Paranticoma antarctica n.sp.

(Fig. 17, a–d.)

Stations : 39, 41, 42, 105 107,.

Female (10x) : L = 3.2–4 mm. ; α = 30–40 ; β = 4.4–5.5 ; γ = 9–10 ; V = 50–55%.

Male (3x) : L = 3.4–3.7 mm. ; α = 22–29 ; β = 3.8–4.6 ; γ = 7–7.4.

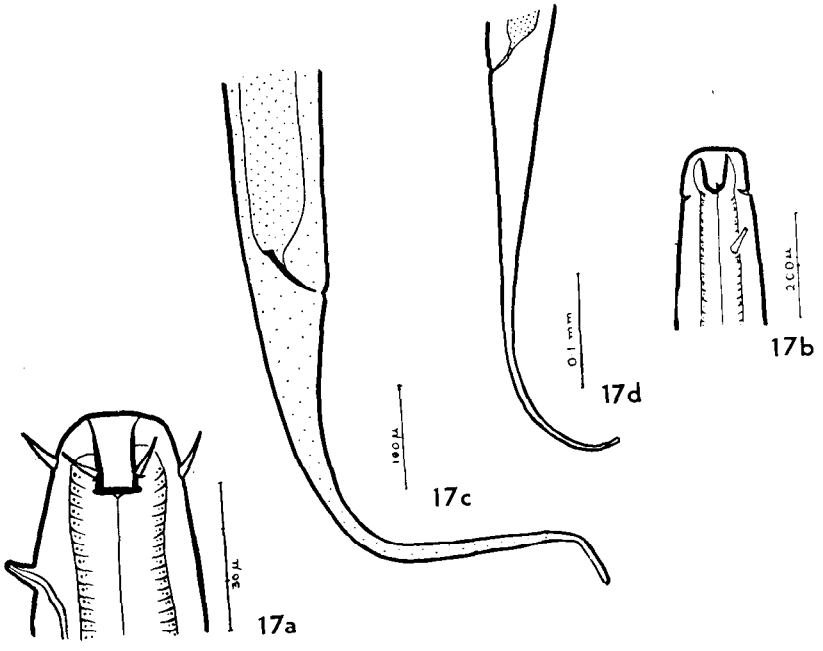
These worms are of medium size, tapering in the oesophageal region and near the anus ; the tail ends in a filiform region. The head is truncated and bears 10 cephalic setae, their length 8–10μ, a little less than a half of the corresponding cephalic diameter. The cuticle is smooth and thick and bears very few setae ; those present are fine and short. The amphid is a transverse slit just behind the cephalic setae, about a half or slightly less than a half of the corresponding diameter in the male, and about a quarter of this diameter in the female. The buccal capsule is beaker-shaped, slightly wider at the mouth than at the base and unarmed. Its anterior third is thinner-walled than the basal part. Its width is about a third of the cephalic diameter, its total length about twice its diameter. The excretory pore, as is usual in this genus, lies at the apex of a bristle-like projection of the nuchal cuticle. This is about 6μ long, and lies at a distance from the anterior end twice the length of the buccal capsule, this distance being equal to the body diameter at the excretory pore. The nerve ring lies just behind the mid-length of the oesophagus.

The spicules are simple and slender, curved, 60–70μ from tip to tip. The presence of a gubernaculum is most doubtful. No accessory organ or papillae were observed. In one specimen there were two pairs of small conical setae in front of the anus. The tail is conical in the proximal third and ends in a long filiform part.

None of the female specimens carried ripe eggs.

The species is close to those described by Micoletsky from Sunda Island in general appearance. It differs from *P. bandaensis* M. and *P. profunda* M. in being a larger worm with shorter spicules, and further differs from *P. bandaense* in having a shorter tail, a shorter oesophagus, a shorter cephalic setae, and a more anteriorly situated excretory pore.

It is very close to *P. tubuliphora* Wieser, but in this species cervical setae are present, a vestigial supplementary organ is present in the male, the cephaelic setae are longer, and the excretory pore is farther back.



17. *Paranticoma antarctica* : (*a*) lateral view of head ; (*b*) ventral view of anterior end ; (*c*) male tail ; (*d*) female tail.

STATION 39 : 66° 10′ S., 49° 41′ E., T M L : 300 M.

Big haul characterized by silicious sponges with glass rope spicules. *Synapta*—like Holothurian common ; many Polyzoa of different species.

STATION 41 : 65° 48′ S., 53° 16′ E., T M L : 193 M.

Large haul. Trawl full of sponges and sponge mud : glass rope sponge predominant. Much mud with very many molluscs : many ophiuroids. Later, operating at this station with the Large Otter Trawl (O.T.L.), the catch comprised a striking haul of alcyonarians, holothurians " many ", compound ascidians " common ".

STATION 42 : 65° 50′ S., 54° 23′ E., T M L : 220 M.

Haul essentially as at Station 41, T M L.

STATION 105 : 67° 46′ S., 67° 03′ E., D R L : 163 M.

No mud, only a few small erratics. Dominant forms listed as :—(1) Large club-like compound ascidians ; (2) Large simple free ascidians with hairy test ; (3) Transparent ascidian-like *Clavellina* ; (4) Several spp. of sponges. Pycnogonids, asteroids, and ophiuroids abundant. Nematodes very abundant in test of a large ascidian.

STATION 107 : 66° 45′ S., 62° 03′ E., D R L : 219 M.

Dredging on an off-shore submarine bank. Fine grey mud. Ophiuroids and Polyzoa chief animals. Nematodes among sponge spicules. Later the Large Otter Trawl brought up a catch with Polyzoa as the dominant group : calcareous and chitinous species.