METONCHOLAIMUS THYSANOURAIOS n.sp.

(Fig. 38, a–d.)

Kerguelen Island : Stations 5, 49, 50, 51, 55A.

♀ (5x) : L = 7.1–8.4 mm. ; a = 76–100 ; β = 8.0–10.5 ; γ = 27–30 ; V = 73–77%.

♂ (8x) : L = 6.6–7.9 mm. ; a = 71–82 ; β = 8.6–9.7 ; γ = 47–62.

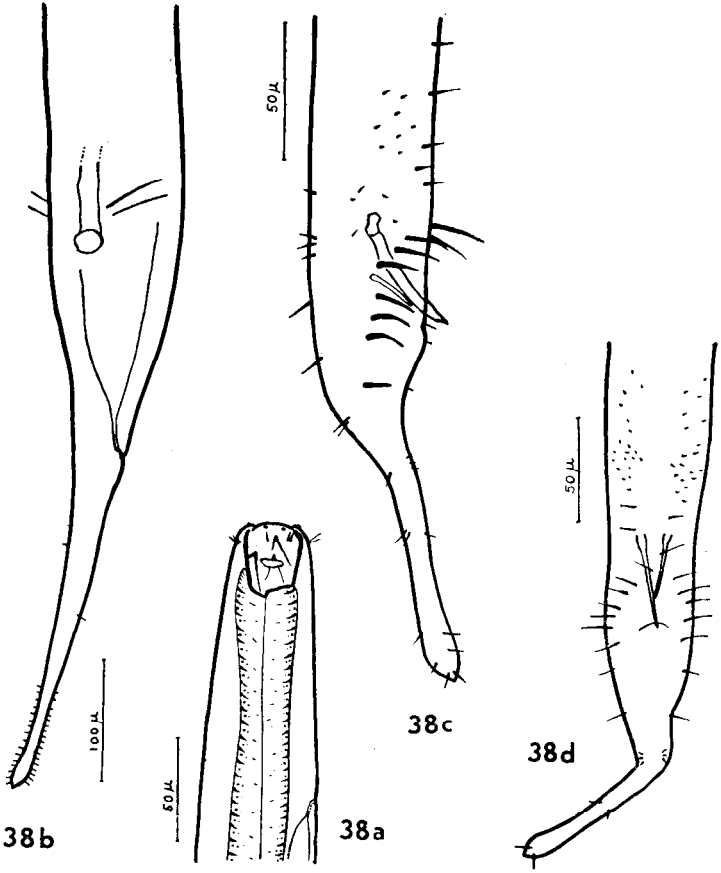
This new species resembles *M. brevispiculum* Mawson 1957 in the shortness of the spicules but differs in the a, β and γ values, as well as in other features.

The lips and labial papillae are distinct ; the cephalic setae are one-fifth to one-sixth of the cephalic diameter. The amphids are at about the level of the tips of the shorter teeth, and the amphid width is about a fifth of the corresponding head width. The buccal cavity is 37–39μ by 24–26μ in a male, and rather longer but with the same width, in the female. The longer subventral tooth is three-quarters, and the shorter a half, of the length of the buccal capsule. The excretory pore is 3–4 times the length of the buccal cavity from the anterior end.

In the female the external pores of the demanian system open at about three-quarters of the tail length in front of the anus and nearer the anus in more gravid females. Shortly in front of them are two pairs of long setae, one pair on each side of the body. The uvette lies roughly two-thirds of the distance between the tail and the vulva. The body narrows distinctly between the demanian pores and the anus, especially in females containing eggs. The tail length is 6–7 times the anal breadth ; it is almost cylindrical, and bears a number of scattered setae ; in two of the specimens (fig. 38b) these were especially numerous on the swollen tip and just anterior to this.

The male tail tapers in the proximal third, and the rest is cylindrical except for the swollen tip. The caudal setae are numerous, and are arranged in three groups, seen most distinctly in ventral views (fig. 38d) ; a perianal ring of long setae, three pairs of short setae ventrally at mid-length of the tail, and numerous scattered short setae subventrally in front of the perianal group. Of these the two latter groups were barely seen in lateral view. The small mid-tail group have the appearance of surrounding a papilla, but no such structure was seen in lateral view. The tail is 3.0–3.7 times the anal breadth. The spicule, 43–53μ long, is very slightly longer than the anal breadth. The gubernaculum is 20–24μ long, more than a third the length of the spicule.

