

Sigmophoranema litorale (Schulz, 1938)

(Fig. 162)

Description. Body length 1.5–1.9 mm. Maximum diameter 51–70 μm ($a = 25\text{--}40$). Cuticle striations commence at about the middle of the amphids. Six 6 μm stout conical labial setae. Anterior and posterior cephalic setae arrangement obscured by the intermixing of subcephalic/cervical setae but the shortest setae are 6–8 μm and the longest 15–19 μm . Cervical setae up to 15 μm arranged in eight files, commencing just anterior to the amphids and becoming less dense towards the base of the oesophagus. Setae short and scarce on the general body surface, but a few longer setae in the vulva region of the female. Amphids 9–12 μm wide. Buccal cavity similar to *S. rufum* (p. 350) except that the denticles are in a continuous band round the buccal cavity and not confined to the vento-lateral sectors. Posterior oesophageal bulb large and elongate, 83–109 μm long and 37–42 μm wide, lined with thick cuticle which is constricted in the middle (Fig. 162C). Tail similar shape to *S. rufum* but only two terminal setae.

Spicules 221–244 μm (4.6–5.2. a.b.d.) with funnel-shaped proximal openings. Gubernaculum 57–58 μm , more complex in structure than *S. rufum* with the portion ventral to the spicules folded in a complicated manner (Fig. 162B) 18–20 precloacal supplements, the posterior one being much smaller than the others and not so conspicuously S-shaped; also closer together posteriorly than anteriorly with a single ventral seta between each.

Vulva at 52–59% of body length.

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

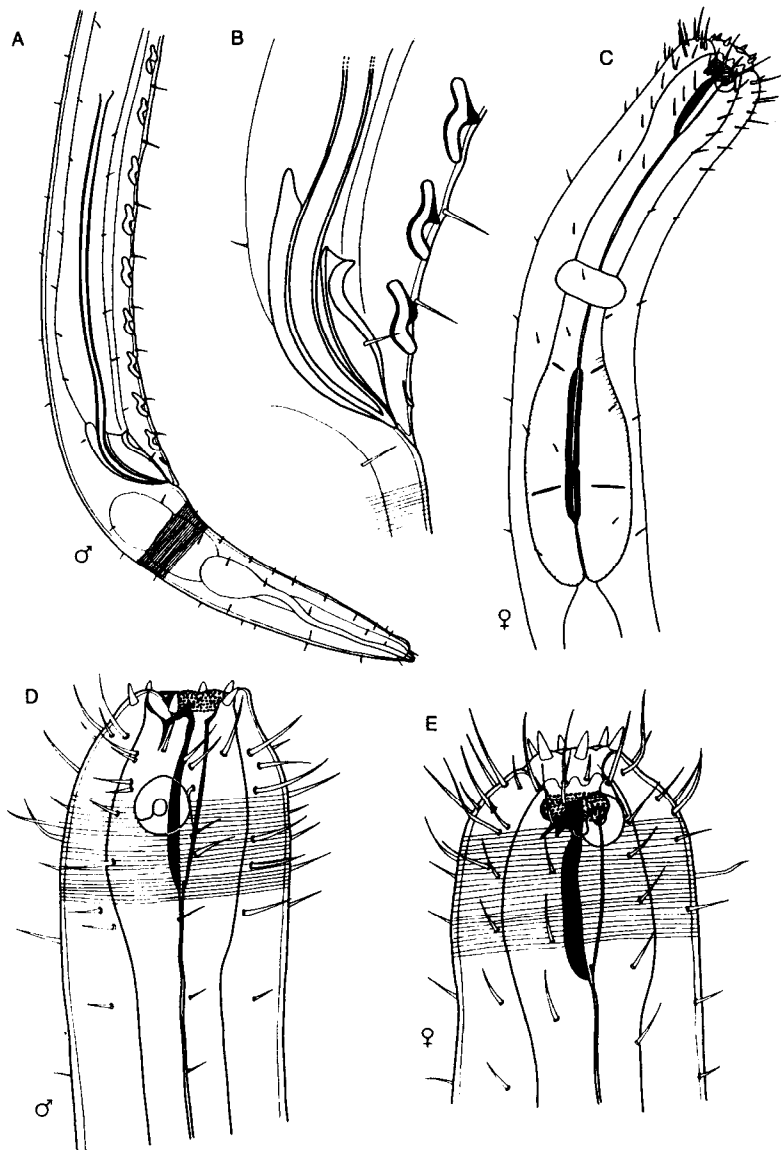


Fig. 162. *Sigmophoranema litorale*. A, Male tail; B, Cloacal region; C, Anterior region; D, Male head; E, Female head. Original.