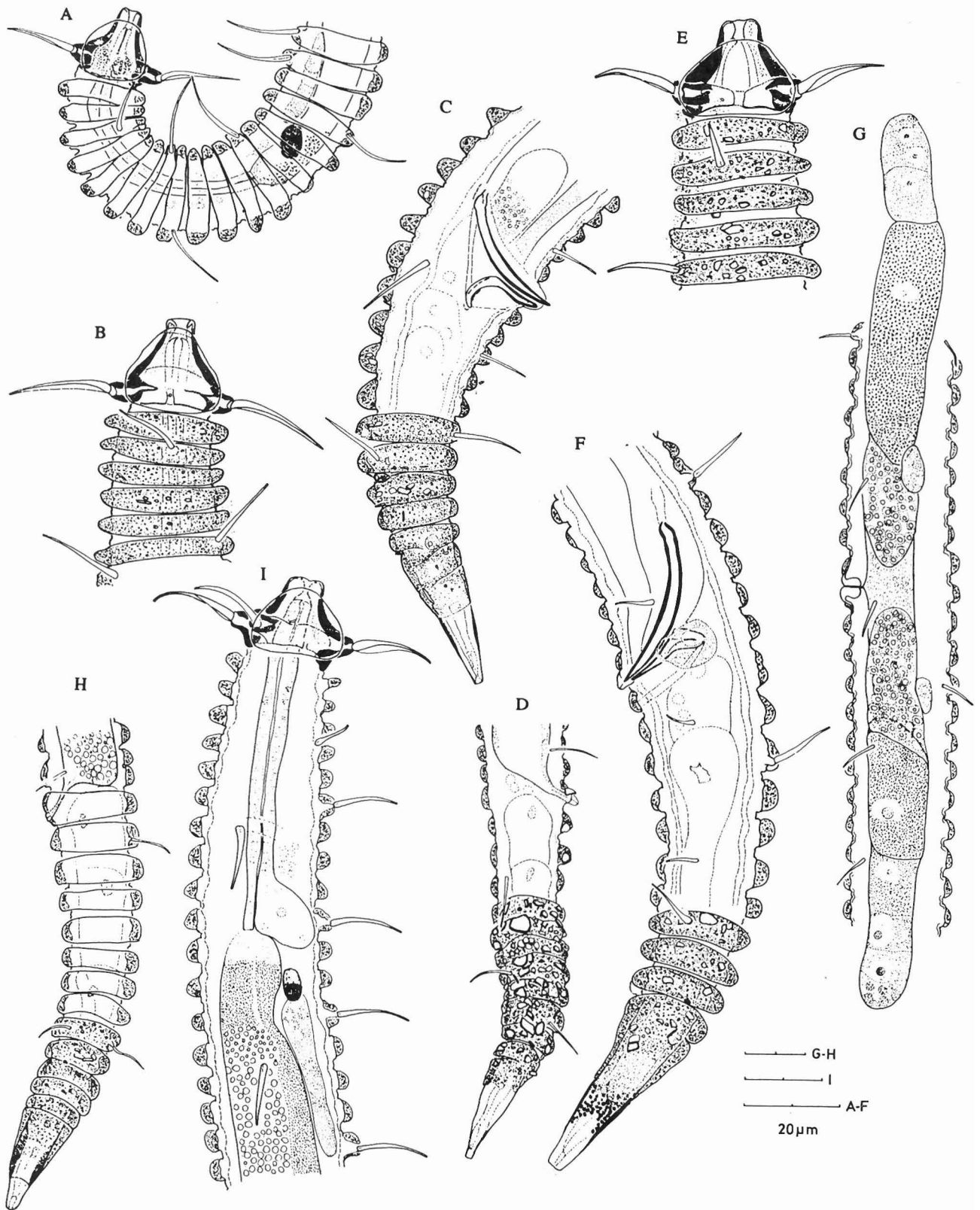


Fig. 1. *Tricoma (Tricoma) terttia* Blome, 1982. Holotype male. A: Anterior body region; B: Head and anterior body rings in surface view; C: Copulatory apparatus and tail. Paratype female. *Tricoma (Tricoma) blomei* sp. n. Holotype male. E: Head and anterior body rings in surface view; F: Copulatory apparatus and tail. Paratype females. G: Reproductive system (female₁); H: Tail region (female₁); I: Anterior body (female₂). All tails with posterior rings in surface view.

