

Rhabdodemanina major (Southern, 1914)

(Fig. 130)

Description. Large species; body length 7.5–8.2 mm. Maximum diameter 97–110 μm ($a = 76\text{--}81$). Cuticle smooth, devoid of body setae except for fine sublateral setae in oesophageal region and tail. Head sharply narrows level with cephalic setae. Six minute papillae at anterior end. Four anterior cephalic setae 9 μm and six posterior cephalic setae 20–21 μm (0.6 h.d.) long. Amphids are faint sinusoidal structures beginning at a small pore 10–15 μm behind the lateral cephalic setae and extending 200–225 μm from the anterior, ending in a horse-shoe shaped structure. The amphid is most tightly looped in the anterior part and gradually begins to straighten out further back. Buccal cavity conical, bearing anteriorly 2 pairs of subdorsal cuticularised teeth and posteriorly a large dorsal and two subventral teeth. Oesophagus tissue surrounds the posterior half of the buccal cavity. The oesophagus has no bulb, but widens posterior to the nerve ring. Nerve ring 0.4 times oesophagus length from anterior. Excretory pore level with base of buccal cavity. Tail cylindrical with complex spinneret and four stout terminal setae; 2.1–2.5 a.b.d. Two caudal glands.

Spicules 80 μm (0.9 a.b.d.) long.

Gubernaculum 46 μm and distally lies lateral to spicule tips. About 40 minute ventral supplements extend about 2200 μm anterior to cloaca. Fine subventral setae present anterior and posterior to cloaca. One outstretched testis.

Vulva at 60% of body length. Two opposed, reflexed ovaries.

Distribution. West Ireland (sand and shells at 44 m); Isles of Scilly (intertidal coarse sand).

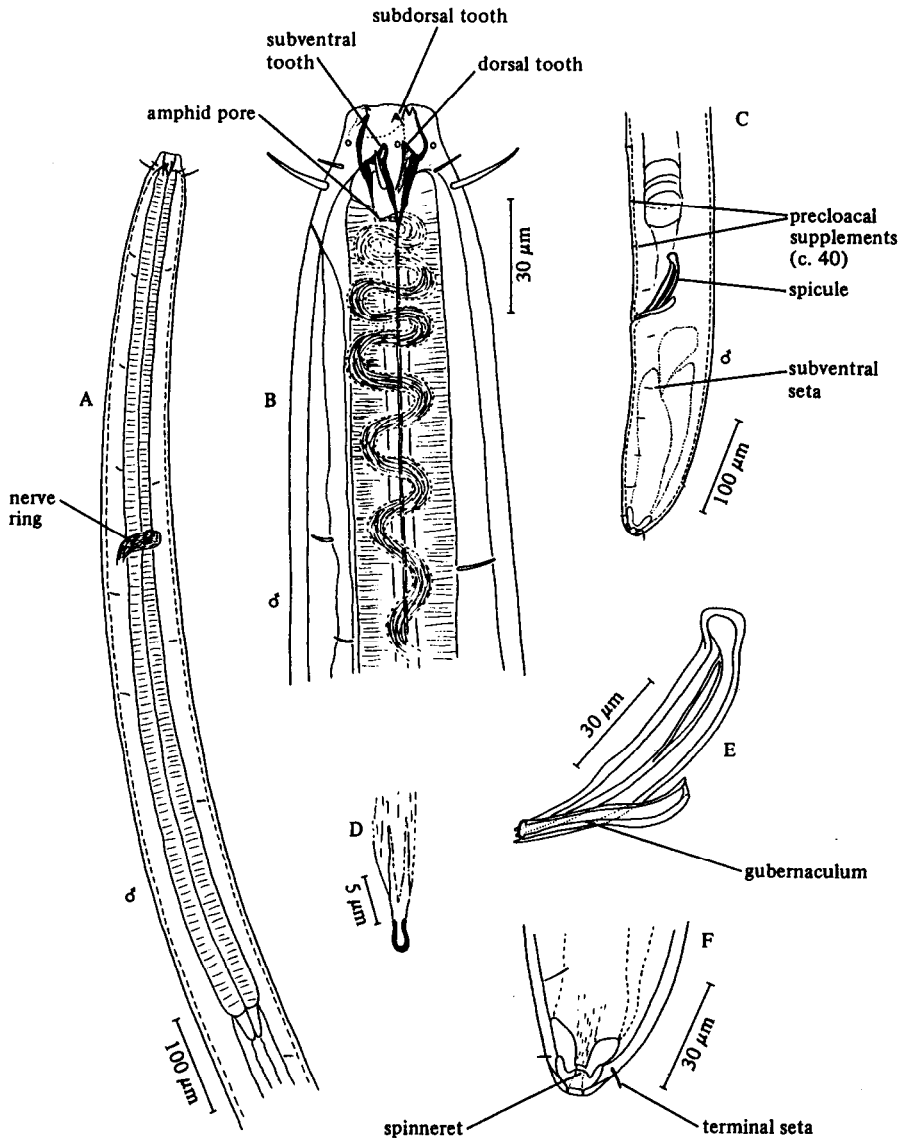


Fig. 130. *Rhabdodemanina major*. A, Anterior end of male; B, Male head; C, Male tail; D, Posterior end of amphid; E, Spicules and gubernaculum; F, Tail tip. Original.