

Praeacanthonchus punctatus (Bastian, 1865)

(Fig. 123)

Description. Body length 1.7–2.0 mm. Maximum diameter 73–106 μm ($a = 17\text{--}25$). Cuticle with transverse rows of dots, sometimes somewhat larger in the lateral field (Fig. 123A); two files of pores. Six short 1 μm labial setae. Four 5–6 μm and six 8–10 μm (0.3–0.5 h.d.) cephalic setae. Amphids of 3.75 turns, 9–10 μm (0.3 c.d.) wide in males, 6–8 μm (0.2 c.d.) in females. Buccal cavity cup-shaped without any teeth. Tail 2.7–3.7 a.b.d., more setose in male than female.

Spicules 66–73 μm (1.0–1.1 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, consisting of a central shaft with lateral alae curving round it and with a series of longish denticles along part of its length (Fig. 123C, D). Gubernaculum: same length as spicules; proximal portion consisting of an anterior heavily cuticularised bar with a thin posterior ala of variable shape, unpaired except for the extreme tip (Fig. 123C); distal portion with a rectangular swelling posteriorly bearing four small denticles on each side (Fig. 123D) and anteriorly a pair of short projections folded in a complicated manner on either side of the spicules, the ventral edges of each half provided with four large teeth, the posterior one curving inwards and having a serrated outer margin (Fig. 123D). Seven tubular precloacal supplements, equally spaced about 25 μm apart.

Distribution. Falmouth, South West England (sublittoral mud); Skippers Island, Essex; Exe estuary, South West England; Tamar estuary, South West England (intertidal mud); Strangford Lough, North East England (intertidal sand).

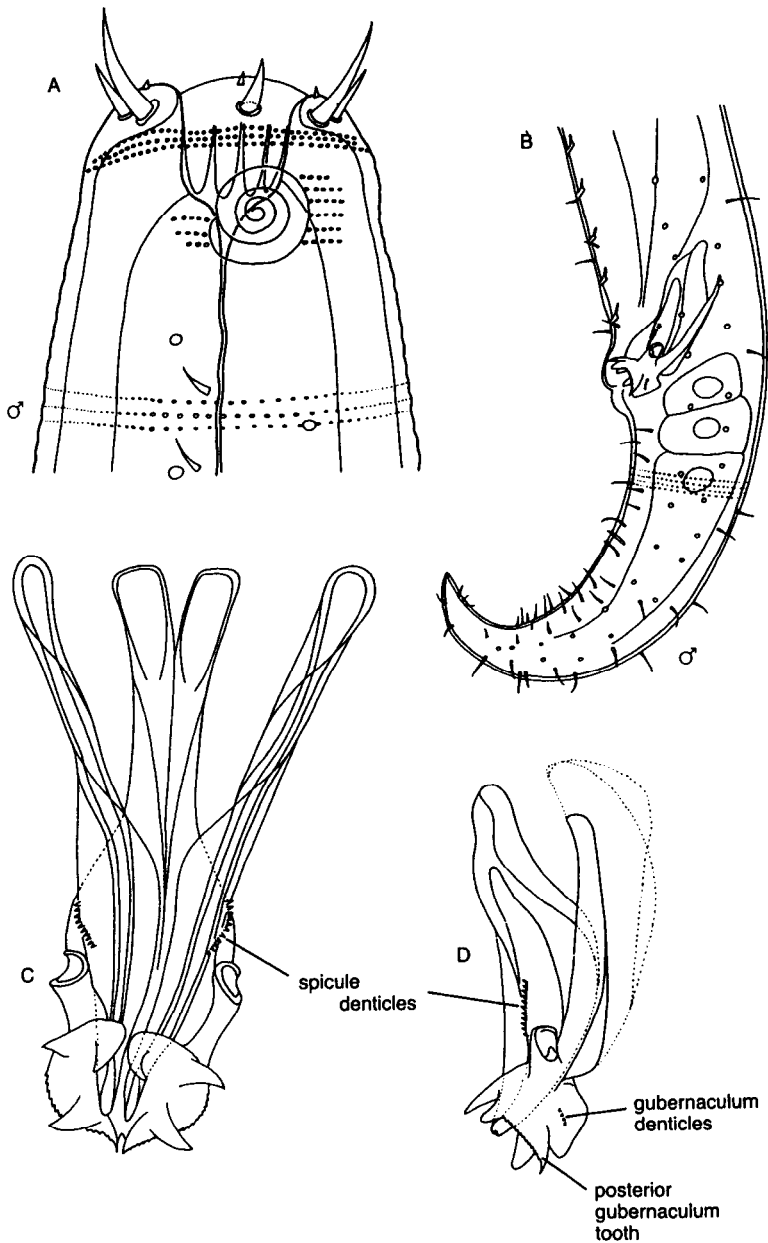


Fig. 123. *Praeacanthonchus punctatus*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C-D, Ventral and lateral views of spicules and gubernaculum. Original.