Oncholaimium paredron n.sp.

(Fig. 30, a–c.)

Macquarie Island : Coll. M.

♀ (14x) : L = 7.0–9.9 mm. ; α = 90–113 ; β = 11.7–16.5 ; γ = 143–220 ; V = 56–63%.

♂ (7x) : L = 6.7–8.4 mm. ; α = 105–140 ; β = 12.2–14.5 ; γ = 134–168.

Kerguelen Island : Station 54.

(1x) : L = 8.1 mm. ; α = 71 ; β = 12.5 ; γ = 100 ; V = 68%.

♂ (1x) : L = 6.3 mm. ; α = 90 ; β = 10.5 ; γ = 140.

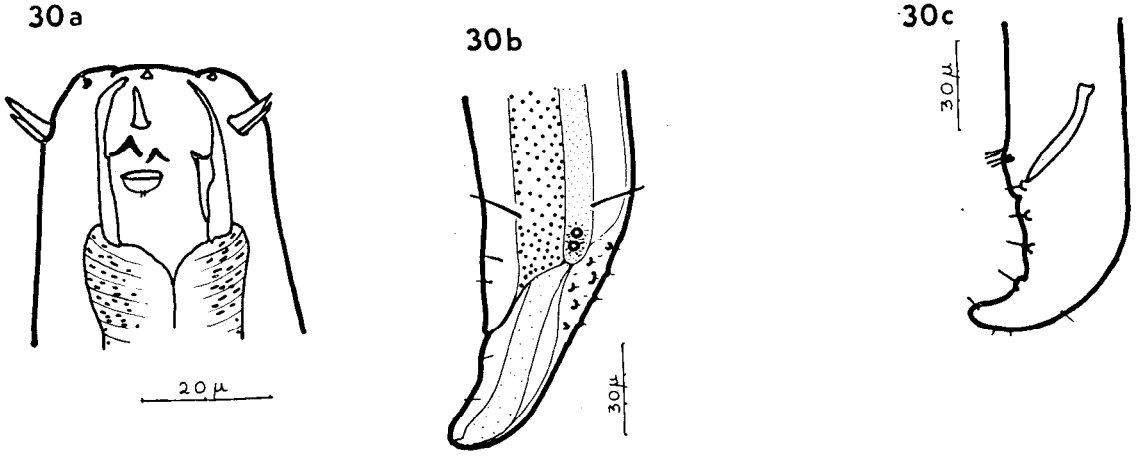
A large number of specimens present in a single collection from " among green algae and oligochaetes " are placed in a new species. An interesting feature of the occurrence is that several groups of the worms formed tangled knots ; in one case about twenty were packed side by side into a tube formed apparently by the cuticle of an oligochaete from the ends of which the heads and tails of the worms protruded. In the intestine of the nematodes are some chitinous setae similar to those in the oligochaete cuticle.

The species resembles *O. longus* Wieser 1953, but differs chiefly in the length and shape of the tail in both sexes, and the position of the demanian pore in the female.

The labial papillae are quite distinct. The cephalic setae are 9μ long, a quarter of the head breadth. The amphid width is about a sixth of the corresponding head breadth. The buccal capsule is 30μ long and 20μ wide ; the three teeth are of almost the same length, one subventral being a little longer than the other two, which lie at about midlength of the buccal capsule. There is a noticeable aggregation of pigment in the outer part of the wall of the oesophagus at its anterior end. The excretory pore lies between three and four lengths of the buccal capsule from the anterior end, or a third of the distance from head to nerve ring ; this latter lies just in front of the midlength of the oesophagus. The ventral gland is a very noticeable spherical body lying about two-thirds of the length of the oesophagus behind its posterior end.

The female tail is almost cylindrical, with rounded tip. The length is 1.4–1.8 times the anal breadth. The caudal glands, as in the male, lie far in front of the anus. In adult females the tail size and shape is very similar to that of the juveniles, but the diameter of the rest of the body is much greater, especially in ovigerous specimens. In these there is a sudden narrowing just in front of the anus and in this region, which extends about a tail length in front of the anus, there is a great development of setae and, in the dorso-lateral aspect, of papillae. A somewhat similar region is described by Saveljev in *Metoncholaimus anthophorus* (1912, 116). It is in this region that the demanian tubes open to the exterior, and they do so by at least two pores on each side. The osmosium lies about 1 mm. from the anus, and the uvette about 100μ behind it. The efferent duct from the osmosium in many cases contains a brown homogenous material, and in a few specimens this is present also in part of the uterine efferent duct close to the uvette. The eggs are more than twice as long as wide, 140–180μ by 60–70μ.

The male tail is conical except for an initial dorsal " hump ", and is rounded at the tip. The tail length is 1.2–1.4 times the anal breadth. There are a number of scattered setae dorsally and near the tip. The perianal setae are large ; about eight lie on an elevation on the anterior lip of the anus, three on each side of the proximal half of the tail, and one midventrally at about the mid-length of the tail. In some specimens all the postanal setae, including the midventral, are borne on papillae, on others these papillae, even the midventral one considered to be typical of *Oncholaimium* spp., are not distinct even in profile. The spicule is 40–45μ long, about equal to the anal breadth. No gubernaculum is present.



30. *Oncholaimium paredron :* a, head ; b, tail of female ; c, tail of male.

STATION 54 : head of Greenland Harbour ; intertidal collections. A rich fauna.

The following collections were made at Macquarie Island by the A.A. Expedition during 1912–1913. The reference letters under which they are listed here follow in alphabetical sequence with those given to A.A.E. Antarctic collections recorded in Section 2 of this Report :—

G. Littoral.

H. Among seaweeds, probably at the north end of the Island.

I. Shore collection.

J. Low tide.

K. Below low tide.

L. Rock scrapings from below low tide, mostly sponges.

M. West coast, among green algae and oligochaetes.

N. North end of island, scrapings from rocks below low tide level.

O. Townet off North-East Bay, 19.6.12, " mainly Copepods, some Radiolaria ".