

Neochromadora poecilosoma (De Man, 1893)

(Fig. 76)

Description. Body length 1.3–1.4 mm. Maximum diameter 56–64 μm ($a = 22\text{--}24$). Cuticle ornamentation complex, with enlarged lateral punctations throughout the length of the body; lateral dots on a raised strip of cuticle (ala), the number of dots lying on this lateral field being 2–5 (Fig. 76B). Six short and four longer 10–12 μm (0.4–0.6 h.d.) cephalic setae. Somatic setae in four longitudinal files, 8–13 μm . Amphids 7–9 μm wide, between four longer cephalic setae. Buccal cavity with a medium-sized hollow dorsal tooth and two smaller subventral teeth. Oesophagus anteriorly enlarged around the dorsal tooth and with a well-developed oval posterior bulb. Typically a ventral ampulla just behind buccal cavity, distorting oesophagus in this region (Fig. 76A). Tail conical, 3.9–5.0 a.b.d., with a dorsally recurved tip. Spinneret asymmetrical with a dorsal subterminal seta (Fig. 76D).

Spicules 44–48 μm (1.1–1.2 a.b.d.), arcuate. Gubernaculum 27–28 μm . Nine tiny cup-shaped precloacal supplements.

Distribution. Falmouth, South West England; Skippers Island, Essex; Strangford Lough, North East Ireland; Firth of Clyde, West Scotland; Firth of Forth, East Scotland; Tamar estuary, South West England (intertidal sand and mud).

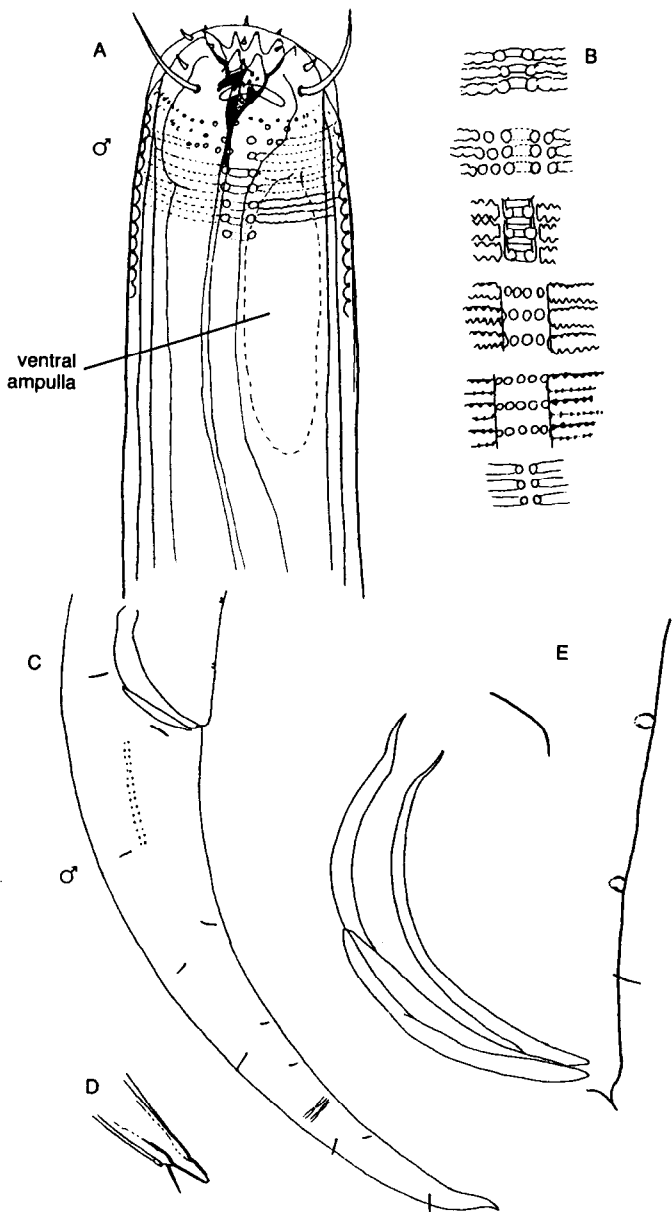


Fig. 76. *Neochromadora poecilosoma*. A, Male head; B, Lateral cuticle pattern in (respectively from top) anterior oesophageal region, mid-oesophagus, posterior oesophagus, mid-body, cloacal region, tail region; C, Male tail; D, Tail tip; E, Cloacal region. Original.