

Neochromadora trichophora (Steiner, 1921)
(Fig. 80)

Description. Body length 0.7 mm. Maximum diameter 24–33 μm ($a = 20\text{--}27$). Cuticle with transverse rows of punctations, lateral differentiation simple, in the form of enlarged lateral dots, without longitudinal rows. Six minute and four long 13 μm (1 h.d.) cephalic setae. Long setae, up to 21 μm , in four files down body length. Buccal cavity with cuticularised dorsal tooth, other dentition indistinct. Amphids pear-shaped slits between longer cephalic setae, the widest part dorsal. Oesophagus with a rounded posterior bulb. Tail gradually tapering, 4.5–5.6 a.b.d.

A distinctive feature of this species is the presence of four oesophageal supplements in the male (Fig. 80A). These consist of ventral thickenings of the cuticular annules. The anteriormost is small and rather indistinct. The third is level with the oesophageal bulb and the fourth some distance posterior to it. There is a similar but longer region of thickened ventral annulations on the tail of males (Fig. 80B). Spicules 27–30 μm (1.2 a.b.d.). Gubernaculum with a broad, rounded, 10 μm dorsocaudal apophysis. Precloacal supplements absent.

Distribution. Exe estuary, South West England; Firth of Clyde, West Scotland (intertidal sand).

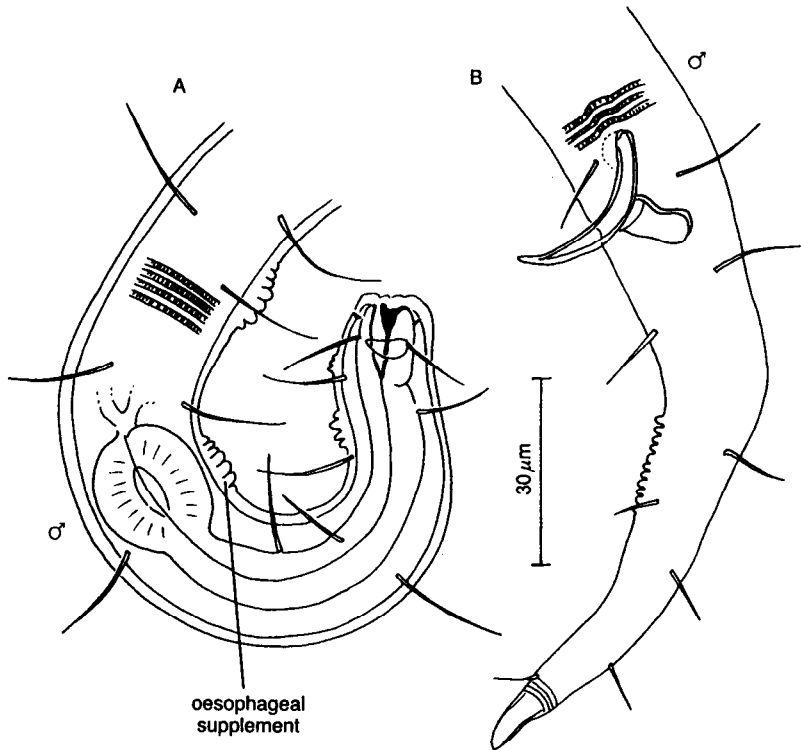


Fig. 80. *Neochromadora trichophora*. A, Anterior end of male; B, Male tail. Original.