

Adoncholaimus fuscus (Bastian, 1865)

(Fig. 91)

Description. Body length 3.7–4.9 mm. Maximum diameter 103–142 μm (a = 33–37). Six low rounded lips with small rounded labial papillae. Ten small rounded cephalic papillae. Buccal cavity divided by a deep groove at the level of the tips of the smaller buccal teeth. Right subventral tooth longer than remaining two, which are equal and prominent. Amphids with elliptical openings and rounded pockets, 8 μm (0.2 times c.d.) wide. Oesophagus 0.16 times body length, swollen markedly towards posterior end, but no definite bulb. Excretory pore about 1.15 times the buccal cavity length from the anterior. Nerve ring 0.46 times oesophagus length from anterior. A few short rounded papillae over the general body surface, most numerous in anterior oesophageal region. A few longer setae on the tail. Tail 2.1–2.3 a.b.d. long, anterior half conical and posterior half cylindrical.

Spicules curved, 180–190 μm (2.3–2.5 a.b.d.), with a series of small dorsal spines near the distal tip. Four pairs of close-set papillae on either side of cloaca, and two files of 7–8 papillae more lateral in position extending to base of conical part of tail.

Gubernaculum flat, plate-like, 39–45 μm long.

Ovaries paired, equal, reflexed. Single lateral exit pores of demanian system 1.8 a.b.d. preanal, heavily cuticularised and bordered by a fan of cells (moniliform glands). Vulva at 51–52% of body length.

Distribution. Found at several localities in England and Scotland. Typical of muddy or sandy intertidal sediments in areas of reduced salinity.

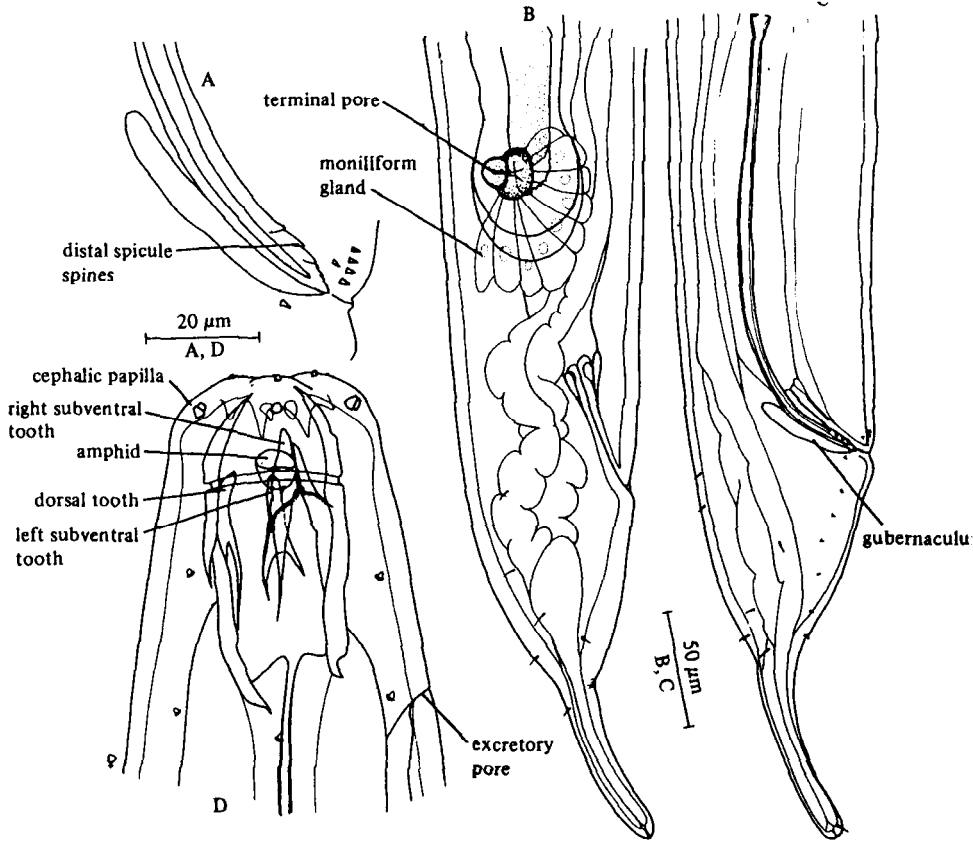


Fig. 91. *Adoncholaimus fuscus*. A, Cloacal region of male; B, Female tail; C, Male tail; D, Female head. Original.