

Thalassironus britannicus De Man, 1889
(Fig. 73)

Description. Body length 6.5–7.5 mm. Maximum diameter 73–85 μm (a = 84–88). Fine transverse striation of cuticle sometimes discernible. Six rounded lips with six minute rounded labial papillae. Six long cephalic setae 24–28 μm , four shorter setae 10–12 μm . Eight characteristic cervical setae each consisting of a pair of stout setae closely applied together throughout their length; three on each lateral surface of the head and one on each median surface level with the posterior of the lateral triad; 14–19 μm long. Buccal cavity long (53–77 μm) and tubular. Paired single subventral teeth larger than dorsal double-tipped one. Larvae with a posterior set of replacement teeth. Outer surface of oesophagus cuticularised into a weak capsule anteriorly, acting as a support for the basal plates of the onchia. Amphids pocket-like, opening by crescentic slits. Oesophagus 0.11 times body length, broadening gradually towards its base. Tail tapering throughout its length in both sexes, 2.7–2.8 a.b.d. long; paired terminal setae 6–9 μm long.

Spicules paired, 62–72 μm long, cephalate proximally with a short median list near the proximal end. Gubernaculum paired, 30–38 μm long, expanded distally into concave cup-like swellings which are heavily cuticularised. A single median precloacal papilla and 8–9 pairs of small rounded papillae in two subventral files down the length of the male tail.

Ovaries paired, equal, opposed, reflexed. Vulva at 61% of body length. Eggs elongate, typically $71 \times 32 \mu\text{m}$.

Distribution. Penzance; Isles of Scilly; West Ireland (intertidal and subtidal sand).

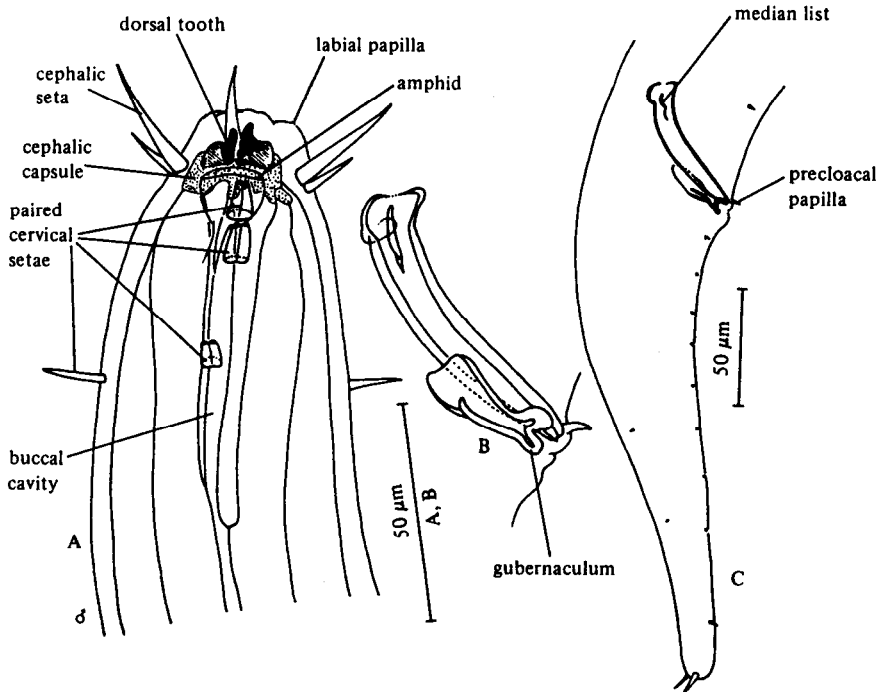


Fig. 73. *Thalassironus britannicus*. A, Male head; B, Spicules and gubernaculum; C, Male tail. Original.