83 μm ; $t = 125 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{tmr} = 45 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{spic} = 39 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{gub} = 19 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sl}_2 = 13 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_5 = 18 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_{10} = 19 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_{95} = 12.5 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_{97} = 13 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sd}_7 = 17 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sd}_{13} = 16 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sd}_{92} = 13.5 \mu\text{m}$; $a = 31.1$; $b = 10.1$; $c = 6.7$; $T = 40.2\%$; $N = 100-101$; $n^{\circ}\text{sl} + \text{sv} = 20$; $n^{\circ}\text{sd} = 12$.

Paratype female ($n=2$): $L = 980-1060$; $\text{mbd} = 41-42$; $(\text{mbd}) = 33-35$; $\text{hd} = 23.5-25 \times 19-25 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{cs} = 19-23 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sl}_4 = 12-14 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_{6/7} = 17.5-18 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_{10/11} = 16.5-20 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sv}_{109/96} = 16 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sd}_{8/7} = 17-18$; $\text{sd}_{16/12} = 16 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{sd}_{110/99} = 13-17 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{ph} = 94-101 \mu\text{m}$; $t = 135 \mu\text{m}$; $\text{tmr} = 25-29 \mu\text{m}$; $a = 25.9-28.0$; $b = 10.4-10.5$; $c = 7.3-7.9$; $V = 52-53.5\%$; $N = 101-104$ (female₁); 113-114 (female₂); $n^{\circ}\text{sl} + \text{sv} = 21$; $n^{\circ}\text{sd} = 13$.

Male. Body long, slender, cuticle with 100-101 main rings, difference in number due to partially divided rings. Somatic setae arranged as follows: left side: subventrally: 2 (sublateral), 5, 10, 15, 18, 24, 27, 31, 35, 40, 45, 56, 62, 76, 80, 83, 87, 91, 95, 97 = 20, subdorsally: 7, 13, 21, 29, 37, 47, 55, 63, 69, 77, 84, 92 = 12; setae shorter on posterior body region as well as the most anterior ventro-sublaterally inserted pair; all setae inserted directly on the cuticular rings.

Head wider than long (maximum head width measured dorso-ventrally between the peduncles of cephalic setae). Cuticle thickened and sclerotized, except in lip region where thin and weak. Six lips, not clearly marked; each with a minute papilla. Cephalic setae about as long as the head, fine, tapered to an open tip and flanked over their whole length by a membrane; inserted on pronounced peduncles subterminally on the head. Amphidial fovea largely covering the head laterally, except for lip region.

Stoma narrow, wider at its base, embracing the protruding end of the pharynx with three minute teeth. Pharynx narrow cylindrical, posteriorly with protruding ventro-sublateral pharyngeal glands; junction with intestine opposite the posterior border of main ring 9. Cloacal tube protruding from main ring 89. Ocelli opposite main ring 11 and adjacent interzones; ventral organ present along anterior part of intestine (opposite rings 11 to 13).

Reproductive system typical, with two testes, posterior one reflexed. Spicules 39 μm long, slightly ventrally curved and shaft rather stout. Gubernaculum 19 μm long, consisting of a well sclerotized part parallel to the spicules and two weakly sclerotized, triangular apophyses, orientated dorso-caudally.

Tail with 11 main rings. End ring 45 μm long, anterior half covered by secretion and fine foreign particles. Three well developed caudal glands with

terminal spinneret structure.

Female. Similar to male in most characters, but body longer and number of main body rings varying from 100-104 in female₁ to 113-114 in female₂. Setal pattern similar to male e.g. in female₂, right side, subventrally: 4 (sublateral), 6, 10, 13, 17, 23, 26, 31, 37, 41, 46, 52, 57, 60, 67, 73, 78, 84, 91, 98, 109 = 21; subdorsally: 8, 16, 24, 30, 37, 43, 51, 64, 70, 81, 91, 101, 110 = 13. Digestive system as in male; ocelli 6x8 μm (female₁), 11x4.5 μm (female₂) lying opposite main ring 12; ventral organ present along anterior intestine and flanked by two or three pseudocoelomocytes. Anal tube slightly protruding from posterior end of main ring 88 (female₁) or 100 (female₂). Tail with 12-13 main rings. Three well developed caudal glands.

Reproductive system didelphic-amphidelphic; vulva located between main rings 54-55 (female₁) or 59-60 (female₂); two spermathecae filled with sperm (3x3.7 μm).

