

Oncholaimus brachycercus De Man, 1889
(Fig. 99)

Description. Body length 3.0–4.3 mm. Maximum diameter 40–65 μm ($a = 57$ –82). Six rounded lips with six small conical labial setae. Six longer cephalic setae 7 μm (one-quarter of h.d.), remaining four only slightly shorter. Left subventral tooth in buccal cavity slightly longer than the other two. Amphids pocket-like, 8–10 μm wide (one-quarter of c.d.). Oesophagus cylindrical, 0.125 times body length. Excretory pore 2.2–3.2 buccal cavity lengths from anterior. Nerve ring 0.5 times oesophagus length from anterior. Short setae scattered over general body surface, most numerous in anterior region and on tail. Tail short, 1.2–1.9 a.b.d., anterior two-thirds conical, posterior third cylindrical, always ventrally curved in male.

Spicules 36–39 μm (a little over 1 a.b.d.), fairly straight, distal half dilated.

No gubernaculum. Seven or eight pairs of long stout circumcloacal setae. Two small ventral bumps near the tail tip, each with a pair of short setae.

Ovary single, anterior, reflexed. Vulva at 72–73% of body length.

Distribution. Recorded from several localities around the British Isles. Usually from intertidal sand, but also among hydroids and seaweeds.

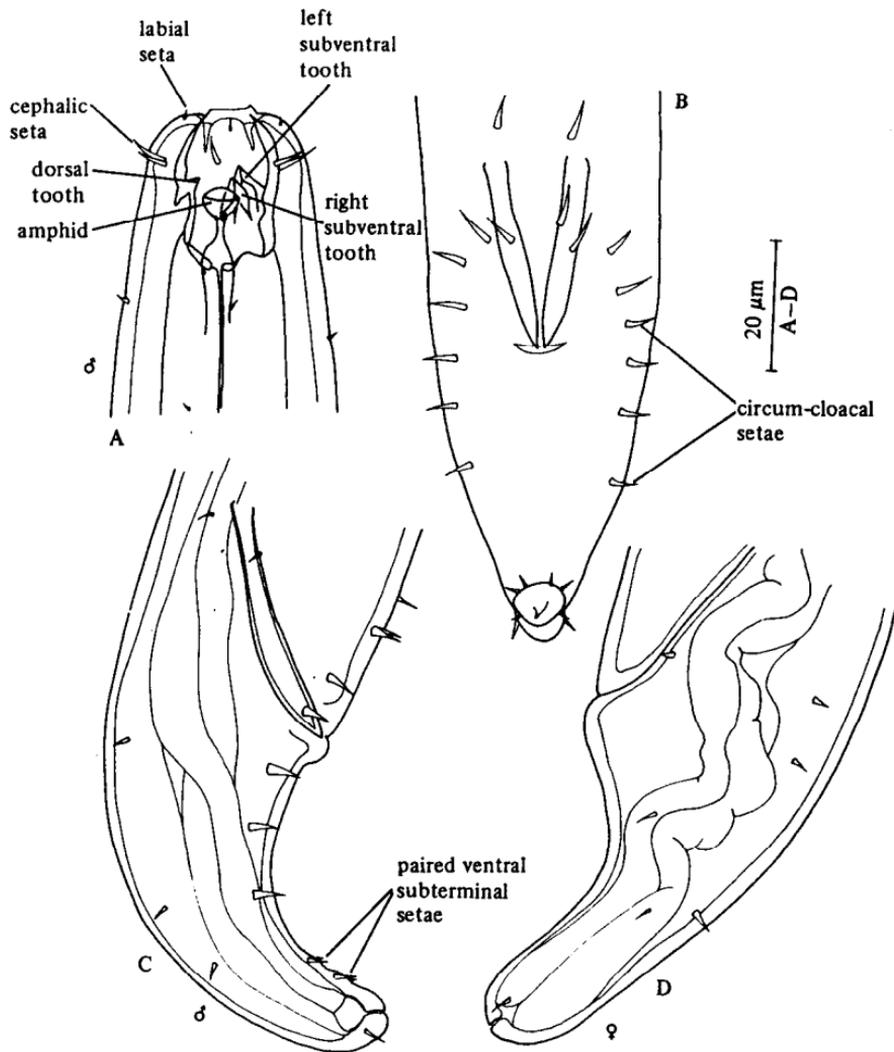


Fig. 99. *Oncholaimus brachycercus*. A, Male head; B, Male tail (ventral); C, Male tail (lateral); D, Female tail. Original.