

Acantholaimus ewensis Platt and Zhang, 1982
(Fig. 39)

Description. Body length 0.8–1.0 mm. Maximum diameter 23–32 μm ($a = 29\text{--}35$). Cuticle punctated with lateral differentiation. In anterior oesophageal region the lateral punctations are irregular (Fig. 39B); further posteriorly they become smaller and arranged in transverse rows. Lateral differentiation of two longitudinal rows of larger punctations commences level with the middle of the oesophageal bulb and ends about two-thirds of the way down the tail (Fig. 39D). Four sublateral rows of hypodermal pores, larger anteriorly. Long somatic setae arranged more or less in four sublateral rows (Fig. 39B). Six 2.5–3 μm stout cephalic papillae and four 30–33 μm cephalic setae which sometimes appear jointed at about two-thirds of their length. Amphids 8.5–9.5 μm wide (45–50% h.d.), circular with a well-cuticularised border and a ventrally directed posterior inflection. Buccal cavity conical with one dorsal and two subventral teeth. Oesophagus with characteristic plasmatic interruptions throughout its length and a $28 \times 18 \mu\text{m}$ posterior bulb. Tail elongated (11–12 a.b.d.), gradually tapering with a slightly swollen tip and pointed spinneret.

Spicules paired, equal, 26–28 μm long, with ventral apophysis proximally (Fig. 39C). Gubernaculum small, lateral to spicules, indistinct. Stout ventral 5–6 μm preloacal seta (Fig. 39C). Large pear-shaped sperm.

Females are ovoviparous.

Distribution. Loch Ewe, West Scotland (sublittoral sand).

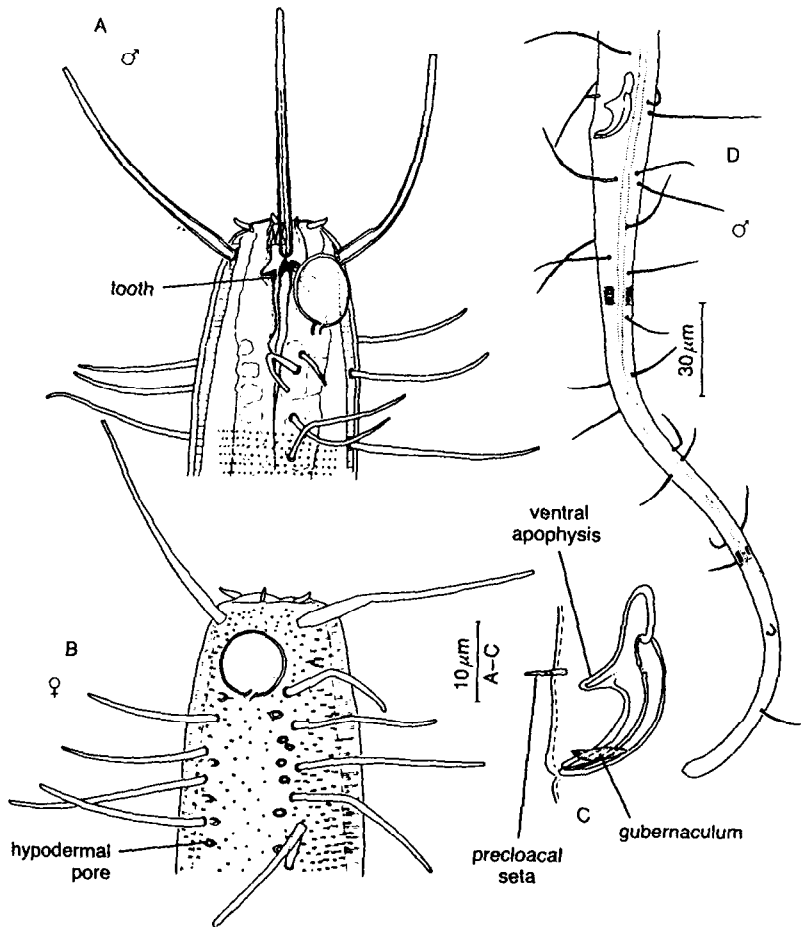


Fig. 39. *Acantholaimus ewensis*. A, Male head; B, Female head showing surface structures only; C, Spicule; D, Male tail. From Platt and Zhang, 1982.