

Ionema cobbi n. sp. (Fig. 4, F-G)

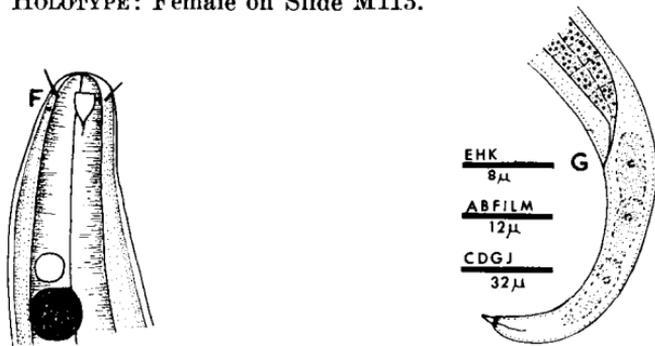
FEMALE: 1.22 mm.; a = 48.7; b = 8; c = 13.5; V = 54.2%; Ov_1 and Ov_2 = 9%.

DESCRIPTION: Body pale. Cuticle apparently smooth. Head rounded, head diameter 6 microns. Four cephalic setae, 55% of head diameter long. Prominent ocelli 16 microns or 2.7 head diameters from anterior end, consisting of compact bright red pigment mass and large spherical hyaline lens distinct from pigment mass. Amphids bowl-shaped, about one-third head diameter wide, situated at level of cephalic setae. Lining at anterior of esophagus obscurely thickened but no distinct tooth. Excretory cell 200 microns posterior to esophageal base. Intestinal cells distinct, hyaline in appearance, 4 in cross section, containing pale yellow globules. Tail conical, 5 anal body diameters long, with bluntly-pointed tip bearing a spinneret. Three prominent refractive nuclei in caudal glands.

DISCUSSION: This species is shorter than *Ionema ocellatum* Cobb, 1920 and the esophagus is much longer. Cobb mentioned that there are several species from tropical oceans but he described only the one and the genus has not been found since then by other authors. According to Wieser (1956) "Cobb's description and figure are not quite clear and a tooth may be present. If so, this genus should be synonymized with the following one" (i.e. *Nemella* Cobb, 1920). However, *Ionema* has page priority by one page.

TYPE-LOCALITY: Habitat 1.

HOLOTYPE: Female on Slide M113.



F-G. *Ionema cobbi*. F. Female head. G. Female tail.

Habitat 1.—Native jetty, Karachi. Piling scrapings including crustacean larvae, small polychaete annelids, encrusting protochordates, hydroids, and algae.