

Trichethmolaimus hirsutus (Gerlach, 1956)

(Fig. 106)

Description. Body length 0.9–1.1 mm. Maximum diameter 28–32 μm (a = 31–37). Cuticle punctated with lateral differentiation of larger more widely spaced dots. In the head and tail regions, the punctations take the form of elongated radial rods (Fig. 106B). Conspicuous lateral cuticle pores throughout body. Six 1 μm labial setae. Six stout conical 6 μm and four more slender 29 μm (1.1 h.d.) cephalic setae. Numerous exceptionally long somatic setae, many over 200 μm , situated in two sublateral rows and particularly conspicuous in the posterior half of the tail. Amphids a single loop, 8 μm (about 0.3 c.d.) wide. Buccal cavity cylindrical with three large solid teeth at the anterior end. Oesophagus with elongated posterior bulb, about one-third of total oesophageal length. Tail conical, about 3 a.b.d. long.

Spicules 37–40 μm (1.5 a.b.d.), curved. Gubernaculum a dorsally situated rod. Ten (occasionally nine) cup-shaped supplements with articulated flanges, often protruding from the ventral body wall.

Distribution. Firth of Clyde, West Scotland; Loch Ewe, West Scotland (inter-tidal sand).

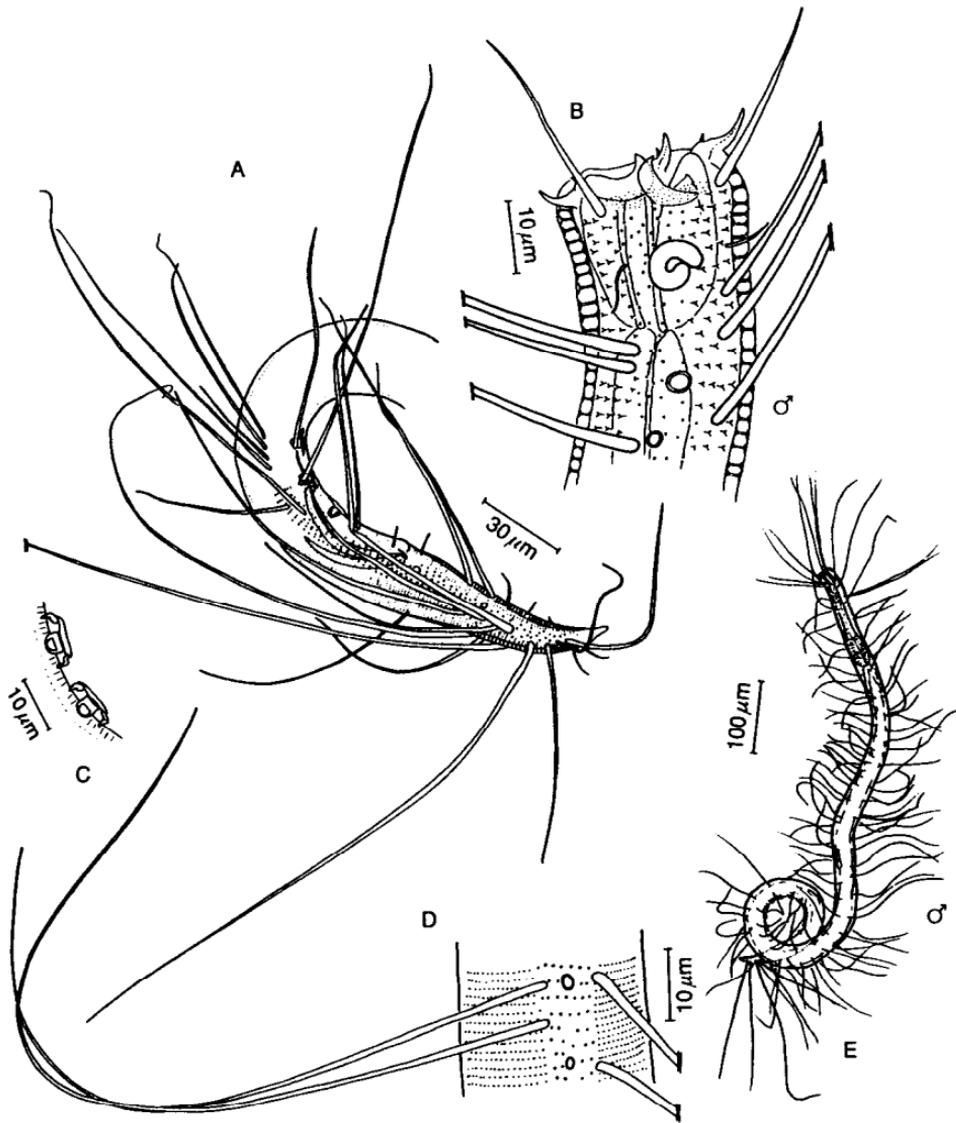


Fig. 106. *Trichethmolaimus hirsutus*. A, Male tail; B, Male head; C, Detail of precloacal supplements; D, Cuticular pattern in mid-body; E, Entire male. Original. (Note: some somatic setae have not always been drawn to their full length.)