

Paramesacanthion hirsutum Warwick, 1970

(Fig. 61)

Description. Body length 2.6–2.8 mm. Maximum diameter 76–93 μm ($a = 27\text{--}35$). Cuticle with fine transverse striation. Three lips relatively low with faint semi-lunar striations. Labial setae small, conical. Cephalic setae situated at level of tips of mandibles, well anterior to the cephalic capsule. In male, six longer cephalic setae 0.4 h.d., shorter four about half this length. Longer cephalic setae in female only 0.2 h.d., shorter three-fifths as long. Male with four subcephalic setae just posterior to the submedian pairs of cephalic setae, and ten much longer subcephalic setae at level of the tips of the onchia: eight dense groups of cervical setae, 2–12 setae per group, just posterior to cephalic capsule. In females and juveniles there are no subcephalic or cervical setae. Prominent oval 'cephalic organs' present near anterior end of mandibles, sublateral in position. Mandibles the same form as *Enoplolaimus* and *Mesacanthion*. Onchia large, equal. Cephalic capsule with deep incisions extending from posterior to anterior border, anterior part of each incision bordered by slender cuticular ribs, with similar ribs along anterior border of capsule forming the cephalic ring. Oesophagus cylindrical, 0.23 times body length. Tail 4.6–4.8 a.b.d. long.

Spicules equal, 48–53 μm (1.1–1.2 a.b.d.), arcuate, divided into two halves by a fine suture. No preloacal supplement.

Distribution. Northumberland (sublittoral fine sand and mud).

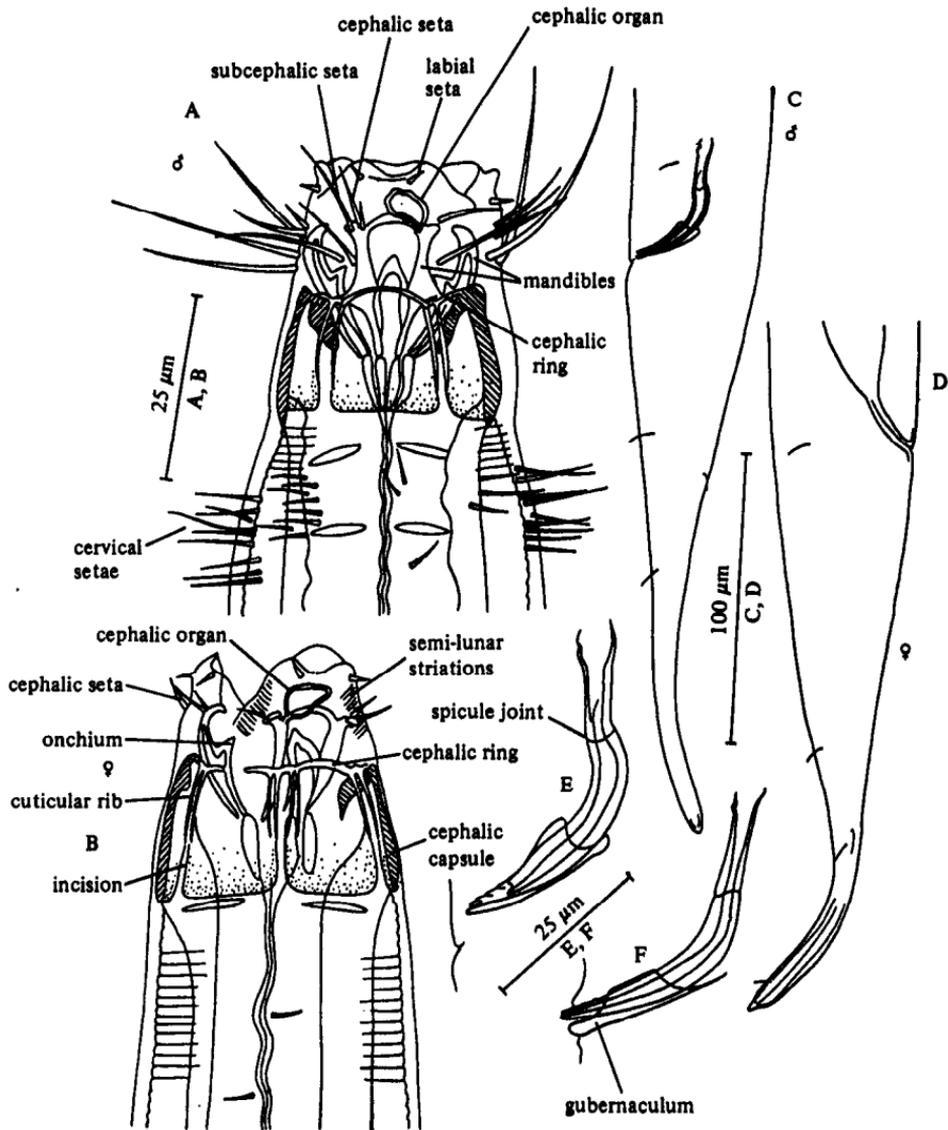


Fig. 61. *Paramesacanthion hirsutum*. A, Male head; B, Female head; C, Male tail; D, Female tail; E, F, Spicules and gubernaculum of two males. Original.