

Ptycholaimellus ponticus (Filipjev, 1922)

(Fig. 75)

Description. Body length 0.9–1.0 mm. Maximum diameter 28–43 μm ($a = 23\text{--}31$). Cuticle with two files of large lateral dots (7 μm apart mid-body) flanked by transverse rows of smaller elongate markings. Lateral dots separated by wide transverse bars on posterior and anterior ends of body but in middle by narrow bars modified by anteriorly pointing lateral plates (Fig. 75A). The four longer cephalic setae 8–9 μm (0.6–0.8 h.d.). Four files of short setae down body length, each situated slightly median to the longitudinal files of cuticle dots. Amphids transverse slits immediately posterior to cephalic setae. Buccal cavity with large strongly cuticularised S-shaped dorsal tooth and a dorsal apophysis. Oesophagus swollen dorsally at anterior end around dorsal tooth with an elongate double posterior bulb. Tail tapers throughout, 3.5–4.4 a.b.d. with distinct spinneret.

Spicules 37–38 μm (1.7 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, arcuate, cephalate proximally. Guberaculum 19–22 μm . Precloacal supplements absent.

Distribution. Blyth estuary, North East England; Exe estuary, South West England; Tamar estuary, South West England; Skippers Island, Essex (inter-tidal mud); North East coast of England (kelp holdfasts); North Wales (inter-tidal sand, recorded as *Spilophorella dentata* Schneider, 1926).

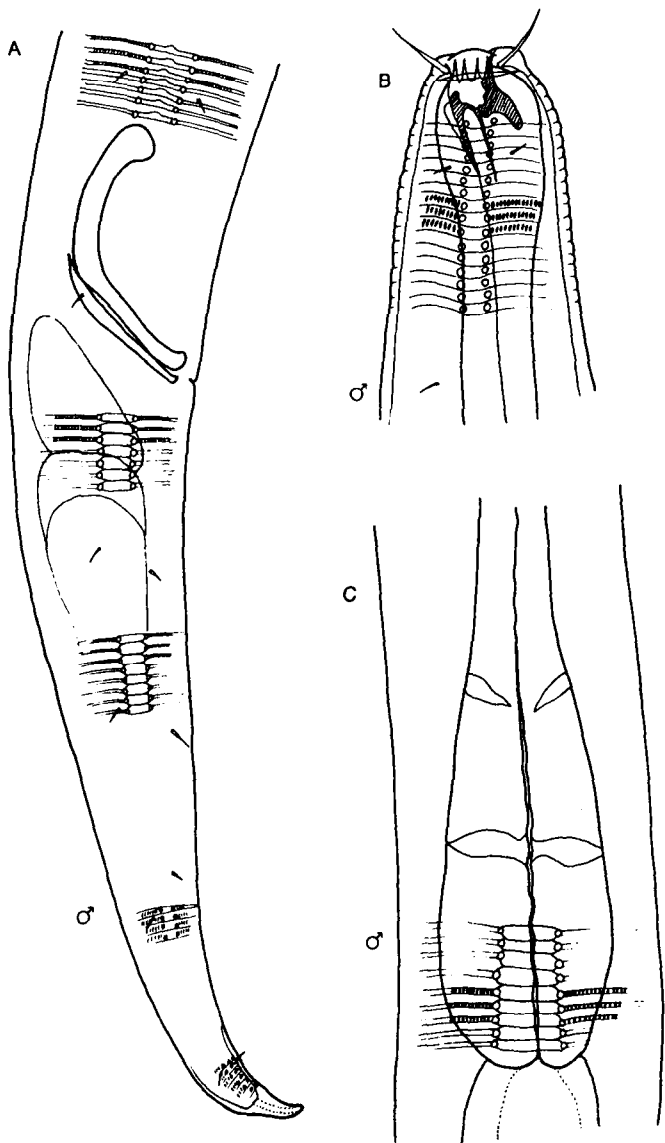


Fig. 75. *Ptycholaimellus ponticus*. A, Male tail; B, Male head; C, Oesophageal bulb. Original.