

Neochromadora tecta Gerlach, 1951

(Fig. 78)

Description. Body length 1.2–1.4 mm. Maximum diameter 34–45 μm ($a = 28$ –40). Lateral differentiation of cuticle basically of two lateral files of enlarged dots about 3 μm apart in middle of body; in anterior region these dots are flanked by transverse rows of large rounded punctations but about half way down the oesophagus they become elongate and doubled so that there are two transverse rows corresponding with each lateral punctation (Fig. 78F). Transverse bars are now present between the lateral dots (Fig. 78F). Slightly posterior to the base of the oesophagus the lateral punctations become indistinct and fused and this pattern extends down much of the body length (Fig. 78G). Some distance anterior to the anus the lateral punctations become more distinct and level with the anus the transverse rows become single again, taking the form of small rounded dots; this pattern extends down the length of the tail (Fig. 78H). Six short 2.5 μm and four longer 19–21 μm (1.2–1.4 h.d.) cephalic setae. Four files of long slender setae extend throughout the length of the body, more numerous in the cephalic and caudal regions. Buccal cavity with prominent hollow slightly S-shaped dorsal tooth, a pair of much smaller subventral teeth and a series of minute denticles. Amphids crescentic slits between bases of cephalic setae, 6 μm wide. Oesophagus with dorsal swelling anteriorly and a prominent posterior bulb. Tail conico-cylindrical 3.5–4.5 a.b.d. in male, 6.0–7.2 a.b.d. in female.

Spicules 51–52 μm (1.4–1.6 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, arcuate, slender. Gubernaculum 23 μm , paired with a prominent anteriorly pointing hook at the distal end (Fig. 78E). Nine small cup-shaped precloacal supplements.

Distribution. Exe estuary, South West England; Loch Ewe, West Scotland (intertidal sand).

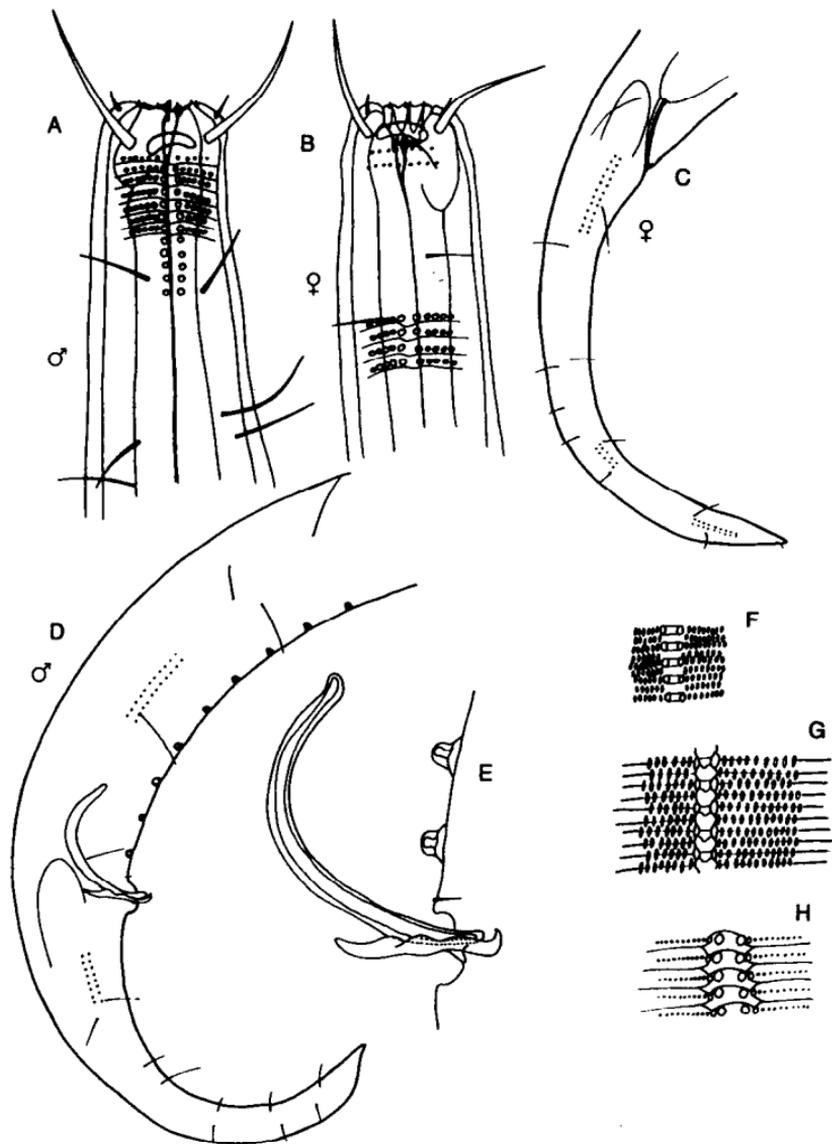


Fig. 78. *Neochromadora tecta*. A, Male head; B, Female head; C, Female tail; D, Male tail; E, Cloacal region; F-H, lateral cuticle pattern at base of oesophagus (F), mid-body (G), cloacal region (H). Original.