

Synonchus fasciculatus Cobb, 1894
(Fig. 81)

Description. Body length, male 10.8 mm, female 13.0 mm. Maximum diameter, male 164 μm , female 180 μm ($a = 66.3$ and 72.3). Six labial papillae. Ten 19 μm long (0.36 h.d.) cephalic setae in female. In the only male available, only six 15 μm long (0.29 h.d.) cephalic setae were observed; 18–25 μm long somatic setae in 8 longitudinal files present anterior to nerve ring. Somatic setae less abundant posterior to nerve ring. Nerve ring at about one-third of the oesophagus length from anterior. Buccal cavity narrow and conical, anteriorly bearing a pair of cuticularised subventral onchia and more posteriorly a single dorsal tooth. At its base, the buccal cavity wall has two subventral tooth-like indentations. The cephalic capsule has an undulating posterior suture. Amphids situated posterior and slightly dorsal to lateral cephalic seta; width 9–10 μm (0.16–0.18 c.d.). Oesophagus 0.17–0.18 times body length. Tail conico-cylindrical with bulbous tip.

Spicules 160 μm with faint ventral alae and a lateral spine at the tip. Gubernaculum has a prominent dorsal apophysis. Level with the proximal end of the spicule there is a ventral precloacal supplement. Further anteriorly, between 300–400 μm from the cloaca, there is a patch of about 14 anteriorly-facing spines, each situated on a small papilla. There are two subventral files of long setae situated between the cloaca and supplement.

Testes paired, opposed.

Two opposed, reflexed ovaries. Vulva at 49% of body length from anterior.

Distribution. Isles of Scilly (sublittoral among worm tubes, sand and gravel).

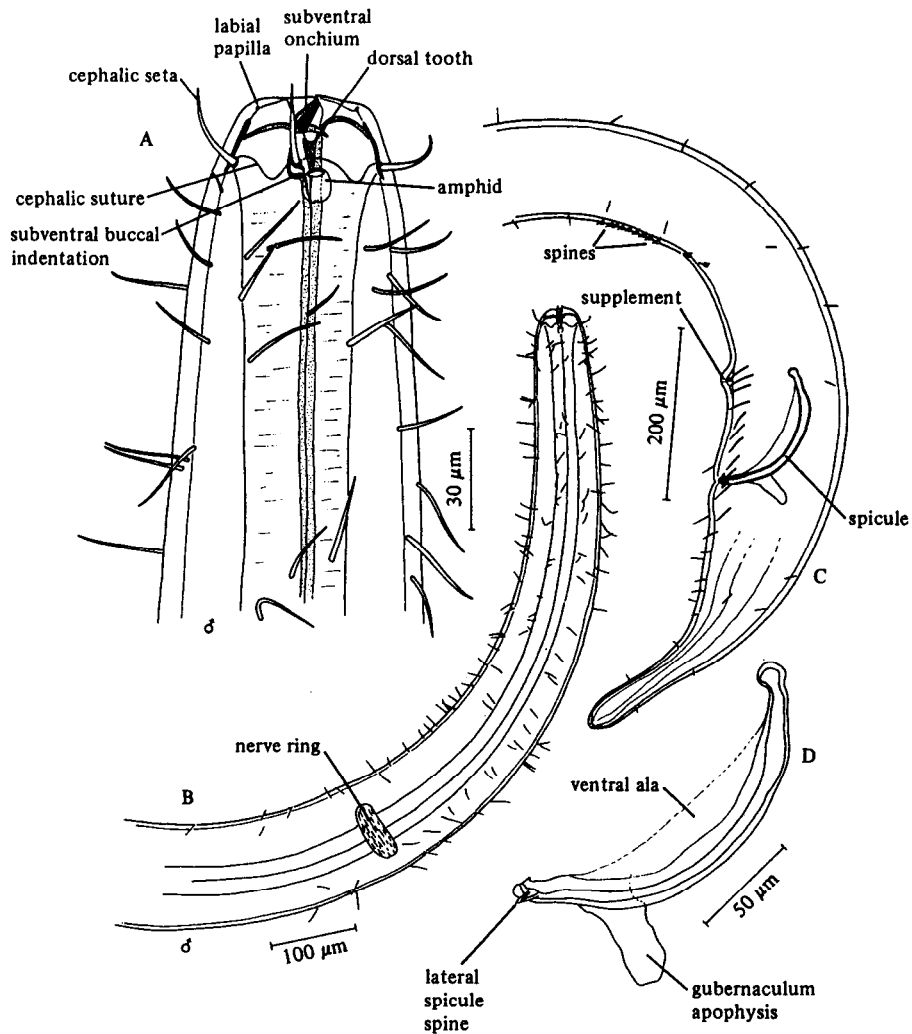


Fig. 81. *Synonchus fasciculatus*. A, Male head; B, Anterior end of male; C, Male tail; D, Spicules and gubernaculum. Original.