

*Pseudonchus deconincki* Warwick, 1969  
(Fig. 164)

*Pseudonchus decempapillatus* Ward, 1974 syn. nov.

**Description.** Body length 2.2–2.9 mm:  $a = 54\text{--}70$ . Cuticular striation commences at posterior edge of amphids. Six minute rounded labial papillae. Six short 2–4  $\mu\text{m}$  and four longer 7.5–13  $\mu\text{m}$  (0.3–0.5 h.d.) cephalic setae. Short setae scattered sporadically over remainder of body. Amphids 16–18  $\mu\text{m}$  (0.5 c.d.) wide, a single open loop. Buccal cavity with about 20 incurving teeth at its anterior boarder, which do not meet dorsally, giving the appearance of two opposed mandibles when the head is viewed from the dorsal aspect; at junction of two sections there are six ventral and three dorsal teeth. Oesophagus with elongated posterior bulb without thickening of the lining. Tail 3.0–3.3 a.b.d., conical with unstriated tip.

Spicules 41–44  $\mu\text{m}$  (1.1–1.2 a.b.d.), arcuate, roundly cephalate proximally. Gubernaculum 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , parallel to spicules. A small median precloacal papilla with a swollen base (Fig. 164D). 10–13 precloacal supplements, fine S-shaped tubes penetrating the markedly thickened ventral cuticle.

**Distribution.** Exe estuary, South West England (intertidal sand); Liverpool Bay, North West England (sublittoral medium-coarse sand). The Liverpool Bay specimens were described as *P. decempapillatus* Ward, 1974. In view of the known range of intraspecific variation in *P. deconincki*, the differentiating characters of *P. decempapillatus* are here considered as insufficient and the species therefore conspecific.

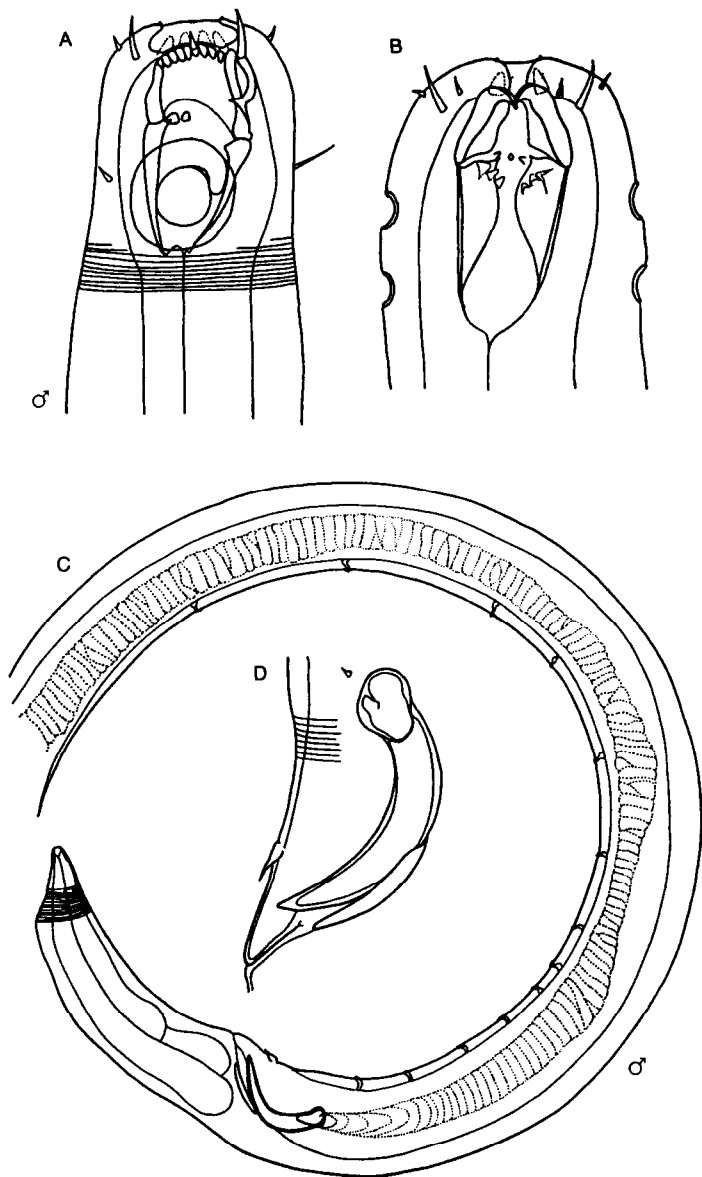


Fig. 164. *Pseudonchus deconincki*. A-B, Lateral and dorsal views of male head; C, Male tail; D, Cloacal region. Original.