Desmoscolex max, new species

(Figs. 26–28)

Holotype female: L = 330μ; mbd = 45μ; hd = 14μ × 16μ; t = 68μ; cs = 22μ; ssl = 16μ; ts = 10μ.

Allotype male: L = 330μ; mbd = 45μ; hd = 19μ × 23μ; t = 61μ; cs = 23μ; ssl = 18μ; ts = 11μ.

Paratype females (4): L = 212μ–300μ; mbd = 38μ–45μ.

Description.—Body composed of 17 rings with few particles; reticulate pattern on ring surface; 2–4 indistinct annules in interzones. Head longer than wide; narrow at anterior, with small stoma. Cephalic setae long and narrow. Amphids double; large anterior oval amphid beneath long, narrow, granular amphid extending over ring 1. Pigment spots absent. Setae set on short peduncles, subdorsal thicker than subventral. Setal pattern: $\frac{1,3,5,7,9,11,13,16}{1,2,4,6,8,10,12,14,15,17}$. Pairs on rings 13 and 16 longer than rest; pairs on 2 and 15 lateral; pairs on 6,10,16 and 17 sublateral. Vulva not observed. Spicules 39μ long. Anus inconspicuous. Tail cone 33μ long, with clear, conical digitate tip. Phasmata not observed.

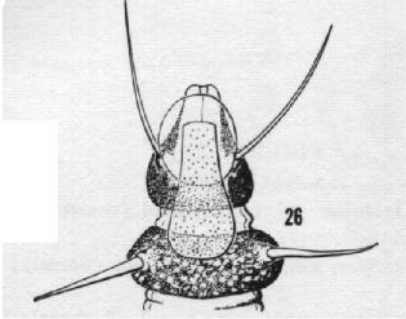
Type habitat and locality.—Coral and shell beach, 0–10 cm, Darwin Bay, Isla Genovesa, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

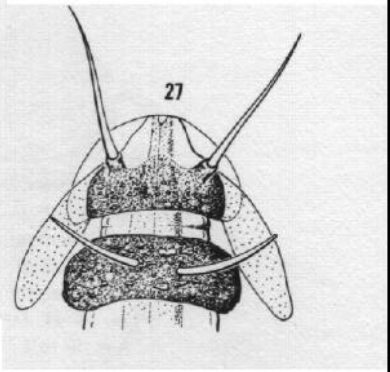
Holotype female: Collected by Maxine McGinty, 29 February 1968; UCNC (Davis) Slide 1143.

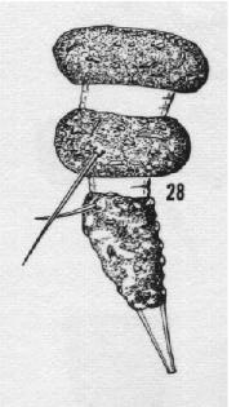
Allotype male: Same data as holotype; UCNC (Davis) Slide 1144.

Paratype females: Same data as holotype; UCNC (Davis) Slides 1145–1147.

Diagnosis.—This species is distinctive in several characteristics: absence of pigment spots, double amphids and chaetotaxy. Because of the triangular head, distinct stoma, elongate tail spike, indistinct annules and reduced tail setae it may represent a transitional form between *Desmoscolex* and *Tricoma.*







Figs. 26–28. *D. max*, n.sp. 26. female head; 27. female head (dorso-ventral); 28. female tail.