

Stephanolaimus elegans Ditlevsen, 1918
(Fig. 203)

Description. Body length 2.7–3.0 mm. Maximum diameter 42–55 μm ($a = 57$ –70). Cuticle coarsely annulated, without lateral differentiation but two sub-lateral files of cuticle pores each attached by a duct to an oval internal ampulla. Anterior six cephalic sensilla small and pointed. Four longer cephalic setae 22–27 μm (1.4–2.1 h.d.). A few longish cervical setae, about 15 μm , remainder of body devoid of setae except for two subventral files on the male tail. Amphids 4 μm (0.3 h.d.) wide, reniform. Buccal cavity small and flask-shaped with six small pointed teeth at its anterior end. Oesophagus broadens posteriorly but has no definite bulb. Tail 5.0–6.5 a.b.d. with an unstriated tip of dense cuticle forming a caudal capsule (Fig. 203B, C).

Spicules 62–69 μm (1.3–1.6 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, arcuate with round proximal cephalisation. Gubernaculum 28–30 μm with prominent dorso-caudal apophysis. 42–45 more or less equally spaced tubular cuticularised 18–20 μm long precloacal supplements extending almost to base of oesophagus, cephalate proximally with a sharp flexure near the distal tip; those in the posterior region lie at right angles to the body surface but the anterior ones are directed slightly backwards. A small stout precloacal spine.

Vulva at 50–52% of body length. 33–40 tubular ventral supplements, similar to those of the male, extending from a short distance in front of the anus to the base of the oesophagus, more widely spaced than in male.

Distribution. Loch Ewe, West Scotland; Exe estuary, South West England; Isles of Scilly (intertidal sand).

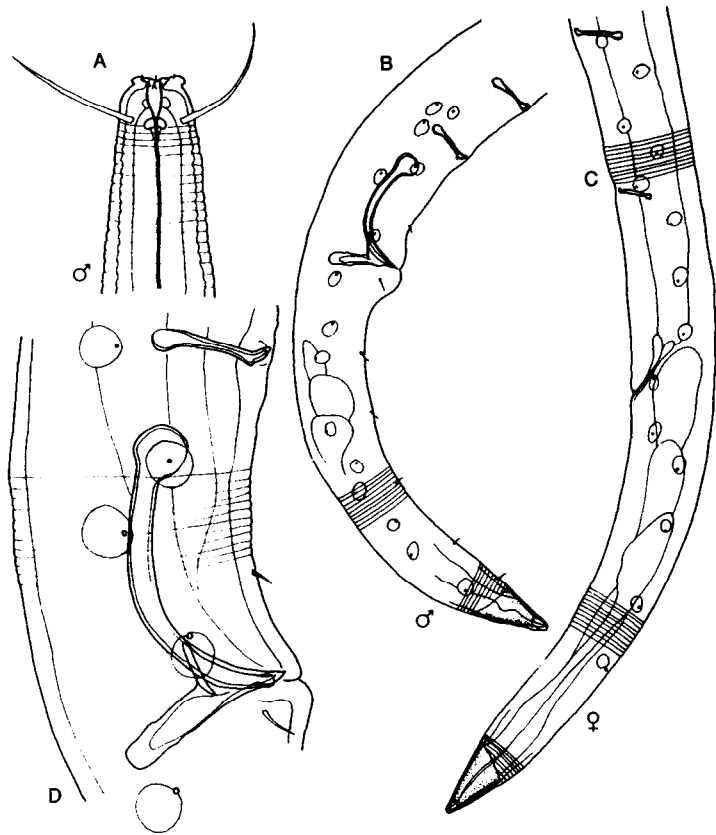


Fig. 203. *Stephanolaimus elegans*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C, Female tail; D, Cloacal region. Original.