

Mesacanthion diplochma (Southern, 1914)
(Fig. 59)

Description. Body length 3.3–3.7 mm. Maximum diameter 76–128 μm ($a = 27\text{--}44$). Cuticle with fine transverse striation. Cephalic setae arise from anterior border of cephalic capsule, longer six 1.1 h.d., shorter four two-thirds this length. Males with six pairs of cervical setae just posterior to the cephalic capsule, and six files of four setae further posterior. These setae absent in female. Tail 4.4–4.8 a.b.d.

Spicules very unequal in length and shape. Right spicule elongate, 500–510 μm (8.3–9.4 a.b.d.), transversely striated. Left spicule short (1.25 a.b.d.) and smooth, in two halves with a suture between them; proximal half with strong dorsal hook at its distal end.

Gubernaculum in two halves, each with a long posterior apophysis. Supplement 1.3–1.5 a.b.d. in front of cloaca. Male tail with ventral setose papilla near the tip.

Vulva just behind middle of body.

Distribution. Clew Bay, West Ireland (sublittoral sand); Northumberland (sublittoral mud).

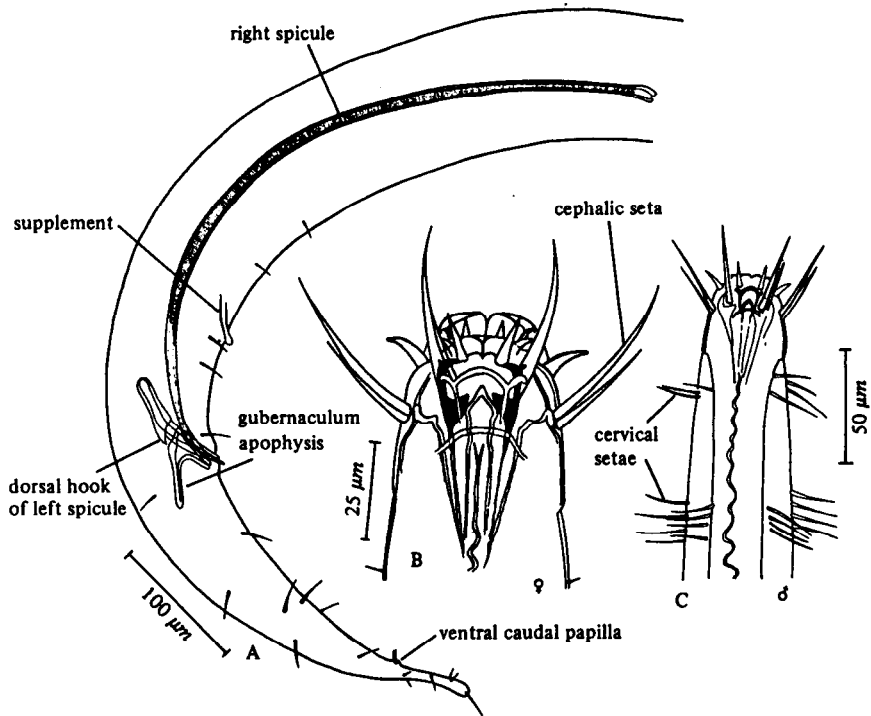


Fig. 59. *Mesacanthion diplochma*. A, Male tail (original); B, Female head; C, Male head (from Southern, 1914).