

Praeacanthonchus opheliae (Warwick, 1970)
(Fig. 124)

Description. Body length 2.1–2.6 mm. Maximum diameter 59–143 μm ($a = 18\text{--}37$). Cuticle with transverse rows of small round dots; without lateral differentiation; two lateral files of pores. Six short 8–10 μm and four long 16–18 μm (0.5 h.d.) cephalic setae. Amphids in male of 4 turns, 14 μm (0.35 c.d.) wide, in female of 3.5 turns, 8–9 μm (0.15 c.d.). Buccal cavity with relatively small dorsal tooth but subventral teeth absent. Two large dark ocelli situated dorsally 1.0–1.5 h.d. from anterior (Fig. 124A), which can only be seen in fresh specimens; clearing with glycerine removes the pigment completely. Tail 3.7–3.9 a.b.d., more setose in male than female, with two files of longish ventral setae.

Spicules 56–71 μm (1.0 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, with ventral ala and proximal undulations but without rows of denticles (c.f. *P. punctatus*, p. 272). Gubernaculum 64–67 μm , similar in general form to that of *P. punctatus* but the distal swellings have only three teeth and the proximal portion is club-shaped, bearing narrow alae along dorsal edges (Fig. 124C). Seven tubular precloacal supplements.

Distribution. Exe estuary, South West England (intertidal sand).

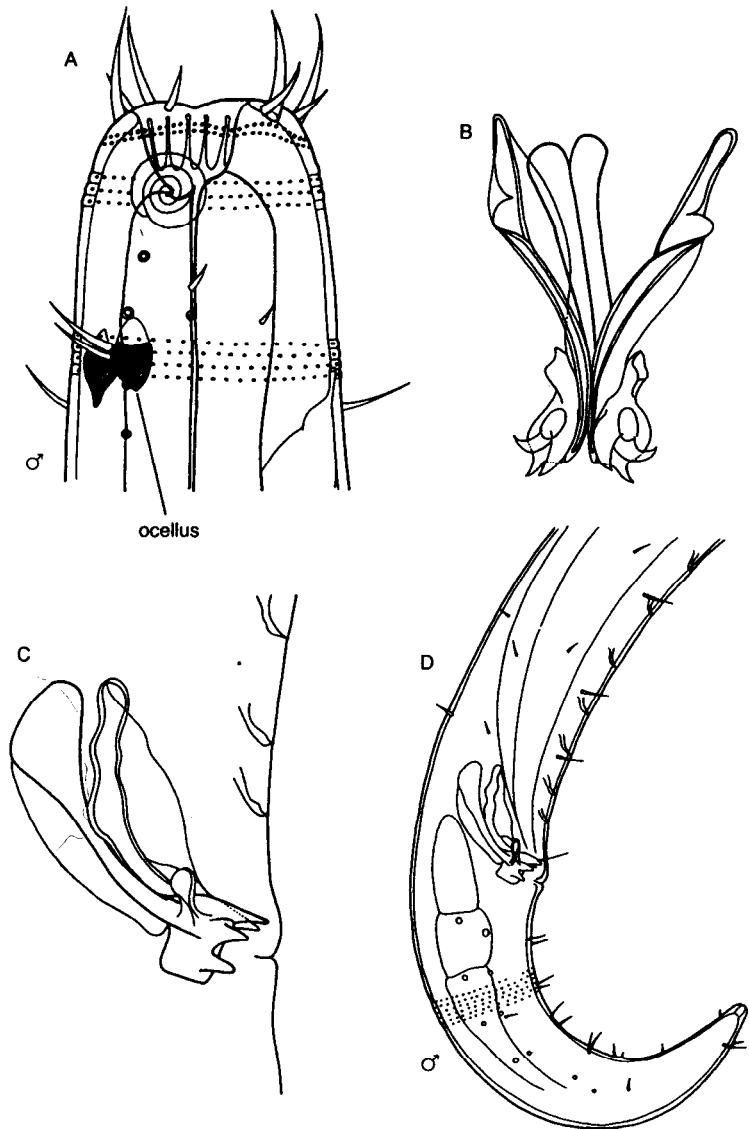


Fig. 124. *Praeacanthonchus opheliae*. A, Male head; B-C, Ventral and lateral views of spicules and gubernaculum; D, Male tail. Original.