

Actinonema pachydermatum Cobb, 1920

(Fig. 56)

Description. Body length 0.7–0.8 mm. Maximum diameter 29–30 μm ($a = 25\text{--}27$). Body in oesophageal region abruptly narrows in anterior third (Fig. 56C). Cuticle ornamentation heterogeneous and complex: irregular dots around amphid, transverse rows of dots in anterior part of oesophagus, with lateral differentiation beginning about 60% of oesophagus length. Lateral differentiation consists of conspicuous single lateral punctations which are bifurcate at one end giving a V-shaped appearance (Fig. 56E). The bifurcation points forward on the anterior part of the body, but about 60% of the body length changes direction where there is a 'double' punctation (Fig. 56F). Somatic setae minute and inconspicuous. Buccal cavity and cephalic setae similar to *A. celtica*. Amphid about 0.7 c.d. Oesophagus with a better developed posterior bulb than *A. celtica* (Fig. 56C). Tail conical with a pointed tip, about 5–6 a.b.d.

Spicules, telamons, gubernaculum and precloacal spine similar to *A. celtica*, although a.b.d. slightly greater. Ventral enlarged annules extend about 7 a.b.d. anterior to cloaca (35–39 annules in three males observed) (Fig. 56B): relatively further forward than in *A. celtica*.

Distribution. Northumberland coast, North East England (sublittoral fine sand and silt).

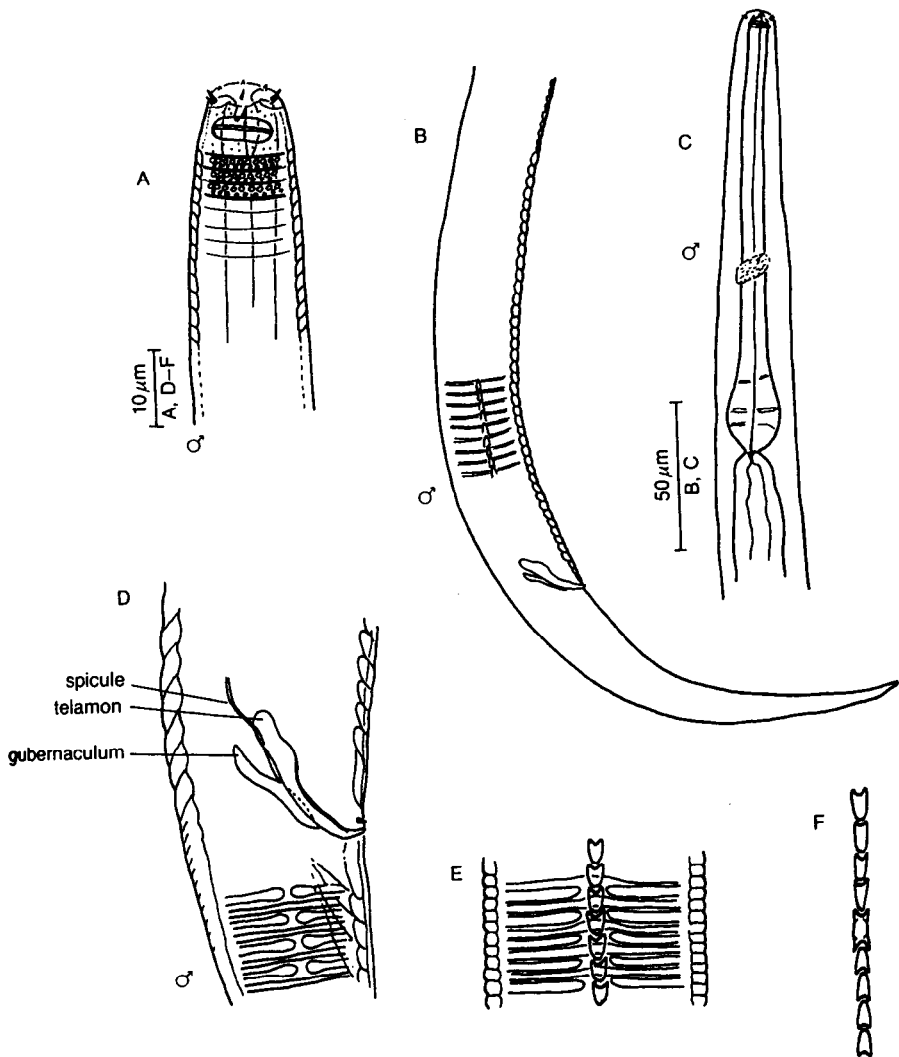


Fig. 56. *Actinonema pachydermatum*. A, Male head; B, Posterior region of male; C, Anterior region of male; D, Cloacal region; E, Cuticle pattern on anterior part of body; F, Lateral differentiation at point of reversal. Original.