

*Pontonema vulgare* (Bastian, 1865)  
(Fig. 105)

*Description.* Body length 12.3–14.9 mm. Maximum diameter 170–220  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $a = 65\text{--}79$ ). Cuticle smooth. Short somatic setae present throughout the body. Six short labial setae. Ten cephalic setae: six 10–12  $\mu\text{m}$  (0.14–0.17 h.d.) and four 8–9  $\mu\text{m}$  (0.11–0.13 h.d.). Amphids situated a short distance behind lateral cephalic seta, about level with dorsal tooth; 11–13  $\mu\text{m}$  wide (0.15–0.17 c.d.). Buccal cavity large, about 1.6–1.9 times as long as wide. Two subventral teeth of similar size and extending further anterior than dorsal tooth. Excretory pore about 4.2–4.9 buccal cavity lengths from anterior. Nerve ring 0.36–0.39 times oesophagus length from anterior. Oesophagus length 0.09–0.12 times body length, gradually widening throughout its length but no posterior bulb. Tail very short, 145–155  $\mu\text{m}$  (1.3–1.5 a.b.d.); rounded with well developed spinneret.

Spicules 120–140  $\mu\text{m}$  (1.1–1.2 a.b.d.), slender.

Gubernaculum 50–60  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Ventral papilla with spines present just anterior to cloaca and another 195–220  $\mu\text{m}$  (1.8–2.0 a.b.d.) anterior to cloaca. Two opposed testes.

Two reflexed ovaries. Vulva at 53–56% of body length.

*Distribution.* Falmouth (intertidal sand and stones); St Andrews, Scotland (intertidal under stones); West Ireland (intertidal); Plymouth (intertidal among weeds); Northumberland (kelp holdfasts); Isles of Scilly (kelp holdfasts and other weeds); Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland (among weed). Very common and widespread.

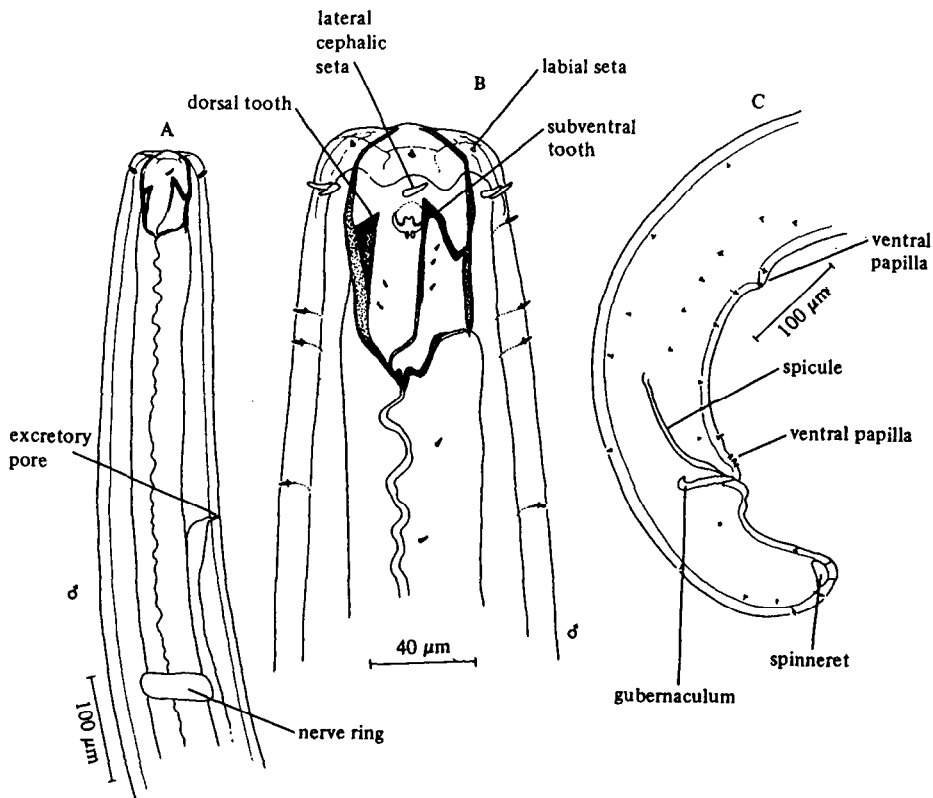


Fig. 105. *Pontonema vulgare*. A, Anterior end of male; B, Male head; C, Posterior end of male. Original.