LEPTOSOMATIDES CONISETOSUM Schuurmans Stekhoven and Mawson 1956.

(Fig. 2, a-d.)

Stations: 41, 42.

Female (4x): L = 14-15 mm.; $\alpha = 82-94$; $\beta = 7.2-8.8$; $\gamma = 117-150$; V = 65-71%. Male (3x): L = 13-15 mm.; $\alpha = 80-86$; $\beta = 7.6-8.8$; $\gamma = 118-166$.

The species was originally described from one male specimen, from Kerguelen Island. The dimensions of this were L = 12 mm.; a = 80; $\beta = 6.6$; $\gamma = 120$.

It is now possible to amplify the account as females also are present in the Antarctic collection.

The body is of almost even width throughout, tapering to the extremities occurring mainly from the level of the nerve ring to the head, and from just anterior to the anus to the tail.

The cuticle bears scattered setae but these are not outstanding. The helmet is of an open type as shown in figure 2a, the lobes projecting down to the level of the amphids. The cephalic setae are short, 1/11-1/12 of the corresponding head width. The buccal cavity is almost funnel shaped, and a small tooth is present at its base. The eyes are one-fifth to one-sixth of the distance from head to nerve ring, and this latter is 1/2.7-1/3.3 of the length of the oesophagus.

The tail in both sexes is conical with a rounded tip, and bears a very few small setae ; its length is almost the same as the width at the anus, or slightly less than this. In the male a small preanal organ lies 0.1 mm. or a little less than the tail length, in front of the anus. There are about five or six pairs of large papillae in front of this, and a short row of about seven pairs of smaller papillae each associated with a stout short seta between the anus and the posteriormost of the larger papillae. The spicules, 0.15 mm. long, have a two-knobbed proximal end, and a lateral flange or wing. The gubernaculum is 80μ long, and has an anterior projection reaching to the flange of the spicule. No ripe eggs were present in the female specimens available.



2. Leptosomatides conisetosum : (a) head; (b) posterior end of male; (c) spicule and gubernaculum.

Station 41 : 65° 48′ S., 53° 16′ E., T M L : 193 m.

Large haul. Trawl full of sponges and sponge mud: glass rope sponge predominant. Much mud with very many molluscs: many ophiuroids. Later, operating at this station with the Large Otter Trawl (O.T.L.), the catch comprised a striking haul of alcoonarians, holothurians "many", compound ascidians "common".

STATION 42 : 65° 50' S., 54° 23' E., T M L : 220 M. Haul essentially as at Station 41, T M L.