

Desmodora (Desmodora) communis (Bütschli, 1874)

(Fig. 141)

Description. Body length 1.5–1.9 mm. Maximum diameter 34–38 μm ($a = 35\text{--}49$). Cuticle coarsely striated without other ornamentation. Six conical labial papillae. Four 8–9 μm (0.4 h.d.) cephalic setae level with anterior edge of amphids. Eight 6–7 μm subcephalic setae level with posterior edge of amphids. Somatic setae short and sparsely scattered. Amphids 5–7 μm (0.2–0.3 c.d.), a single open loop. Buccal cavity with a single solid dorsal tooth projecting at right-angles from the wall; two smaller peg-like subventral teeth. Oesophagus lumen heavily cuticularised, divided into three sections in the posterior oesophageal bulb (Fig. 141B). Tail 2.3–2.9 a.b.d., conical with an unstriated tip (Fig. 141C).

Spicules 47–50 μm (1.5–2.1 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, slightly cephalate proximally with ala along ventral edge. Gubernaculum crescentic. Two ventral cuticular pads, one about two-thirds of the way down the tail and the other a short distance precloacally, the latter pierced by a fine pore (Fig. 141C). Ventral cuticle in precloacal region thickened with 9–16 fine tubular precloacal supplements.

Vulva at 47% body length.

Distribution. Plymouth, South West England; Isles of Scilly (intertidal seaweeds); Exe estuary, South West England; Strangford Lough, North East Ireland (intertidal sand); North East coast of England (kelp holdfasts); Skippers Island, Essex (intertidal mud).

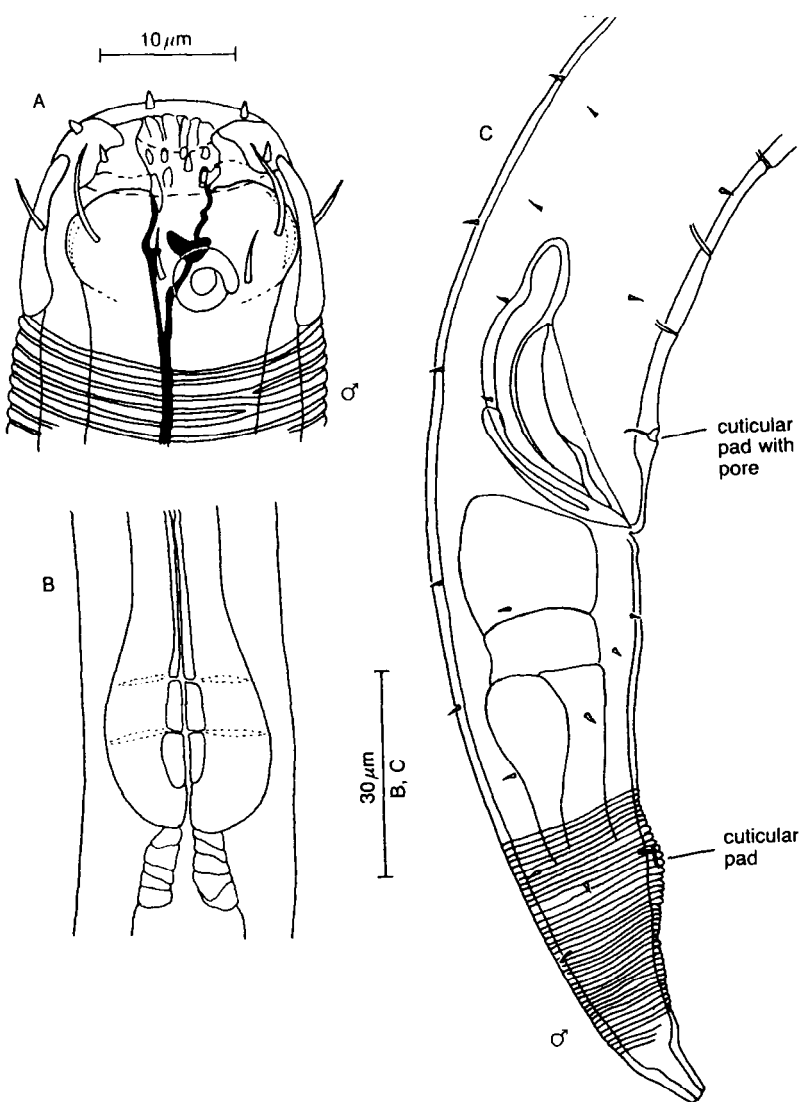


Fig. 141. *Desmodora (Desmodora) communis*. A, Male head; B, Region of oesophageal bulb; C, Male tail. Original.