

Platycoma cephalata Cobb, 1894

(Fig. 79)

Description. Body length 8.8–10.7 mm. Maximum diameter 90–120 μm ($a = 89$ –98). Cuticle smooth except for the constriction zone between the cephalic setae and amphid, where the cuticle bears transverse striations which can be seen most easily in optical cross-section (Fig. 79B). Buccal cavity absent but the oesophagus bears anteriorly three cuticularised teeth (one dorsal, two subventral) which protrude beyond the lips. Six labial papillae, their position identifiable by subcuticular innervation. Ten 30 μm (0.7 h.d.) long stout cephalic setae. Amphids 38 μm from anterior, 15 μm (0.3 c.d.) wide. The cuticle posterior to the amphid opening carries two stout setae (Fig. 79B), the dorsal being slightly longer (27 μm), so that the amphid opening lies behind these structures. There are somatic setae present in the area between the head and the nerve ring (Fig. 79A) but these are otherwise absent. The oesophagus is narrow in the anterior part, but is wider in the posterior 40%. The tail is conico-cylindrical.

Spicule 80 μm long with complicated lateral structures distally (Fig. 79D).

Gubernaculum has paired dorsal apophyses. Paired subventral setae present posterior to and just anterior to cloaca. Ventral precloacal supplement situated 95 μm anterior to cloaca and, further anteriorly, a pair of subventral spines situated on papillae.

Vulva situated nearly 66% of the body length from the anterior.

Distribution. West Ireland (sand and shells at 44 m).

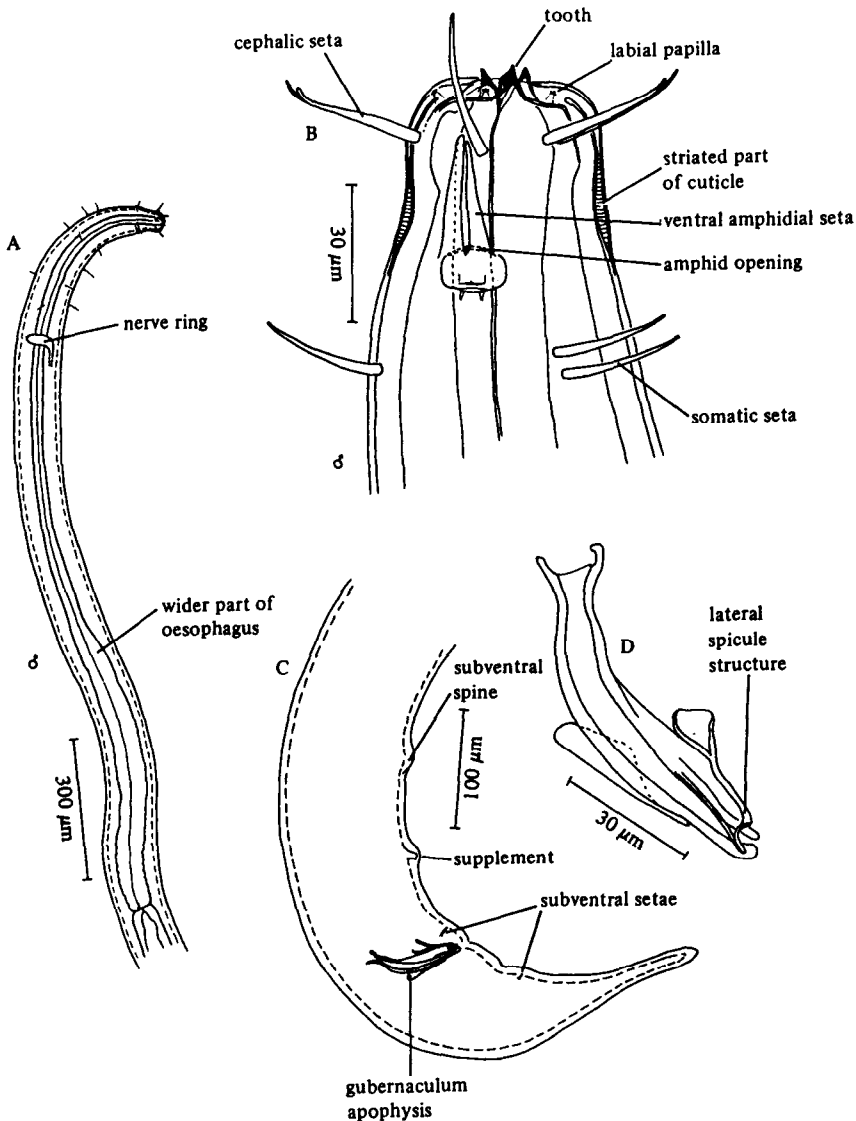


Fig. 79. *Platycoma cephalata*. A, Anterior end of male; B, Male head; C, Male tail; D, Spicules and gubernaculum. Original.