

Dichromadora hyalocheile De Coninck and Stekhoven, 1933
(Fig. 67)

Description. Body length 1.1–1.2 mm. Maximum diameter 33–48 μm ($a = 25$ –34). Cuticle with two lateral files of large round dots relatively close together (about 3 μm apart in mid-body), flanked by transverse rows of rounded dots in the cervical region, but posterior to the nerve ring these markings become more elongated and at about the same level transverse bars can be seen between the enlarged lateral dots (Fig. 67E). In the posterior half of the body backwardly directed plates can be seen as modifications of the transverse bars (Fig. 67F). Six short and four longer 9–12 μm (0.5–0.6 h.d.) cephalic setae. Four files of short setae down body length, most numerous in cervical and caudal regions. Buccal cavity with prominent hollow dorsal tooth, two much smaller subventral teeth and a series of fine denticles. Amphids crescentic, slit-like, 5 μm wide between bases of cephalic setae. Oesophagus with a dorsal bulb anteriorly and a barrel-shaped posterior bulb with plasmatic interruptions. Tail 3.9–4.1 a.b.d. in male, 4.6–5.3 a.b.d. in female; spinneret in specimens examined retracted giving tail tip a squarish appearance (Fig. 67B).

Spicules 42–44 μm (1.3–1.4 a.b.d.) as curve, slender and S-shaped with prominent caudally-pointing hooks distally. Gubernaculum 17–18 μm , unpaired proximally with a distal pair of lateral projections which are terminally hooked. Nine cup-shaped precloacal supplements.

Distribution. Exe estuary, South West England; Firth of Clyde, West Scotland (intertidal sand); coast of North East England (kelp holdfasts).

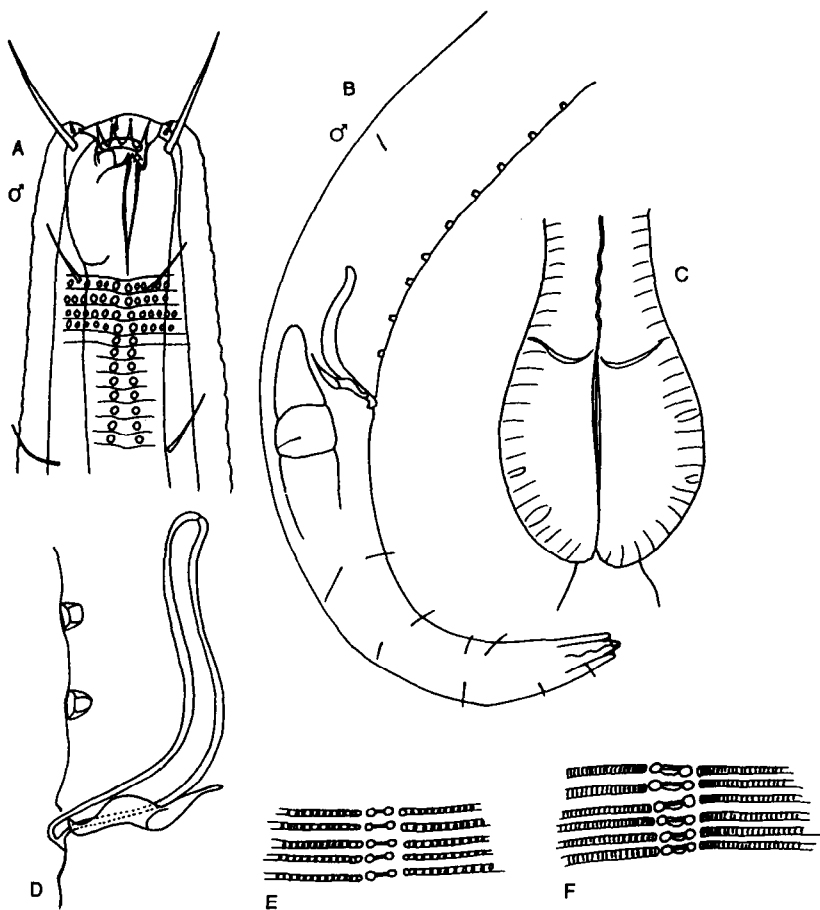


Fig. 67. *Dichromadora hyalocheile*. A, Male head; B, Posterior end of male; C, Oesophageal bulb; D, Cloacal region; E-F, Lateral cuticle pattern at base of oesophagus (E), cloacal region (F). Original.