

Hypodontolaimus balticus (Schneider, 1906)

(Fig. 71)

Description. Body length 1.2–1.4 mm. Maximum diameter 60–102 μm ($a = 13\text{--}23$). Cuticle annules 2.5–3.5 μm wide; lateral differentiation of two longitudinal rows of larger dots (8.5 μm apart in middle of body), flanked by transverse rows of finer punctations; transverse bars join the lateral dots, usually regular but in places anastomosing (Fig. 71C). Four cephalic setae 5–6 μm (0.2–0.3 h.d.). Short 5 μm setae throughout the body. Buccal cavity with a stout well-cuticularised hollow S-shaped dorsal tooth and a distinct solid dorsal apophysis (Fig. 71A, B). Oesophagus 0.14–0.17 times body length, swollen dorsally in buccal region to accommodate dorsal tooth; barrel-shaped posterior bulb with plasmatic interruptions. Tail tapers throughout its length, 2.7–3.6 a.b.d.

Spicules paired, equal, 60–63 μm (1.6 a.b.d.) with ventral ala. Gubernaculum 28–35 μm , expanded distally with a denticulate edge (Fig. 71E). 20–25 cup-shaped precloacal supplements (22–23 typical).

Distribution. Blyth estuary, North East England; Skippers Island, Essex; Exe estuary, South West England; Tamar estuary, South West England; Loch Etive, West Scotland; Strangford Lough, North East Ireland (intertidal and shallow sublittoral mud and fine sand).

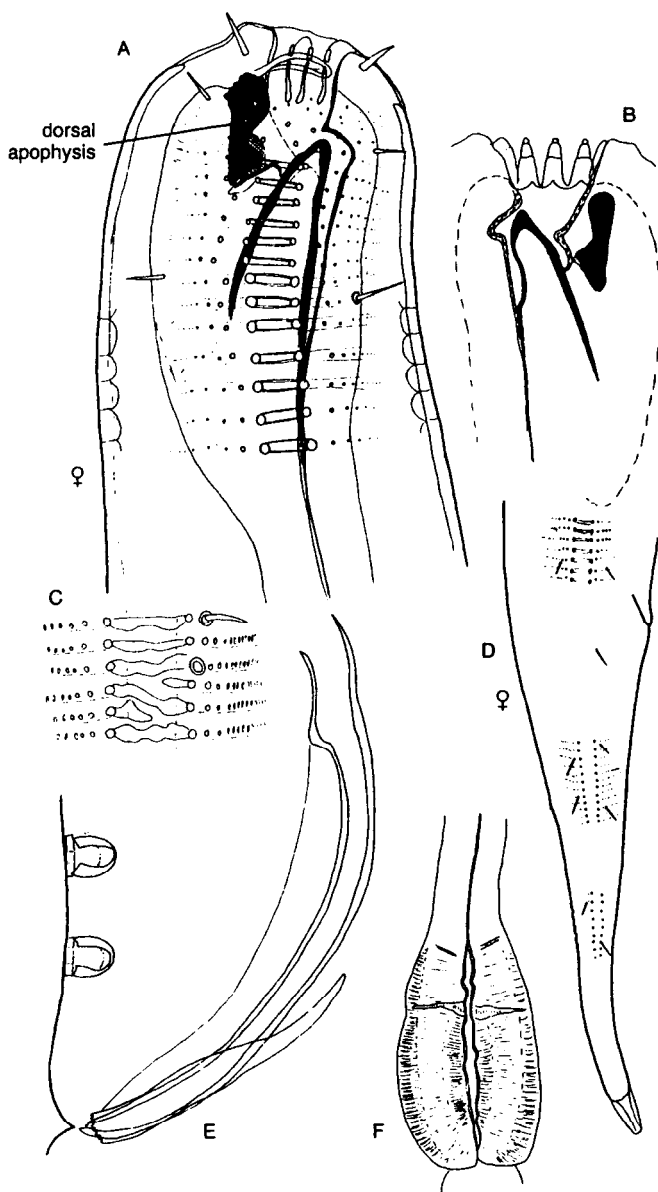


Fig. 71. *Hypodontolaimus balticus*. A, Female head; B, Details of buccal cavity; C, Cuticle in mid-oesophageal region; D, Female tail; E, Cloacal region; F, Oesophageal bulb. Original.