

Metoncholaimus albidus (Bastian, 1865)

(Fig. 95)

Description. Body length 5.4–6.7 mm. Maximum diameter 78–110 μm ($a = 54\text{--}75$). Cuticle smooth. Cervical setae present anterior to nerve ring and caudal spines present in male but somatic setae otherwise absent. Six small labial setae. Ten cephalic setae; six 9.5–11 μm (0.26–0.30 h.d.); four 7–9.5 μm (0.20–0.25 h.d.). Amphids level with dorsal tooth, 11–13 μm wide. Buccal cavity large with three teeth, the left subventral being the largest. Excretory pore and nerve ring at about 0.14–0.16 and 0.47–0.49 times oesophagus length from anterior respectively. Oesophagus 0.10–0.12 times body length, widens posteriorly. Tail 5–6.5 a.b.d.; male with conspicuous oblique musculature causing the characteristic hooked shape.

Spicules elongated, about 400 μm (6.6–8.0 a.b.d.).

Gubernaculum present. Prominent cloacal bulge (not included in measurement of cloacal body diameter). Two opposed testes.

Single anterior ovary. Vulva at 64–68% of body length. Anterior to anus (in mature females) lies a cuticularised girdle carrying the lateral terminal pores of the demanian system. The uvette appears as a rosette of cells about 350 μm (7 a.b.d.) anterior to the anus.

Distribution. Falmouth (amongst small stones and sand in tide pools); Cornwall (intertidal sand); Plymouth (amongst hydroids); Essex coast (intertidal mud); Isles of Scilly (intertidal and sublittoral, in sediment and amongst weed, hydroids, bryozoans etc.); Plymouth (sublittoral mud).

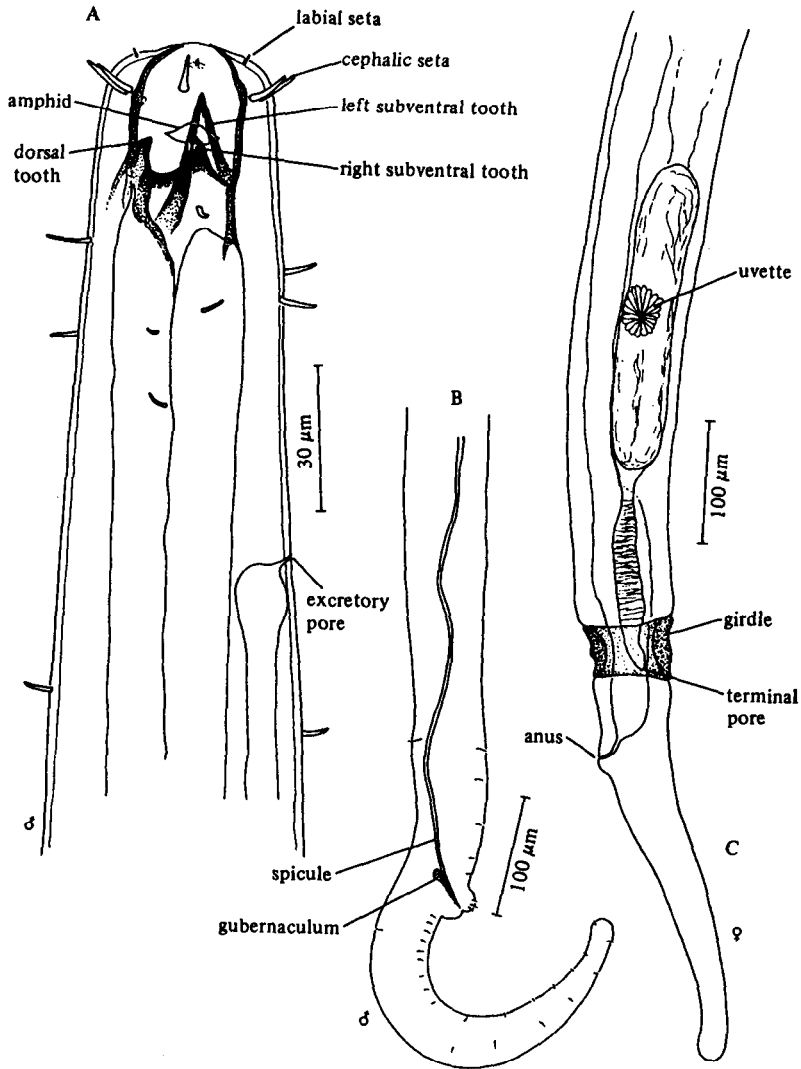


Fig. 95. *Metoncholaimus albidus*. A, Anterior end of male; B, Posterior end of male; C, Posterior end of female. Original.