

Viscosia viscosa (Bastian, 1865)
(Fig. 107)

Description. Body length 1.7–2.0 mm. Maximum diameter 30–36 μm ($a = 52\text{--}60$). Cuticle smooth. Six rounded lips with six small rounded labial papillae. Six longer cephalic setae 4 μm (0.3 h.d.), remaining four slightly shorter. Head constricted just posterior to cephalic setae. Buccal cavity with large right subventral tooth, left subventral tooth double tipped, dorsal tooth small, single tipped. Amphids 9–10 μm wide (male), 8 μm (female), a little over half the c.d., pocket-like with elliptical openings. Oesophagus 0.17 times body length, more or less cylindrical. Excretory pore about 0.7 times oesophagus length from anterior, nerve ring at 0.5 times oesophagus length. Body setae short and sparsely scattered. Tail 6 a.b.d., proximal two-thirds conical, distal third cylindrical.

Spicules equal, 27–30 μm (1.3–1.5 a.b.d.), curved, distal half slightly swollen, proximal tip cephalate.

No gubernaculum. Five to seven pairs of circumcloacal setae.

Ovaries paired, equal, opposed, reflexed.

Distribution. Recorded all round British coast. Typical of muddy sediments in low salinity areas, but also from coarser sediments and holdfasts in more marine situations.

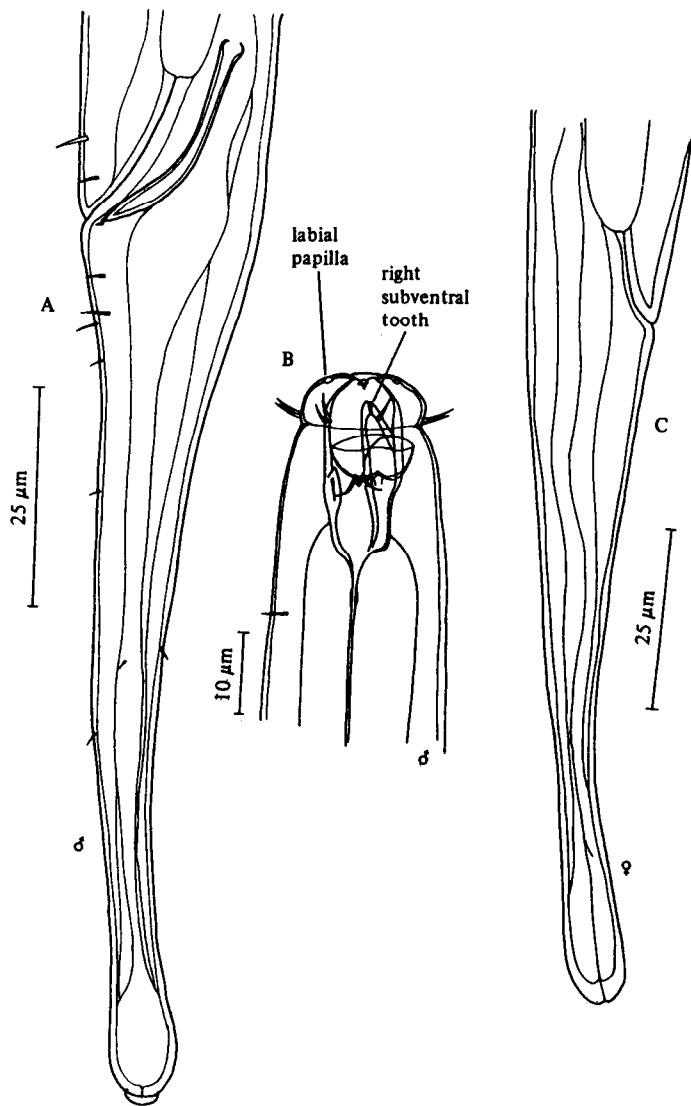


Fig. 107. *Viscosia viscosa*. A, Male tail; B, Male head; C, Female tail. Original.