Type material. Holotype male and two female paratype specimens.

Type locality. Sylt Island, North Sea (see Blome, 1982)

Diagnosis. *Tricoma (T.) blomei* sp. n. is characterized mainly by the high number of main body rings (100-114), somatic setal pattern (with 12 subdorsal and 20 subventral setae in male, respectively 13 and 21 in female on one body side), and in male by the length and structure of the copulatory apparatus (spicules 39 μm , gubernaculum 19 μm and provided with short apophyses).

Relationship. *Tricoma (T.) blomei* sp. n. is one of the few species of the subgenus *Tricoma* possessing a number of body rings larger than 100. Currently only two species of the subgenus *Tricoma* are known with a comparable high number of body rings: *Tricoma (Tricoma) islandica* Kreis, 1963 with 137-146 annuli and *T. (T.) multiannulata* Kreis, 1937 with 230-240 annuli. An aberrant male specimen of *Tricoma (T.) similis* Cobb, 1912 with 126-127 tricomoid main rings has been recorded from the Mozambique Channel (Decraemer, 1984). *Tricoma (T.) blomei* sp. n. differs from *T. (T.) islandica* in habitus: body longer and more slender ($L = 840 \mu\text{m}$ vs 605-772 μm in male; 980-1060 μm vs 580-605 μm in female), a smaller number of main rings, and in male by longer spicules (39 μm vs 27 μm) and gubernaculum with shorter dorso-caudally orientated apophyses. The new species differs from *T. (T.) multiannulata* in habitus:

