

Actinonema celtica Boucher, 1976
(Fig. 55)

Description. Body length 0.8–1.1 mm. Maximum diameter 20–22 μm ($a = 38$ –52). Posterior part of body usually coiled when fixed in cold formalin. Cuticle ornamentation heterogeneous and complex: irregularly punctuated around amphid, transverse dots in the anterior part of the oesophagus, with lateral differentiation beginning about 60% of oesophagus length. Lateral differentiation more complex in anterior part of body than in middle of body (Fig. 55C). Six minute labial papillae. Six short 3 μm cephalic setae and four slightly shorter and finer cephalic setae situated close together. Dorso-sublateral cervical setae situated about 2.5 h.d. from anterior and paired cervical setae further back (Fig. 55A): somatic setae otherwise inconspicuous. Buccal cavity conical, with a distinct sharply pointed dorsal tooth. Amphid transversely oval with double contour, almost 1.0 c.d. wide. Oesophagus widens posteriorly, but bulb absent. Tail conical with pointed tip, about 5–6 a.b.d.

Spicules 24 μm (1.2 a.b.d.), thin inconspicuous tube, difficult to distinguish distally from the L-shaped telamons and gubernaculum (Fig. 55B). Ventral precloacal spine. Ventral cuticle annules enlarged for a distance of about 3.5 a.b.d. anterior to cloaca (equivalent to 22 of the annules in Fig. 55C).

Distribution. Firth of Clyde, West Scotland (intertidal sand).

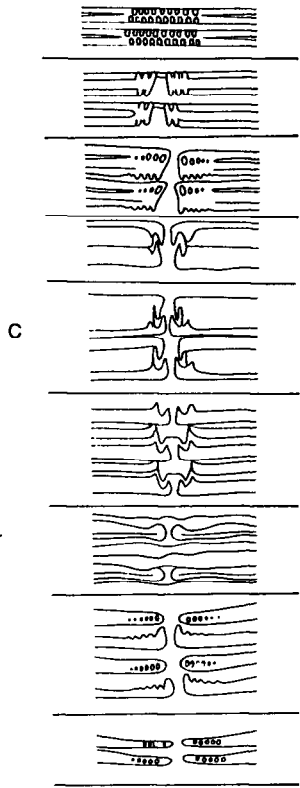
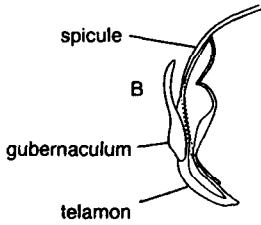
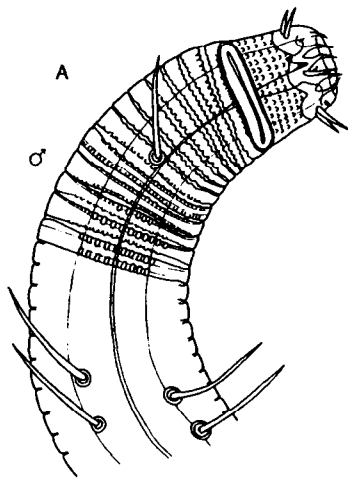


Fig. 55. *Actinonema celtica*. A, Male head; B, Copulatory apparatus; C, Lateral differentiation of cuticle in different regions of the body, anterior (top) to posterior. From Boucher (1976).