

Anoplostoma viviparum (Bastian, 1865)
(Fig. 65)

Description. Body length 1.3–2.1 mm. Maximum diameter 40–80 μm ($a = 22\text{--}34$). Body broadest in middle and attenuated at anterior and posterior ends. Cuticle smooth. Somatic setae absent. Six labial papillae. Six 8–11 μm (0.8–1.0 h.d.) cephalic setae situated just anterior to four 3–6 μm shorter setae. Amphids about 3 h.d. from anterior and 0.2 times c.d. wide. Buccal cavity cylindrical; no teeth. Oesophageal tissue does not surround the buccal cavity. Oesophagus increases in width posteriorly but no bulb. Nerve ring at 50–60% of oesophagus length. Tail long and tapering, 5–10 a.b.d.

Spicules 53–63 μm (2–3 a.b.d.), elongate.

Gubernaculum short paired structures. Two longitudinal cuticular ridges (bursa copulatrix) supported by spines lie either side of the cloaca. Testes paired, opposed.

Vulva at about 50% of body length. Two opposed, reflexed ovaries. Eggs of mature females characteristically contain developing larvae.

Distribution. Falmouth (estuarine mud); Blyth estuary (mud flat); Essex coast (intertidal mud); Exe estuary (intertidal mud); West Scotland (shallow subtidal sand); Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland (intertidal sand); Southampton Water (estuarine mud).

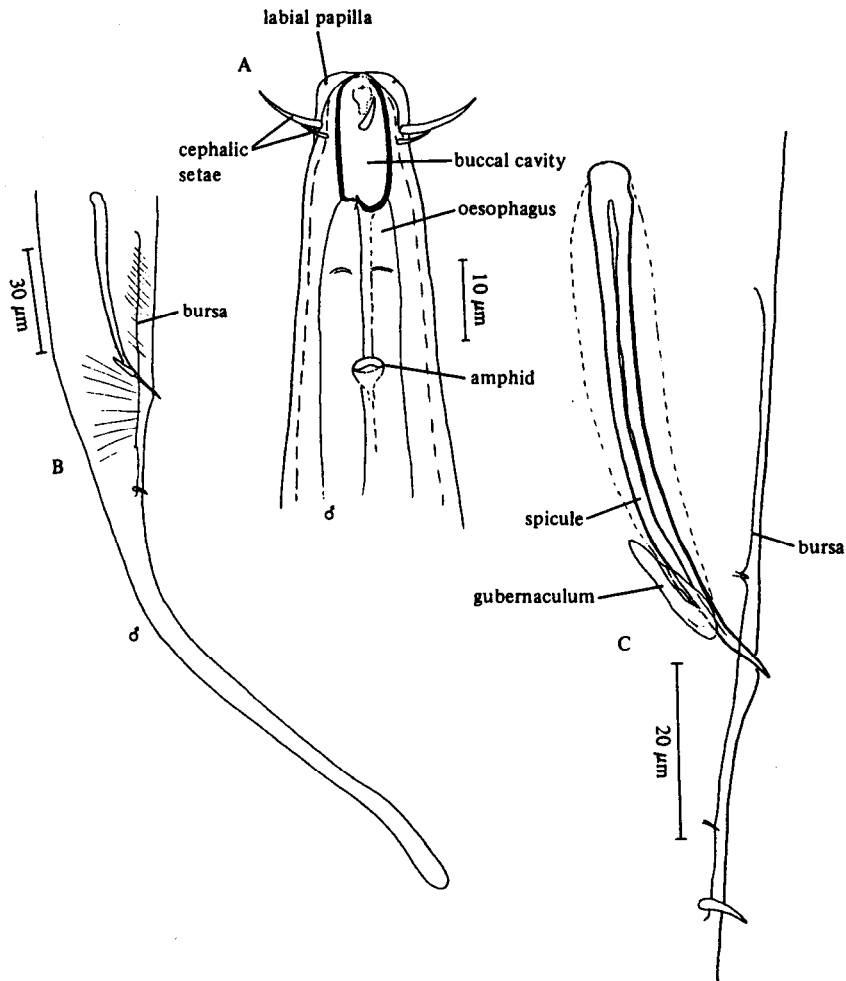


Fig. 65. *Anoplostoma viviparum*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C, Copulatory apparatus. Original.