

MESACANTHOIDES Wieser 1953.

MESACANTHOIDES WIESERI n.sp.

(Fig. 30, a-b.)

Stations : 39, 42.

Female (4x) : L = 5.6-8.3 mm. ; α = 33.7-46-8 ; β = 4.2-5.5 ; γ = 26.8-28.6 ; V = 62-66.2.

These are stout worms with faintly striated cuticle. The cephalic helmet is well defined, stout in profile, and with sculptured border. The cephalic setae spring from near the base of this structure, six of these setae are 80μ long, about $2/3$ of the corresponding cephalic diameter ; the second submedian setae are only half this length. There are three lips each with two labial papillae $10-15\mu$ long. The amphid is very small, circular, and lies just behind the lateral cephalic setae. The cephalic ring is strongly chitinised in three arcs, subtending the jaws ; these strongly marked arcs, lying just beneath the cephalic helmet, are a striking feature of the species at first glance. The jaws are relatively lightly chitinised but the anterior part of each is solid, not arched as in species described above ; the anterior edge with small hooks is slightly narrower than the widest part, at the level of cephalic ring ; behind this are the two forks, widely separated. The teeth are very small and lie just behind the level of the cephalic ring. No cephalic organ was seen. The nerve ring surrounds the oesophagus at $1/4.61/5.2$ of its length from the anterior end.

No ripe eggs are present. The tail is conical in its first third, ending in a cylindrical part the width of which is about a fifth of the anal diameter ; the total tail length is 3.2-3.4 times the anal diameter.

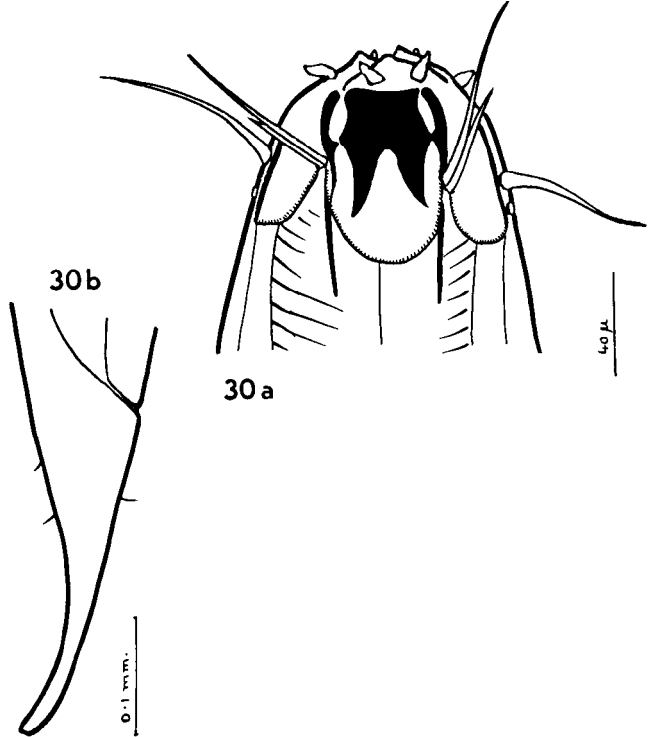
The species differs from *M. sculptilis* Wieser 1953, 96, in the shortness of the labial setae, the shortness of the tail, and the shape of the posterior border of the helmet. It differs from *M. latignathus* (Ditlev.) in the α value and the shape of the head and tail. If, however, as is suggested by the figures, Ditlevsen's specimens were shrunken, these differences would not exist. It is considered advisable to separate the antarctic specimens as a separate species.

STATION 39 : 66° 10' S., 49° 41' E., T M L : 300 M.

Big haul characterized by silicious sponges with glass rope spicules. ***Synapta-like Holothurian*** common ; many Polyzoa of different species.

STATION 42 : 65° 50' S., 54° 23' E., T M L : 220 M.

Haul essentially as at Station 41, T M L.



30. *Mesacanthiodes wieseri*: (a) head; ventral view; (b) tail.