

Epacanthion gorgonocephalum Warwick, 1970

(Fig. 55)

Description. Body length 4.3–4.8 mm. Maximum diameter 82–138 μm ($a = 35$ –52). Cuticle smooth. High lips with marked subsidiary lobe, internally marked with semi-lunar striations: outer parts with wider spaced striations, lip margin scalloped; subsidiary lobe with no internal striation or scalloped edge. Labial setae 19–23 μm . Six long (63–82 μm) and four short (32–43 μm) cephalic setae situated at level of bases of onchia. Male with twelve groups of subcephalic setae, three per group, one long, one medium and one short. Female with only six short subcephalic setae, or these may be entirely lacking. Mandibles appear as two longitudinal rods joined by a thin sheet of cuticle, relatively long and slender. Onchia equal in size. Onchial plates rounded posteriorly, each curving inwards to provide a cup-shaped base to the buccal cavity. Numerous long dense cervical setae in the male with a region of very dense but rather shorter setae about one-third of the way down the oesophagus length. Cervical setae sparse in female. Oesophagus 0.22 times body length, swollen anteriorly round base of buccal cavity. Tail 3.6–4.4 a.b.d. long in male, 3.1–3.4 in female, anterior half conical, posterior half cylindrical.

Spicules short, 50–53 μm (0.9 a.b.d.), slightly curved, with a pair of laterally curving knobs distally.

Gubernaculum a short double tube with two small lateral projections. No precloacal supplement.

Ovaries paired, symmetrical, opposed, reflexed. Vulva at 60% of body length.

Distribution. Exe estuary; Isles of Scilly (intertidal sand).

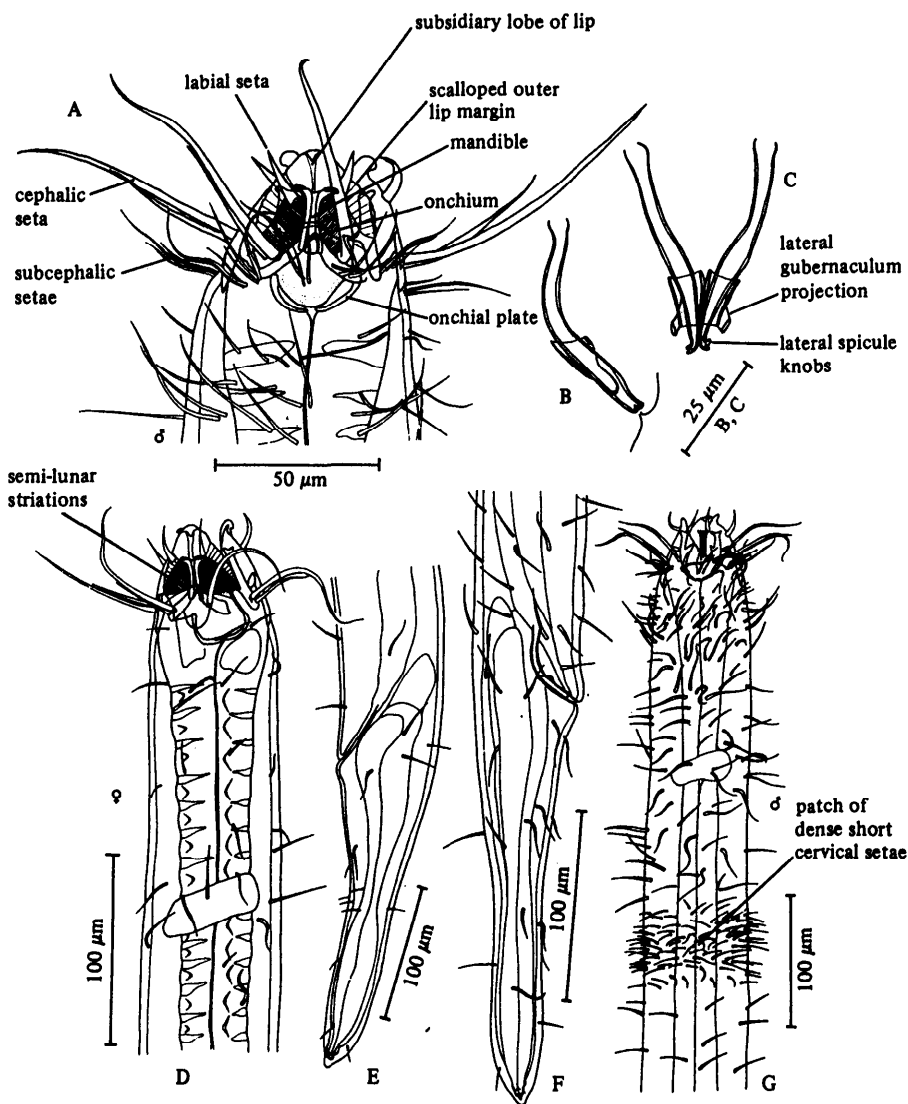


Fig. 55. *Epacanthion gorgonocephalum*. A, Male head; B, Spicules and gubernaculum (lateral); C, Spicules and gubernaculum (ventral); D, Anterior end of female; E, Female tail; F, Male tail; G, Anterior end of male. Original.