

Enoplus brevis Bastian, 1865

(Fig. 41)

Description. Body length 6.2–7.7 mm. Maximum diameter 130–170 μm ($a = 37\text{--}55$). Cuticle marked with small rounded punctations. Three low lips with six small labial papillae at their bases. Six long cephalic setae about 0.47 h.d., four shorter cephalic setae about two-thirds this length. A group of three short setae positioned laterally just posterior to the cephalic capsule. Mandibles solid, bilobed anteriorly, no onchia. No definite eyespots but some irregular pigmented areas present anteriorly. Amphids small rounded pockets with ovoid openings, 0.09 c.d. wide, just in front of posterior border of cephalic capsule. Oesophagus cylindrical, 0.13 times body length. Excretory pore one-fifth of way down oesophagus length, nerve ring 42% of way down oesophagus length. Body setae short and scattered. Tail about 2 a.b.d.

Male with two files of longish setae between supplement and cloaca, with a pair of short stout setae on the posterior lip of the cloaca. Gubernaculum complicated; roughly triangular with a rounded distal tip; two lateral projections on each side, a distal slender projection with a pair of teeth and a more proximal rounded projection. Spicules smooth, equal, arcuate, 1.5 a.b.d. (158–170 μm). Supplement trumpet-shaped, about 2 a.b.d. in front of cloaca, 69–85 μm long, rounded distal tip with a series of small teeth just proximal to it.

Ovaries paired, equal, opposed, reflexed. Vulva at about 55% of body length.

Distribution. A common species in the muddy intertidal or shallow sublittoral recorded from several localities around the British Isles, often in areas of reduced salinity.

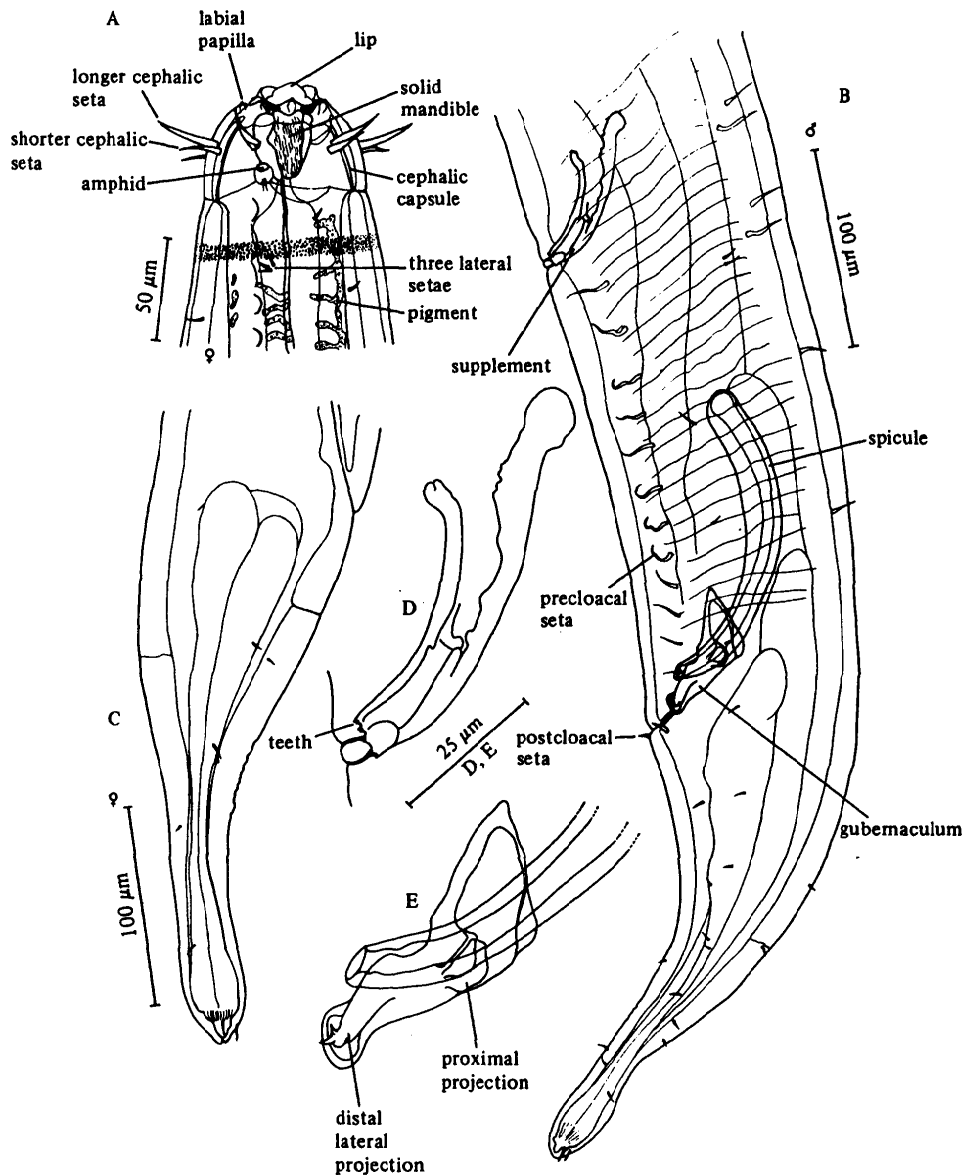


Fig. 41. *Enoplus brevis*. A, Female head; B, Male tail; C, Female tail; D, supplement; E, Gubernaculum and spicule tip. Original.