

Halalaimus gracilis De Man, 1888
(Fig. 85A-E)

Description. Body length 0.8–1.3 mm. Maximum diameter 17–26 μm ($a = 40\text{--}60$). Cuticle smooth, body setae absent. Cervical region long and attenuated. Six anterior cephalic setae 0.8–1.0 h.d. long; four posterior cephalic setae slightly longer and situated about 2 h.d. from the anterior. Buccal cavity absent. Amphids long and narrow; length about equal to distance from anterior end of body. Oesophagus length about 0.3 times body length with small posterior dilation. Tail long and slender, about 12–15 a.b.d. long, with slightly swollen tip.

Spicules 17 μm long (about 1.5 a.b.d.) with faint ventral ala.

Gubernaculum surrounds tip of spicules. Minute ventral spine anterior to cloaca. Two opposed testes (anterior left, posterior right of gut).

Two opposed ovaries. Vulva in middle of body.

Distribution. Plymouth (on red seaweed); Exe estuary (fine sand); Blyth estuary (intertidal mud). A common European species.

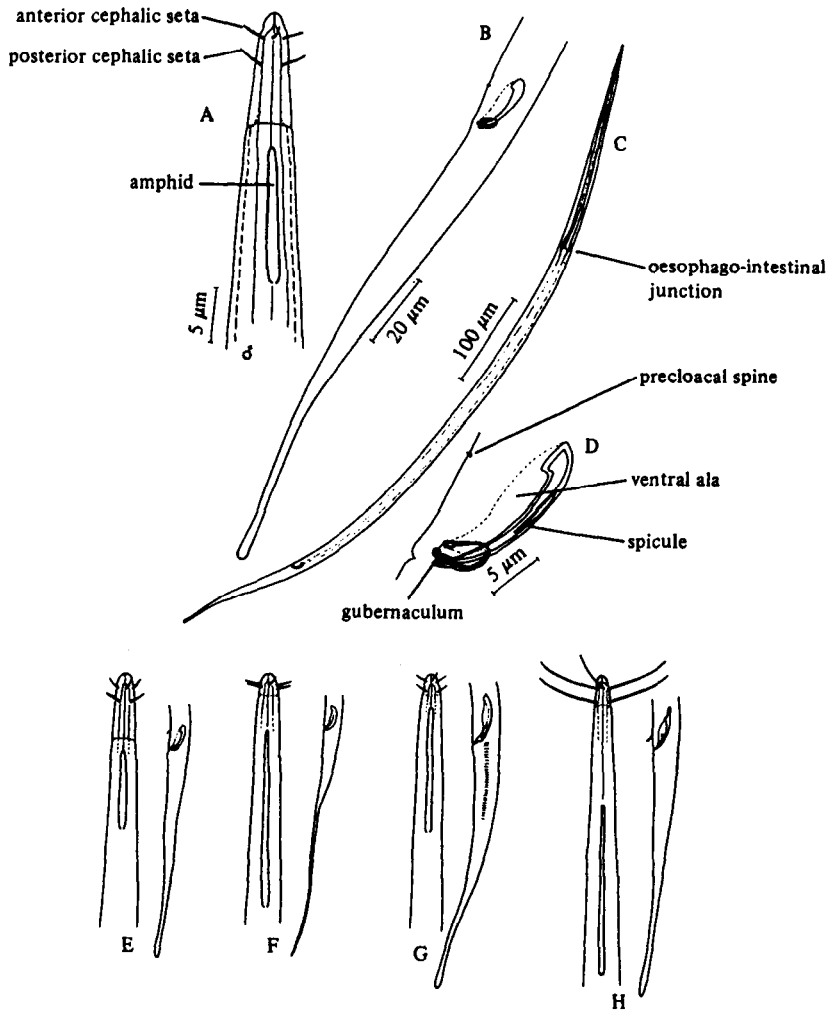


Fig. 85. *Halalaimus gracilis*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C, Entire male; D, Spicules and gubernaculum. Original. E-H, Diagrammatic representations of head and male tail of E, *H. gracilis*, F, *H. longicaudatus*, G, *H. isaitshikovi*, H, *H. capitulatus*.