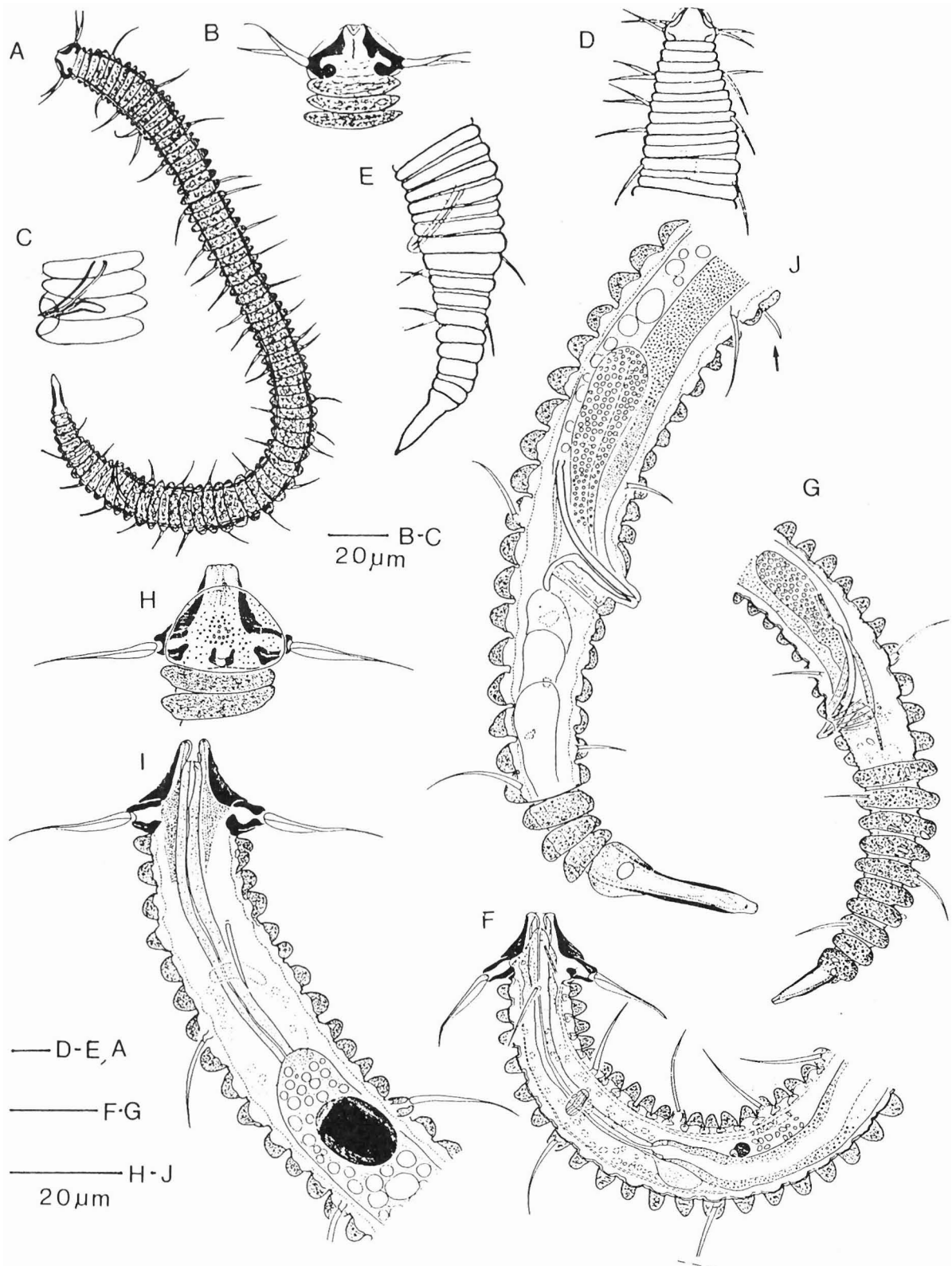


Fig. 2. *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) Steiner, 1916. A-C: Respectively, male *in toto*, head and copulatory apparatus (after Southern, 1914). *Tricoma (Tricoma) euxenica* Paladian & Andriescu, 1963; D-E: Anterior body and tail region (after Paladian & Andriescu, 1963). *Tricoma (Tricoma) parabrevirostris* sp. n. Holotype male. F: Anterior body; G: posterior body, tail rings in surface view (after Decraemer, 1978); H: Head in surface view (male); I: Anterior body (male); J: Posterior body (male); H-J: after Decraemer (1984).

finer, with about half the number of body rings of *T. (T.) multiannulata*, a narrower head with insertion of cephalic setae at posterior head base vs about mid-head in *T. (T.) multiannulata*, and male gubernaculum with apophyses vs apophyses absent in *T. (T.) multiannulata* and longer spicules (39 µm vs 24.8 µm).

Comments on the taxonomic status of *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) Steiner, 1916

Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris was originally described as *Desmoscolex brevirostris* by Southern (1914) based upon a single male specimen from the Irish coast of the Atlantic (Fig. 2A-C). No detailed information was given on the somatic setal pattern except for setae being numerous, about as long as the width of the rings, and scattered irregularly over the body. The original drawing of the left side of the body *in toto* shows 21 somatic setae ventrally, 23 setae dorsally. However, it seems that some setae from the right body side were projected in the same plane. No morphometric data were given for the spicules; calculated from the illustration, spicules appear about 32 µm long.

Steiner (1916) transferred the species to the genus *Tricoma*. He remarked that Southern's description is not very thorough so that identification is rather difficult.

Paladian and Andriescu (1963) described *Tricoma euxenica*, a new species from the Black Sea, from a male and female specimen (Fig. 2D-E). *T. (T.) euxenica* has 78 rings as does *T. (T.) brevirostris* but its head is narrower triangular and its spicules longer (45.9 µm vs 32 µm). No information was given on the somatic setal pattern. The illustration of a total female specimen, ventrally orientated except for the tail region which is in lateral view, shows 14 to 15 subventral setae up to the anal region. No data are available on the inner structures, even the shape of the spicules is not precise and the gubernaculum is missing.

Timm (1970) synonymized *T. euxenica* with *T. brevirostris* without comment. He remarked in a discussion on the genus *Tricoma* that most species of the genus had been distinguished on the basis of the number of rings. However, data on intraspecific variability were rare as the majority of the species are based on a single specimen only. He considered species of *Tricoma* having 70-85 rings especially difficult to separate since he observed some intraspecific variation in the number of rings, with overlapping between species. The shape of the gubernaculum was considered useful in species differ-

entiation. In Timm (1970) the discussion on the relationships of the species rarely considered the somatic setal pattern, but the number of tail rings and the position of the anterior pigment spots was usually compared between species.

A comparison of diagnostic features of the different populations considered to belong to *T. (T.) brevirostris* is presented in Table 1. Except for the number of body rings, tail rings and body length, data on the other characters appear either scarce/imprecise or rather diverse (e.g. shape of gubernaculum, spicule length, somatic setal pattern, head shape).

