

PARAMESACANTHION ALLGENI n.sp.

(Fig. 26, a-d.)

Kerguelen Island : Stations 15, 47, 51, 55A, 61.

♀ (2x) : L = 3.5, 3.1 ;  $\alpha$  = 23, 28 ;  $\beta$  = 5.0, 5.2 ;  $\gamma$  = 14, 15 ; V = 54, 55%.

♂ (3x) : L = 2.5-2.7 mm. ;  $\alpha$  = 25-27 ;  $\beta$  = 4.7-5.0 ;  $\gamma$  = 13.0-14.7.

j (2x) : L = 1.7, 2.6 mm. ;  $\alpha$  = 17, 32 ;  $\beta$  = 3.4, 4.2 ;  $\gamma$  = 11, 13.

The cephalic setae of the female are about a sixth of the head breadth, and the second of each submedian pair is slightly shorter. The labial seta are a little shorter than the cephalic ones ; the teeth are of equal length. The cephalic organ is large and distinct, oval in shape, with the long axis diagonally across the head. The posterior border of the capsule is not clear for comparison with that of *P. microsetosus*. In the male the labial setae are about  $4\mu$  long, the six longer cephalic setae  $15-17\mu$  long, and the shorter setae about half this. The ten subcephalic setae are  $30\mu$  long. The cephalic diameter is about  $20-23\mu$ . The slightly oval and obliquely placed cephalic organ is  $5\mu$  long. A number of shorter nuchal setae are present in both sexes.

The nerve ring surrounds the oesophagus just in front of its mid-length,  $1/2.3-2.4$  in the male and  $1/2.4$  in the juvenile. Only one egg is developed in any female, and this is  $180\mu$  by  $80\mu$ .

The tail is slender, conical in the proximal half, more or less cylindrical distally, ending in a slight swelling. No caudal hairs were seen in either sex. The length of the female tail is 4.2, of the juveniles 3.0 and 5.7, and of the male 4.0-4.6, anal breadths.

The spicule is  $50\mu$  long, very little greater than the anal breadth; the proximal half is cylindrical, the distal more or less spatulate. A small gubernaculum is  $15\mu$  long. The preanal organ lies  $110-120\mu$ , or a little over twice the anal breadth, in front of the anus.

*Paramesacanthion* sp. females from Antarctic stations were identified as *P. microsetosus* (Allgen), the type specimens of which were juveniles from Campbell Island. The measurements of the Antarctic females agreed quite well with those of the juveniles. The females in the present collection agree with the Antarctic ones in all but three points, the  $\gamma$  value, the egg size, and the position of the nerve ring. The disparity in these is such that they have been placed in a new species. It was suggested by Wieser (1953, 82) and the present author (1956, 64) that *P. brevilabiatus* (Stekhoven 1946) is a synonym of *P. microsetosus*. The fact is that the females of the genus are very similar in appearance, especially of the head, and their differentiation depends on characters which have not always been given. The juvenile specimen of *P. tricuspis* (Stekhoven 1950) (females were not present) agree so well with that of *P. microsetosus* that it was suggested (Wieser, loc. cit.) that they might be synonyms. The juvenile of the proposed new species from Kerguelen are very similar indeed to those of *P. tricuspis*, but the males in the two species are very different. The new species is distinguished from others of the genus of which the male is known by the length of the spicule in relation to the tail size and by the position of the preanal organ.

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

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



26c

26a



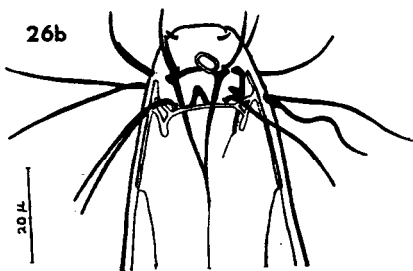
26d

20 μ



26b

20 μ



26. *Paramesacanthion allgeni*: a, head of female; b, head of male; c, tail of female; d, tail of male.