The species has been placed in the genus *Metocholaimus* with some reserve. The distinction between this genus and *Oncholaimium* are not very strong, or at least not well understood. The latter is characterized by the presence of a midventral caudal papilla in the male, and, in at least one case, of a simple ampulla like rosette organ in the female. In *Metoncholaimus* species the spicule is " long " (except in *M. brevispiculum*) ; in *Oncholaimium* species its length is one to one and a half anal breadths. In the species described above, the spicule is short, and the rosette, if not exactly ampulla like, is not voluminous. In *M. brevispiculum* the rosette is ampulla like. In neither of these two species, however, is a mid-ventral cuadal papilla present in the male, though an anlage is perhaps indicated in one of them by the midcaudal setae. In the absence of clear descriptions of the demanian systems in most species of the two genera, this cannot be used as a basis for classification.



38. *Metoncholaimus thysanouraios :* a, anterior end of male ; b, tail of female ; c, lateral, and d, ventral, views of tail of male.

KERGUELEN ISLANDS.

STATION 5 : D.R.S., 20m. Off Jeanne d'Arc. Trawling made near belt of kelp ; brownish green mud and some weeds. Echinoids most numerous, other groups represented.

STATION 9 : Shore collecting stations on islands in Bras Bossière. Nematodes from intertidal mussel bank.

STATION 12 : D.R.S., 4–5m. ; off Grave Island, Island Harbour ; kelp and red algae common ; many organisms on kelp holdfasts. All groups represented in haul. Polyzoa and a colonial ascidian most numerous.

STATION 15 : D.R.S., 55m. ; in channel between Hog Island and Blakeney Island. The striking character of the haul was presence of ascidians of several types ; many small invertebrates were found in a common globular silicious sponge.

STATION 47 : 49° 50′ S., 69° 33′ E., off south coast of Kerguelen ; D.R.L., 150m. Small stones and gravel ; main features were red ophiuroids and white holothurians.

STATION 48 : Swain's Bay, near Swain's Haulover. Shore collecting.

STATION 49 : D.R.S., 2–20m. Western end of Long Island in a little, sheltered harbour with steeply shelving bottom. Dredge full of kelp and red and green algae, bottom of grey-green sand. Ophiuroids, echinoids, and asteroids common ; polychaetes and crustacea numerous.

STATION 50 : D.R.S., 10m. Grotto Bay. Much kelp and other weed ; echinoids and polychaetes common.

STATION 51 : D.R.S., 40–50m. Supply Bay. Polychaetes common, many small invertebrates in " roots of common globular silicious sponge ".

STATION 52 : Bras Bolinder, near head of Greenland Harbour :

1. D.R.S., 20–30m., much kelp and large mussels ; many sponges, polychaetes and ascidians.
2. Intertidal collections from beneath boulders.

STATION 53 : D.R.S., 20–30m. Near mouth of Peace River. Calcareous worm tubes common, also silicious globular sponges, harbouring many invertebrates.

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

STATION 55A : D.R.S., 10–20m. Between Islets in Colbeck Passage, off N.W. end of Long Island. Some kelp, some stinking black mud ; fauna similar to that in other hauls at this depth.

STATION 55B : D.R.S., 1–5m. Near head of Bras Enzensperger, Royal Sound. Much sand, kelp, and *Ulva* ; numerous small gastopods attached to weed.

STATION 56A : Rivett Arm, intertidal collection. Very rich fauna in this area, extending down steeply shelving shore line.

STATION 56B : D.R.L., 50m. ; near Green Island. Good haul, common globular sponge plentiful, with slimy dark green mud. Polychaetes, nematodes, ophiuroids, holothurians, and a large variety of simple ascidians were noted as common.

STATION 58 : D.R.L., 50m. In Hydrography Channel, a short distance S.E. from Green Island. Good haul, with slimy dark green mud ; common globular sponge plentiful ; polychaetes nematodes, ophiuroids and holothurians, and a large simple ascidian noted as " common ".

STATION 59 : O.T.L., 47m. Royal Sound, about a mile N.E. of Suhm Island. Large haul of invertebrates from good trawling bottom. Main feature was large numbers of a big translucent ascidian and a rich pink holothurian.

STATION 60B : Shore collection from Suhm Island. Nematodes from " dripping rock 10 feet above sea level ".

STATION 60C : Shore collection from small island in Navalo Harbour.

STATION 61 : intertidal collection from southern part of Antares Island. Nematodes from rock pool.

STATION 62 : Poincaré Peninsula opposite Murray Island ; shore collections ; nematodes from intertidal rock pools.