

Euchromadora vulgaris Bastian, 1865

(Fig. 58)

Description. Body length 2.0–2.4 mm. Maximum diameter 81–129 μm ($a = 19$ –27). Outer cuticle layer differentiated into series of hexagonal blocks anteriorly (Fig. 58C); these become more elongate further down the body until they have the appearance of longitudinal striation (Fig. 58E). More deeply in the cuticle, on the lateral surfaces, are the so-called lateral plates (Fig. 58E), which point anteriorly in the anterior half of the body and are reversed in the posterior half. In some specimens, complex fenestration of these plates is discernible. Labial papillae small and often cannot be seen. Cephalic setae in two circles: six shorter and four longer 9–11 μm setae. Four files of short setae in cervical region, but setae sparse and scattered on remainder of body. Amphids crescentic slits, curving forwards from the bases of the longer cephalic setae, often not visible. Buccal cavity with a solid dorsal tooth opposed subventrally by a pair of double-pointed cuticular plates and ventrally by three transverse rows of fine denticles. More posteriorly is another pair of ventro-lateral rod-like projections. Lateral pigment spots 37–40 μm from anterior, yellowish-brown in preserved specimens. Oesophagus broadens gradually along its length without a definite posterior bulb. Tail conical 3.1–3.2 a.b.d. in male, 4.4–5.2 a.b.d. in female, with four terminal setae (Fig. 58G).

Spicules unequal in length but similar in structure, the right being the longer, 88–91 μm measured as a curve, left only 73–77 μm . Telamons hammer-like 44–48 μm as curve with a denticle-like swelling distally. Gubernaculum less well cuticularised, 47–48 μm . Supplements absent but two stout ventral spines present in front of cloaca (Fig. 58B).

Distribution. Recorded intertidally from a large number of localities around the British Isles, from a variety of habitats including rather coarse intertidal sand, seaweeds and holdfasts.

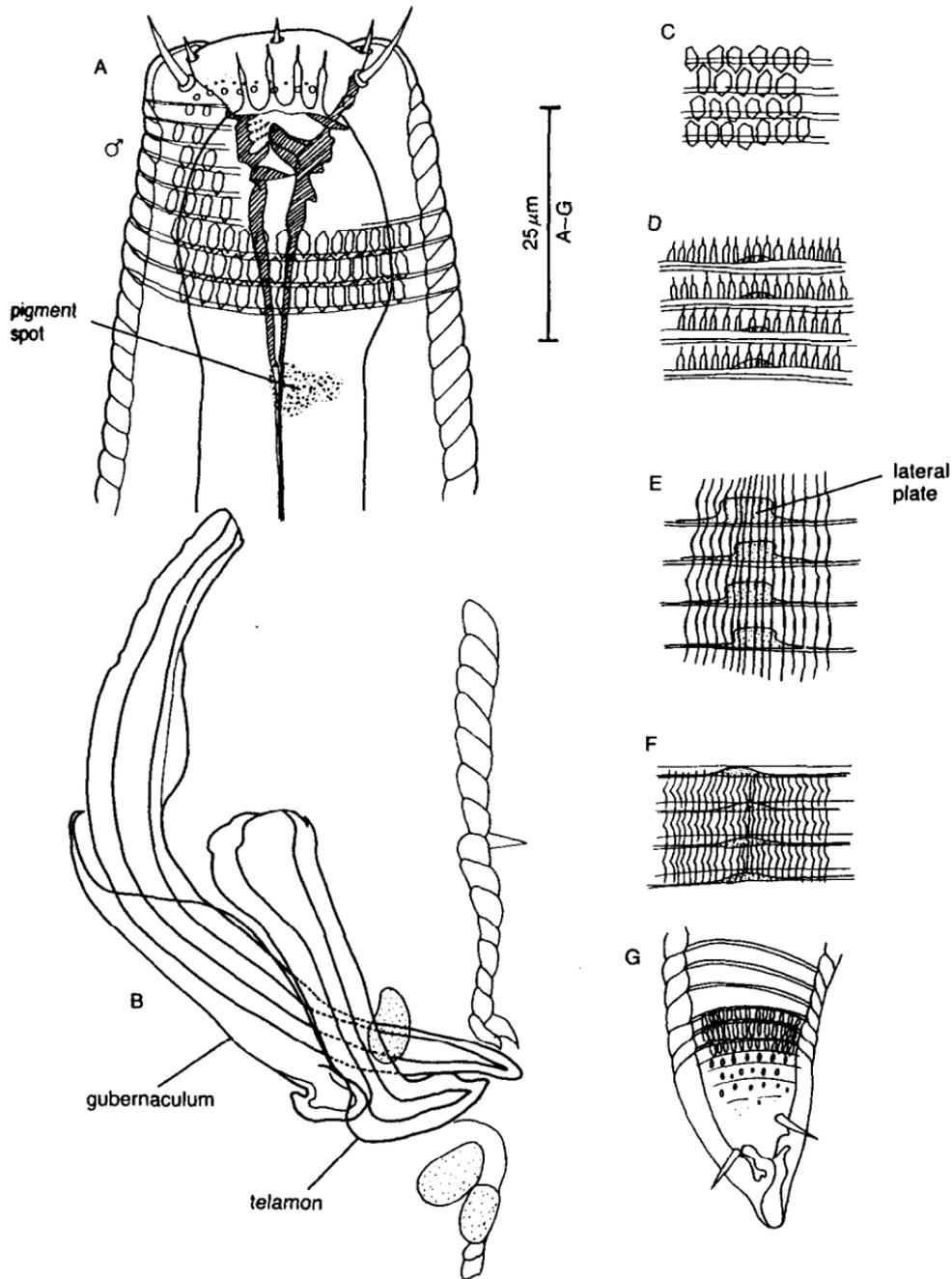


Fig. 58. *Euchromadora vulgaris*. A, Male head; B, Spicules and gubernaculum; C-G, Lateral cuticular pattern just posterior to head (C), base of oesophagus (D), mid-body (E), anal region (F), tail tip (G). Original.