

PLATYCOMOPSIS DIMORPHICA.

(Fig. 15, a-d.)

Stations : 39 (female and juvenile), 42 (male).

Female (1x) : L = 18.4 mm.; $\alpha = 102$; $\beta = 7$; $\gamma = 83.6$; V = 56%.

Male (1x) : L = 13.1 mm. ; $\alpha = 77$; $\beta = 7$; $\gamma = 50.4$.

Juv. (1x) : L = 9.9 mm. ; $\alpha = 82.5$; $\beta = 4$; $\gamma = 47$.

Though these three individuals show varying figures for the indices α and γ and a sexual dimorphism in amphid structure the appearance of the head and of the tail is so similar that they have been placed unhesitatingly in the same species. The body is elongate, its width almost uniform throughout, tapering slightly near the anus, and anterior to the nerve ring. Apart from cephalic and nuchal setae, the cuticle is smooth. There is a slight cuticularisation, seen only in profile, of the anterior end, though this does not reach the distinction of a helmet. The cephalic setae are long, the lateral ones and the longer of each submedian pair being about three-quarters of the cephalic diameter. At a distance of about 50–58 μ from the head, are one dorsal, one ventral, and four or five lateral nuchal setae, almost equal in length to the cephalic setae. The amphid is a transverse slit, very much shorter in the female than in the male 1/5.5 and 1/1.5 respectively of the body diameter at this level. In the male there is at the level of the amphid a constriction of the body wall and also of the oesophagus.

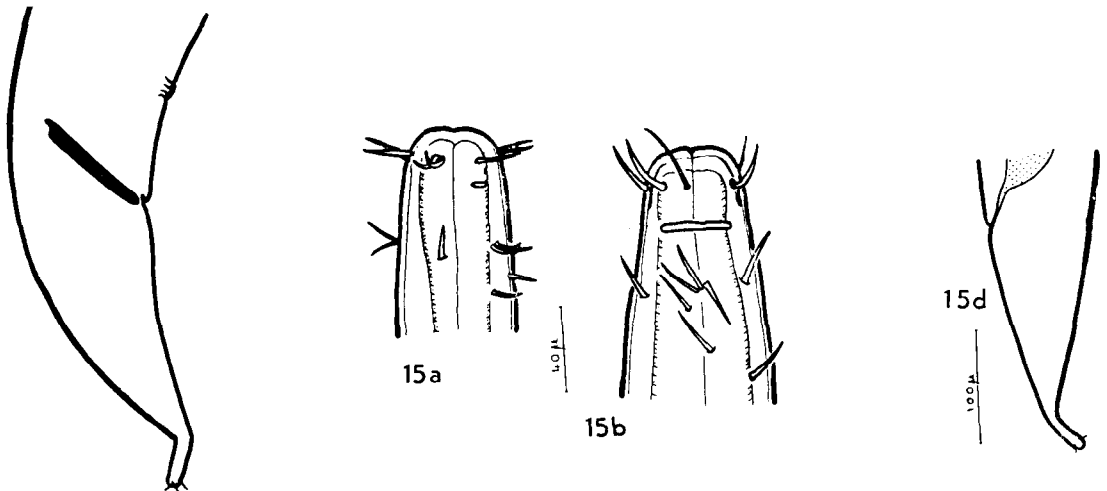
The oesophagus is of almost the same width throughout ; the nerve ring lies at the end of its anterior quarter. The excretory pore lies at the level of the nuchal setae.

In both sexes the tail is in the form of an elongate cone, terminating in a short cylindrical piece, 1/5 the length of the tail in the male, 1/4.3 in the female. The tip of this cylindrical piece bears a ring of about 4 setae.

The male tail is thick, and the details of the spicule are hard to discern. It appears to be a simple cylindrical structure, 0.12 mm. long. A preanal organ is present, 0.1 mm. in front of anus, an almost hemispherical chitination lying under a papilliform elevation of the cuticle.

Ripe eggs were not present in the female.

The species is assigned to the genus *Platycomopsis* Dtl. because of the form of the preanal organ and of the spicule, and the presence of numerous nuchal setae, in dorsal and ventral positions as well as laterally. The characters which distinguish it from other species of the genus are indicated in the key above.



15. *Platycomopsis dimorphica* : (a) sublateral view of head of juvenile ; (b) lateral view of head of male, to same scale ; (c) and (d) tail of male and female, to same scale.

STATION 39 : 66° 10' S., 49° 41' E., T M L : 300 m.

Big haul characterized by silicious sponges with glass rope spicules. *Synapta*—like Holothurian common ; many Polyzoa of different species.

STATION 42 : 65° 50' S., 54° 23' E., T M L : 220 m.

Haul essentially as at Station 41, T M L.