Desmoscolex max Timm, 1970
(Fig. 3 C-D)

The female specimen from the Moçambique Channel is compared with the type specimens (Timm, 1970 : 26-27) and other specimens of *D. max*, respectively from a coral and shell beach, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador and from Antarctica (Scott Base, — 535 m depth ; Hut Point, — 457 m depth) and with type specimens of *Desmoscolex proboscis* Lorenzen, 1972, from a sandy beach at Sylt, Denmark.

Material : 1 ♀ (slide RIT34).

Measurements : *Female* (n = 1) : L = 275, hd = 26 × 12, cs = 32, sd_1 = 24, sd_3 = 22, sd_5 = 21, sd_7 = 22, sd_9 = 21, sd_{11} = 23, sd_{13} = 30, sd_{16} = 32 ; sv_1 = 16, sv_4 = 14, sv_8 = 15, sv_{12} = 14, sd_{14} = 15, sv_{15} = 17, sv_{17} = 17, oes = 52, t = 57, tmr = 37, tmrw = 11, (tmrw) = 7.5.

Discussion

The female specimen from the Moçambique Channel largely agrees with *D. max* and *D. proboscis* ; only a few variations were observed :

— the arrangement of the somatic setae in the female : sub-dorsal, right side 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 16 = 8 ; left side 1 3 5 7 9 [1] 11 13 16 = 8 — sub-ventral, right side 1 2 4 6 8 — 12 14 15 17 = 9 ; left 1 2 [1] 4 6 8 — 12 14 15 17 = 9, differs from *D. max* in the absence of sub-ventral setae on main ring 10 and from *D. proboscis* in the presence of sub-ventral setae on main ring 15 ;

— the head is obviously elongated i.e. twice as long as wide, instead of equally long and wide as in the type specimens of both other species ;

— the hairy cephalic setae are longer : 32 µm against 22 µm in *D. max* (holotype female) and 24 µm in *D. proboscis* (paratype female) ;

— the bipartite amphids are somewhat longer, extending to the anterior end of main ring 2 instead of main ring 1 in both other species ;

— the terminal ring ends on a longer naked fine spinneret ;

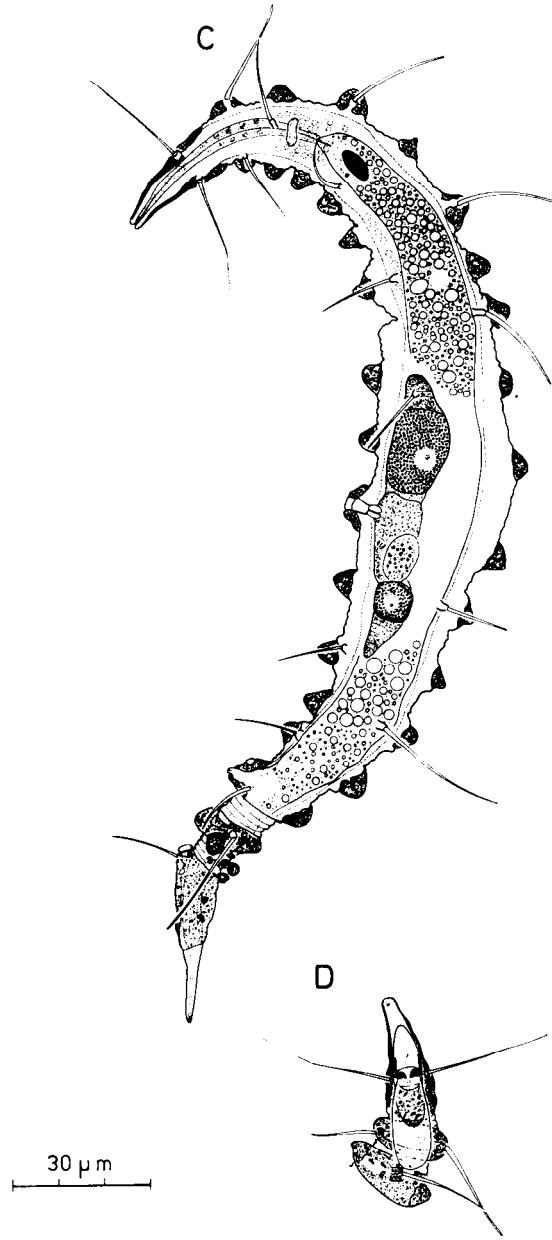
— the sub-dorsal setae on main rings 13 and 16 are elongated as in *D. max*, but differ from *D. proboscis* with only the setae on main ring 16 elongated ;

— the differentiation in structure (not in measurements) between the sub-dorsal and sub-ventral setae is more distinct in both species compared with, than in the female from the Moçambique Channel.

D. max and *D. proboscis* are closely related species, only distinguished from each other by a difference in the arrangement of the somatic setae (without sub-ventral setae on main rings 10 and 15 in *D. proboscis*, present in *D. max*) and by the length of the spicules (39 µm in *D. max* (types), 35-43 µm in specimens from Antarctica against 25-27 µm in *D. proboscis*). The difference in position of the terminal pair of somatic setae (see LORENZEN, 1972 : 315 ; and TIMM, 1970, fig. 28 of a female) i.e. sd_{17} in sub-dorsal position is not valid. A photograph of a female specimen (TIMM, 1970, plate 2 fig. 14), a redescription of *D. max* in TIMM (1978) and a study of the type specimens of *D. max* shows the terminal pair of somatic setae in sub-ventral position as in *D. proboscis*.

CONCLUSION : *D. max*, *D. proboscis* and the female specimen from the Moçambique Channel closely resemble each other. Their mutual distinction lies in the number of sub-ventral somatic setae : 10 (*D. max*), 9 (female found), 8 (*D. proboscis*). However, they can be distinguished from all other species of the genus by the arrangement of the somatic setae i.e. with a pair of sub-ventral setae on main rings 1 and 17.

Taking into account the special arrangement of the sub-ventral somatic setae, the similar general habit with elongated head-shape and bipartite amphids, they all belong to the same species. Consequently I consider *D. proboscis* synonymous with *D. max*. TIMM (1978) considered this synonymy as probable.



Desmoscolex max Timm, 1970 ; C, entire female specimen ; D, surface view of head (female).