

Tripyloides gracilis (Ditlevsen, 1918)
(Fig. 128)

Description. Body length 1.7–2.0 mm. Maximum diameter 42–58 μm ($a = 32\text{--}42$). Cuticle smooth. Three low rounded lips, not deeply incised. Labial setae small, conical. Six longer cephalic setae 8–9 μm (0.5 h.d.), two-jointed; shorter four 5–6 μm , unjointed. Buccal cavity in two sections: anterior section conical, heavily cuticularised, divided in middle by fine cuticular ridge; posterior section small with two teeth. Amphids circular, notched at base, 6–7 μm in diameter, posterior to buccal cavity. Oesophagus more or less cylindrical 0.14 times body length. Nerve ring 0.41–0.51 times oesophagus length from anterior. Tail 3.7–4.5 a.b.d. long, with distal third to a quarter cylindrical.

Spicules 31–32 μm .

Gubernaculum 32–34 μm , similar to *Bathylaimus*, with two pointed teeth on each distal half, the more lateral tooth being much smaller than the median one.

Ovaries paired, symmetrical, opposed, reflexed. Vulva at 51–52% of body length.

Distribution. Skippers Island, Essex; Exe estuary (intertidal mud and muddy sand).

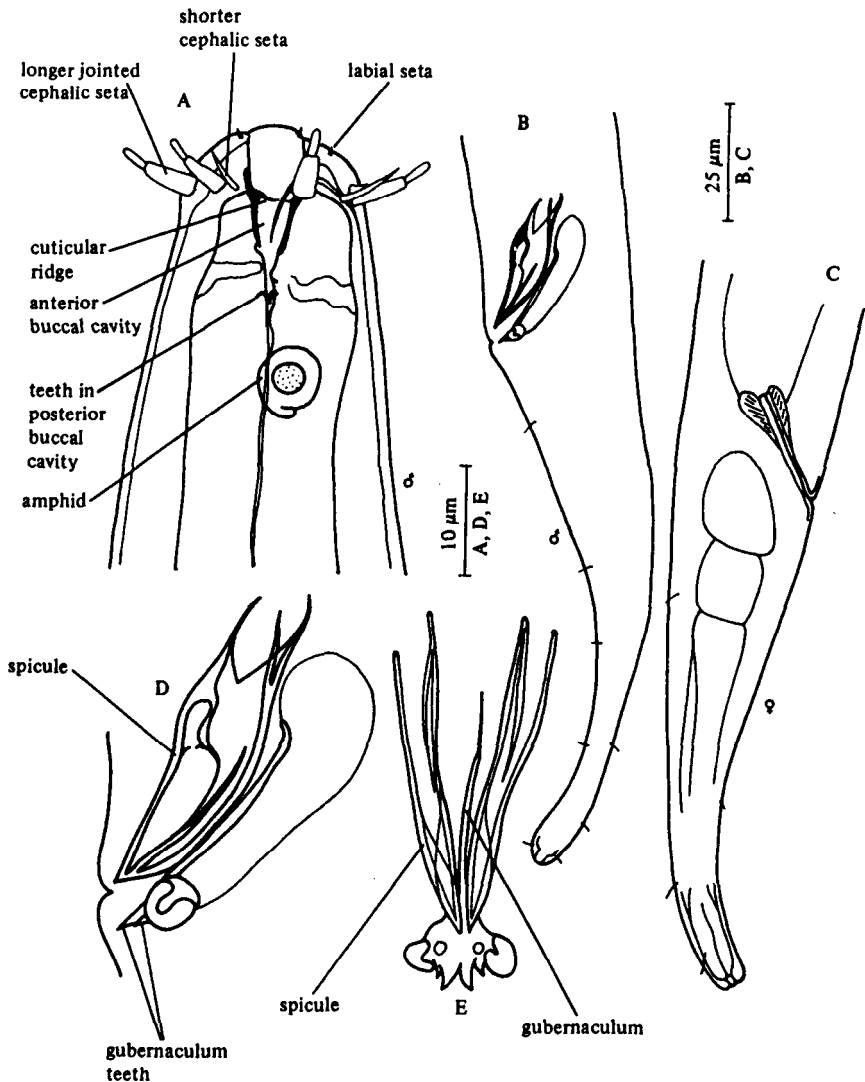


Fig. 128. *Tripyloides gracilis*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C, Female tail; D, Spicules and gubernaculum (lateral); E, Spicules and gubernaculum (ventral). Original.