

Halichoanolaimus de Man.

Halichoanolaimus ovalis n. sp.

Pl. I, fig. 4. Pl. II, figs. 3, 7.

Locality: Auckland Islands. North-arm of Carnley harbour. Clay.

Length: 1,8 mm. $\alpha = 18$. $\beta = 7,5$. $\gamma = ?$

Only two specimens were secured, both of them females. The shape of the body is short and clumsy; it is of about equal width throughout its whole length. At the level of the base of the œsophagus the width begins tapering evenly towards the level of the bottom of the buccal cavity whence it continues more rapidly. The front end is truncate as is usually the case in this genus. In the hind part of the animal the body keeps its width until somewhat cephalad to the anal aperture, from where it tapers quickly. The shape of the tail somewhat resembles that of *H. robustus* Bastian,

but the filiform part of the tail being rather long it still more recalls that of *H. longicauda* Ditl.; from this species it does however differ in the feature, that the filiform part of the tail is bent inwards and forms a hook (fig. 4, Pl. I).

As in other species of this genus the cuticle is striated and in its deeper layer set with minute points. In the front end of the animal these points are larger and more prominent than in the other parts of the body; they are arranged in transverse rows, a feature which holds good in the greater part of the body; only in the hind-part the arrangement of the points is more irregular and the single rows more indistinct. Along the lateral fields the punctation is relatively coarse and grows finer dorsally and ventrally.

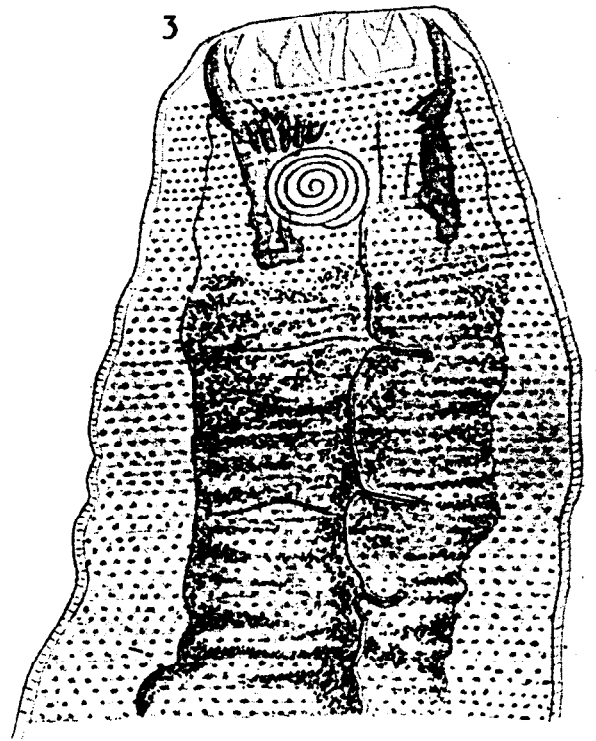
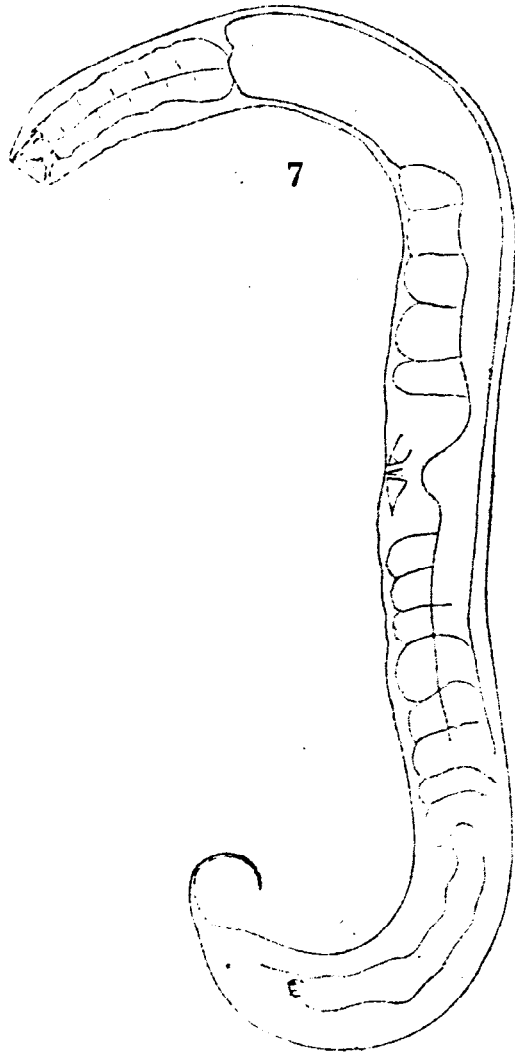
No bristles have been observed on the head; a ring of exceedingly tiny and delicate papillæ seems to replace them, but the number and arrangement of these latter I have not been able to ascertain. The lateral organ is spiral-shaped, as usual in this genus; in the species under consideration it forms a rather dense spiral, consisting of about six loops which are cephalo-caudad compressed, so that the long axis of the spiral is situated vertically on the longitudinal axis of the body.

The buccal cavity is of the well-known shape usual in this genus. It is divided in two parts, the foremost of which is more spacious and nearly funnel-shaped; it grows successively narrower towards the posterior part which is of about equal width until its base. The chitinous rods supporting it are rather thick and strongly chitinized. The œsophagus is of about equal width throughout its whole length. The nerve ring is indistinct but, as far as I have been able to ascertain, it is situated somewhat in front of the middle of the œsophagus. Regarding the roaming habit of the *Hali-choanolaimi* it is of some interest that the entire digestive tube is coated with a deep brown pigment layer. The intestine is more strongly pigmented than the œsophagus, especially the antevaginal part of the intestine. As to the œsophagus this feature is seen plainly in fig. 3, Pl. II.

Excretorial pore was not observed, nor ventral gland; but in all probability this organ does not lack as it is present in related forms. The vulva is found somewhat in front of the middle of the

body. The female organs occupy a large space in the body cavity. Vaginal glands, containing a coarsely granulated protoplasm, are present.

As the other species of this genus, the species under consideration is of a voracious habit. In the hindmost part of the intestine of one of my specimens is seen the chitinous skeleton of the buccal cavity of an *Oncholaimus*; the intestine of the other specimen includes the spicular apparatus of a *Parasabatieria Mortenseni*, a species described in this paper. *Halichoanolaimus ovalis* is evidently closely related to *H. robustus* Bastian and to *H. longicauda* Ditlevsen; the shape of the tail and the structure of the buccal cavity are mainly the same in these forms.



4. *Halichoanolaimus ovalis* n. sp. Tail. Zeiss Obj. DD. Oc. 2.
 3. *Halichoanolaimus ovalis* n. sp. Front end. Zeiss Apochr. 2 mm.
 Comp. Oc. 4.
 7. *Halichoanolaimus ovalis* n. sp. Zeiss Obj. B. Oc. 2.