

PONTONEMA LEIDYI n.sp.

(Fig. 35, a-b.)

Stations : 42, 107.

Female (6x) : L = 10.2-12.2 mm. ; α = 39.3-55.2 ; β = 6.4-7.6 ; γ = 57.5-70 ; V = 54.1-57.1%.

Male (5x) : L = 8.5-10.2 mm. ; α = 36-46 ; β = 6.1-7.8 ; γ = 56.6-71.4.

This species comprises large worms, widest at the midlength and tapering slightly to each end, with a tendency to coil into a spiral at both ends, especially at the posterior end. This coiling habit is probably responsible for the apparently great variation in α and γ indices above. The cuticle bears numerous short setae.

The ten cephalic setae are very small, $1/8-1/10$ of the cephalic diameter, and are situated on a very slight annular constriction about 20μ behind the anterior end of the worm. The amphid is transversely oval, its diameter about $1/4-1/5$ of the corresponding body diameter. The buccal capsule is very strongly built, 120μ long, $70-80\mu$ in external diameter, $53-70\mu$ internal diameter. The dorsal tooth is at $2/3$, the tip of the subventral teeth at $1/3$ of the length of the buccal capsule from the mouth. The excretory pore lies just behind the base of the buccal capsule ; the ventral gland is shortly behind the end of the oesophagus.

The lips of the vulva are salient. The eggs are oval, $350-390\mu$ by $170-180\mu$. The genitalia is paired and reflexed, the anterior gonad reaching 1.2-1.3 mm. from the vulva, the posterior 1-1.2 mm.

The female tail tapers slightly ending in a rounded tip. The tail length is about twice the anal breadth. The caudal glands are preanal.

The male tail is similar in shape to that of the female, but the total length is 1.5 times the anal breadth. The spicule is $80-90\mu$ long, a little less than the anal breadth ; a strongly built gubernaculum is present, $60-70\mu$ long. In addition to short scattered setae on the tail, as occurs in the female, the male has a group of about 8-10 setae ventrally near the tip of the tail. On the anterior lip of the anus are 2-3 pairs of bristles, and in front of these a linear series of about 16 pairs of small setigerous papillae.

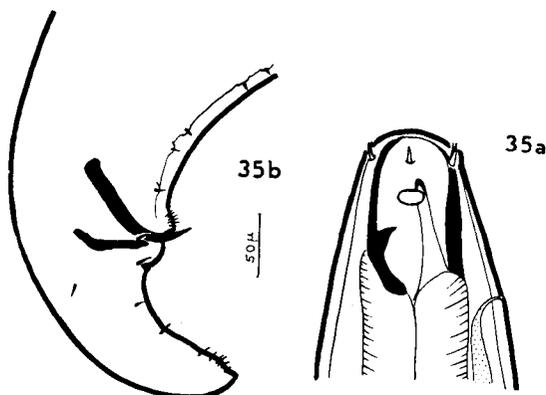
The species is very close to *P. hackingi* Mawson 1952 but differs in the presence of groups of setae in the male on the tip of the tail and on the anterior lip of the anus, as well as in the shortness of the spicule.

STATION 107 : $66^{\circ} 45' S.$, $62^{\circ} 03' E.$, D R L : 219 m.

Dredging on an off-shore submarine bank. Fine grey mud. Ophiuroids and Polyzoa chief animals. Nematodes among sponge spicules. Later the Large Otter Trawl brought up a catch with Polyzoa as the dominant group : calcareous and chitinous species.

STATION 42 : $65^{\circ} 50' S.$, $54^{\circ} 23' E.$, T M L : 220 m.

Haul essentially as at Station 41, T M L.



35. *Pontonema leidy* : (a) head, lateral view ; (b) tail of male, both to same scale.