Conclusion. Due to the scarce and imprecise information on most diagnostic characters in the original descriptions of *T. (T.) brevirostris* and of *T. (T.) euxenica*, I propose that both species be regarded as species inquirendae. The specimens described as *T. (T.) brevirostris* in Decraemer (1978) (Fig. 2F-G) are considered to belong to a new species *T. (T.) parabrevirostris* with male₁ in the description as the holotype male.

Tricoma (Tricoma) parabrevirostris sp.n. (Fig. 2F-J)

syn. *Tricoma brevirostris sensu* Decraemer, 1978

Tricoma brevirostris sensu Decraemer, 1984

The population of *T. brevirostris* described in Decraemer (1978) is considered as the type population of the new species *T. (T.) parabrevirostris*, with male₁ as the holotype, male₂ and the single female specimen as paratype specimens. All type specimens are deposited in the nematode collection of Gent University, Belgium: holotype male and male paratype, slide RUG n°3902.

Measurements: see Decraemer (1978)

Description: see Decraemer (1978)

Type locality and habitat. Yonge Reef, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, sample 1 from a sandy patch on the reef flat.

Other locality and habitat. North of Isle du Lys, Mozambique Channel, at 550 to 330 m depth (see Decraemer, 1984).

Diagnosis. *T. (T.) parabrevirostris* sp. n. is characterized by its slender body with 78 main rings, a somatic setal pattern with 9 subdorsal and 16 subventral setae on each side in male, 8-9 subdorsal and 10-11 subventral setae in female, a narrow triangular

Table 1. Comparison of the diagnostic features in the different populations considered as *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris*.

Population	Southern (1914): type population	Paladian & Andriescu (1963)	Decraemer (1978)	Decraemer (1984)
Body length in male in female	560 µm -	490 µm 588 µm	465-755 µm 365 µm	460 µm -
N° body rings: male female	78 -	78 78	78 78-79	78 -
N° subdorsal setae*	-? 23 (male)		9 (male), 8-9 (female)	8-10 (male)
N° subventral setae*	-? 21 (male)	-? 16 (female)	16 (male), 10-11 (female)	12 (male)
Spicule length	? 32 µm	45.9 µm	27-28 µm	25 µm
Length of gubernaculum	-	-	14-17 µm	21 µm
Position of cloaca	between rings 68-69	in ring 67	between rings 66-67	in ring 67
N° tail rings	10 (male)	11 (male)	12 (male), 11-12 (female)	11 (male)
Apophyses of gubernaculum	short, dorso-caudally	?	short dorso-caudally	long, caudally orientated
Ventral organ**	present (?)	?	present	present
Tail length	? 30 µm	121.5 µm (male) 107 µm (female)	80 µm (male) 73 µm (female)	83 µm (male)
Preanal supplement	absent	absent	absent	present on ring 57
Locality	coast of Atlantic	Black Sea	Yonge Reef, Australia	Isles Glorieuses, Mozambique

* on one side of the body

** described as excretory glands in Southern (1914)?

head in side view, and in male by length and shape of the copulatory apparatus (spicules 27-28 µm, gubernaculum 14-17 µm with two short, weakly sclerotized apophyses).

Relationship. The new species is most closely related to *T. (T.) hopperi* Timm (1970) but is smaller, has about half as long spicules (55 µm in *T. (T.) hopperi*), a shorter gubernaculum (14-17 µm vs 20 µm) provided with shorter, wider apophyses, not posteriorly bent as in *T. (T.) hopperi*. *T. (T.) brevirostris* in Decraemer (1984) (Fig. 2H-J) is synonymized with the new species.

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Decraemer W. Описание двух новых видов *Tricoma* (Nematoda: Desmoscolecidae) и комментарии о таксономическом статусе *T. (T.) tertia* Blome, 1982 и *T. (T.) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) Steiner, 1916.

Резюме. Изучение типового материала *Tricoma (T.) tertia* Blome, 1982 показало, что он представляет собой смесь двух видов: *T. (T.) tertia* и неизвестного вида *Tricoma (Tricoma)*. Переописывается вид *Tricoma (Tricoma) tertia*, известный только по голотипу самца и паратипу самки, второй вид описывается как *Tricoma (Tricoma) blomei* sp. n. Ревизован вид *Tricoma (Tricoma) brevirostris* (Southern, 1914) Steiner, 1916. *Tricoma brevirostris* и *T. euxenica* рассматриваются как *species inquirendae*, а вид, определенный Decraemer (1978, 1984) как *T. brevirostris* описывается как *T. (T.) parabrevirostris* sp. n.