

Antomicron elegans (De Man, 1922)

(Fig. 193)

Description. Body length 1.0–1.1 mm. Maximum diameter 32–33 μm ($a = 27\text{--}32$). Cuticle with widely spaced transverse striation, with a well-defined narrow unstriated lateral band (Fig. 193B). Four 4–5 μm (0.5 h.d.) cephalic setae. Four lateral files of setae emanating from rounded pores, along lateral lines of cuticle differentiation. Amphids $12 \times 5 \mu\text{m}$, longitudinally oval with a granulated central area. Buccal cavity tubular, merging imperceptibly with oesophageal lining. Oesophagus with two weakly developed bulbs in the mid-region, and a large pyriform posterior bulb with a thickened cuticular lining (Fig. 193A). Tail 4.3–6.4 a.b.d., longer in female than male, distal third cylindrical.

Spicules 37–39 μm , slender, curved, proximally cephalate. Gubernaculum 25 μm , curved anteriorly. Four 19–22 μm tubular cuticularised precloacal supplements, swollen proximally with anteriorly directed openings, distal ends sometimes discernible as bifid. A pair of conical precloacal papillae.

Vulva at 45% of body length.

Distribution. Blyth estuary, North East England; Exe estuary, South West England; Tamar estuary, South West England (intertidal mud).

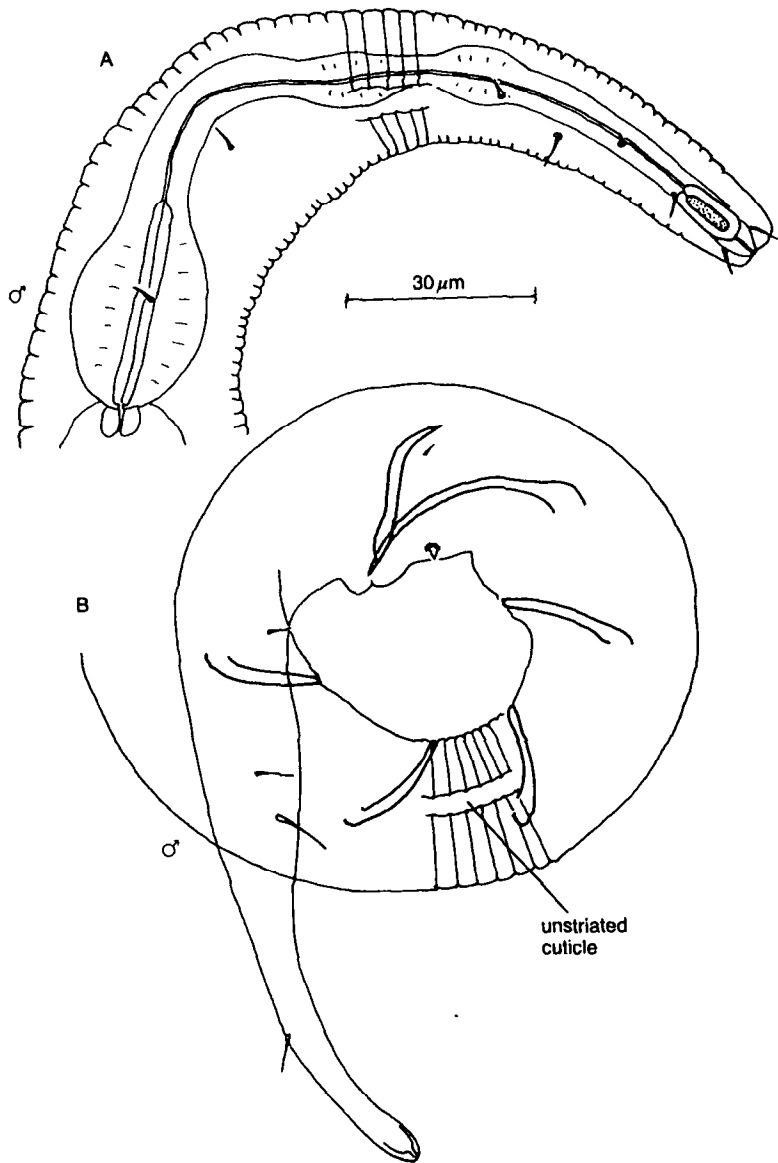


Fig. 193. *Antomicron elegans*. A, Anterior region of male; B, Male tail. Original.