

Gammanema rapax (Ssaweljev, 1912)
(Fig. 135)

Description. Body length 3.5–4.3 mm: a = 43. Cuticle with regular rows of fine dots. Mouth surrounded by six leaf-like flaps of cuticle between each of which is a pair of small lobes. Six small simple conical labial papillae. Six shorter cephalic sensilla $7\ \mu\text{m}$, leaf-like with a broad basal portion and narrow pointed tip. Four longer cephalic setae $22\text{--}23\ \mu\text{m}$, of more conventional structure, at about the same level as the shorter ones. Small thickenings of the cuticle of the head support the bases of the four longer setae. Amphids of 2.5 turns, $11\text{--}12.5\ \mu\text{m}$ wide (0.13 c.d.) in both sexes. Anterior portion of buccal cavity $33\text{--}35\ \mu\text{m}$ deep, twelve rugae strongly developed, cuticular lining with fairly coarse longitudinal striations between the tips of the rugae and the bases of the cephalic setae, with much finer striations posterior to this, about six pointed teeth at bases of rugae. Posterior portion of buccal cavity $24\text{--}28\ \mu\text{m}$ deep, walls supported by three stout cuticular columns. Tail 2.7 a.b.d., cylindrical almost to the tip with a short narrow spinneret.

Spicules $82\ \mu\text{m}$, 75% of tail length, with cup-like appendages on the ventral surface near the distal end and two smaller lateral swellings, the one near the distal tip being the most prominent (Fig. 135C). Gubernaculum $46\ \mu\text{m}$. Seven small cup-shaped precloacal supplements.

Distribution. Exe estuary, South West England; Loch Etive, West Scotland; (intertidal sand at low water).

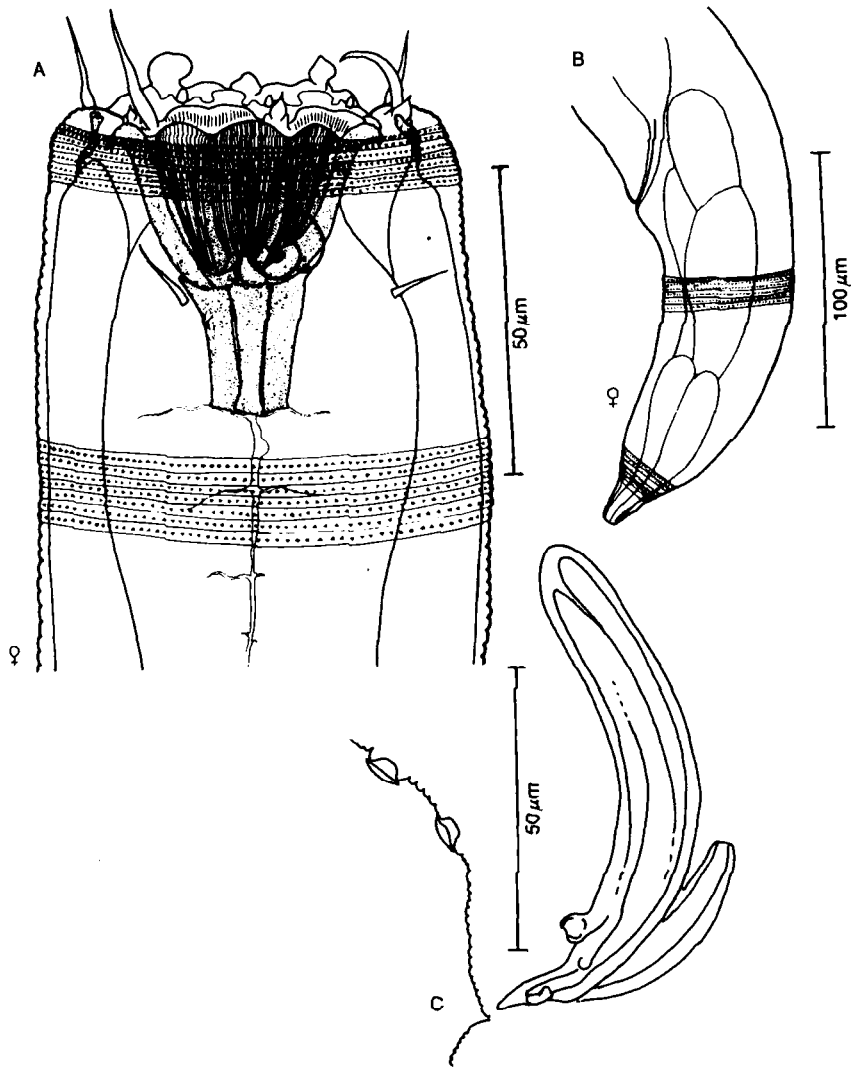


Fig. 135. *Gammanema rapax*. A, Female head; B, Female tail; C, Cloacal region. Original.