

Atrochromadora microlaima (De Man, 1889)

(Fig. 41)

Description. Body length 0.8–1.0 mm. Maximum diameter 30–52 μm ($a = 17$ –29). Cuticle with two lateral files of enlarged punctations, about 8 μm apart in middle of body. The lateral dots are flanked by transverse rows of smaller punctations which gradually decrease in size as they become more median in position. Lateral files of punctations are linked transversely by bars and lateral plates as indicated in Fig. 41G–J. Six small conical labial papillae. Four 6–8 μm (0.6–0.9 h.d.) cephalic setae. Buccal cavity with three solid teeth, dorsal slightly larger than the two equal subventral ones. Amphids 4 μm wide, looped with a circular outline, situated between bases of cephalic setae. Oesophagus with posterior pyriform bulb. Four files of setae down body length, most numerous in cervical and caudal regions. Tail conical, 3.1–3.8 a.b.d. in male, 3.6–4.6 a.b.d. in female. Spinneret is well set-off.

Spicules 31–37 μm (1.2–1.7 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, equal, cephalate proximally and notched distally with slender ventral alae. Gubernaculum 19–21 μm , paired proximally and unpaired distally, the distal portion with two lateral projections each bearing three small teeth (Fig. 41E, F). 12–16 cup-shaped precloacal supplements and a small ventral seta immediately in front of cloaca.

Distribution. Blyth estuary, North East England; Skippers Island, Essex; Tamar estuary, South West England; Exe estuary, South West England; Strangford Lough, North East Ireland; Isles of Scilly (erroneously recorded by Warwick and Coles (1977) as *Chromadorella galeata* Wieser, 1959) (intertidal mud and sand). Wieser (1951) also recorded the species from intertidal seaweeds at Plymouth, South East England, but only females were found and the record is doubtful.

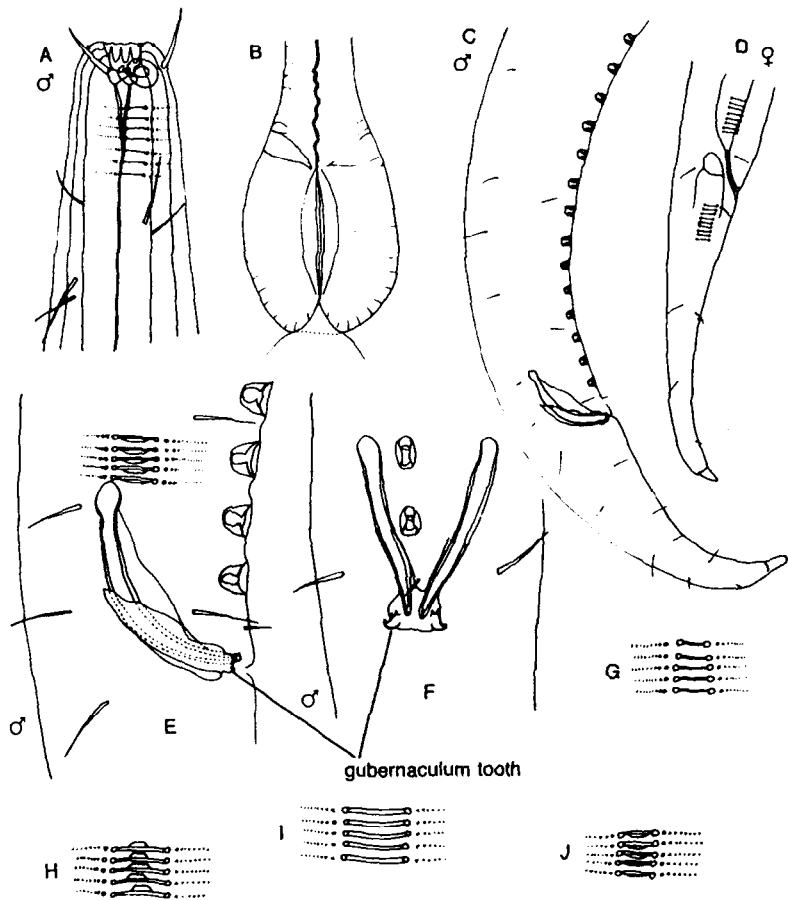


Fig. 41. *Atrichromadora microlaima*. A, Male head; B, Oesophageal bulb; C, Male tail; D, Female tail; E, F, Lateral and ventral views of male cloacal region; G, H, I, J, Lateral cuticle one third of way down oesophagus, at base of oesophagus, mid-body, cloacal region respectively. Original.