

Dichromadora geophila (De Man, 1876)
(Fig. 70)

Description. Body length 0.8–0.9 mm. Maximum diameter 50–58 μm ($a = 14$ –18). Cuticle with lateral files of enlarged dots flanked by transverse rows of finer markings. Lateral dots 4 μm apart in middle of body, united by transverse bars. Six short and four longer 4 μm (0.3 h.d.) cephalic setae. Four files of short setae down the body length. Amphids not seen. Large S-shaped hollow dorsal tooth and a pair of very small subventral projections. Oesophagus with a rounded posterior bulb having pronounced plasmatic interruptions (Fig. 70C). Tail 2.8–3.0 a.b.d. in male, 3.5–3.8 a.b.d. in female, tapering throughout with a distinct spinneret.

Spicules 38–41 μm (1.3–1.4 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, arcuate, rounded proximally with some fine denticles at the distal tip and a fine ventral ala. Supplements absent.

Distribution. Exe estuary, South West England; Tamar estuary, South West England (intertidal mud, particularly abundant in lowest salinity regions); Skippers Island, Essex (in a barely brackish pond).

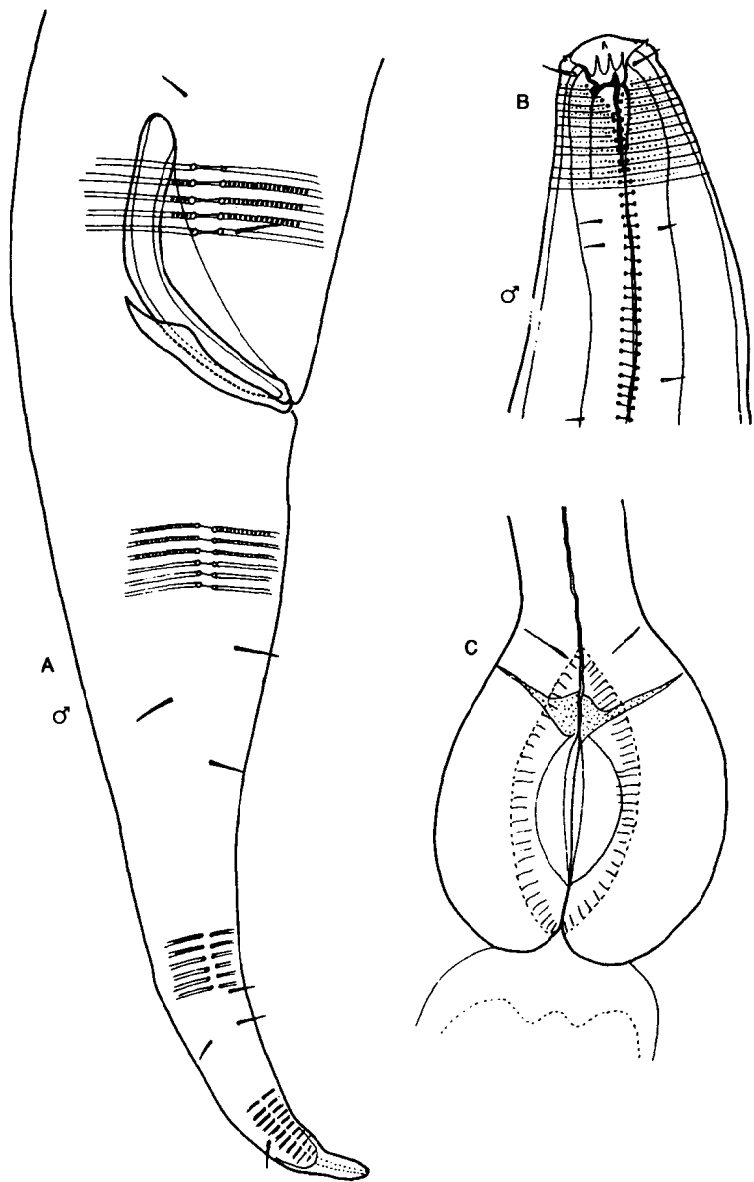


Fig. 70. *Dichromadora geophila*. A, Male tail; B, Male head; C, Oesophageal bulb. Original.