

Leptolaimus elegans (Stekhoven and De Coninck, 1933)
(Fig. 198)

Leptolaimus membranatus (Wieser, 1951) syn. nov.
Leptolaimus septempapillatus Platt, 1973 syn. nov.

Description. Body length 0.8 mm: a = 30. Cuticle with widely spaced transverse striations with lateral longitudinal band of unstriated cuticle (Fig. 198B) and sublateral files of stout setae set in pores. Cephalic setae 3–3.5 μ m. Amphids 0.4–0.6 c.d. Tail 5.5 a.b.d., conico-cylindrical.

Spicules 21 μ m (0.9 a.b.d.), arcuate, not strongly cephalate at the proximal ends. Gubernaculum with a pointed dorsal apophysis. 5–8 tubular precloacal supplements, the number varying with locality but specimens from a given site all tend to have the same number of supplements. For example, of 26 males examined from the Northumberland coast, 25 had seven supplements and only one had eight. Each supplement 14–18 μ m, with distal denticles and not markedly swollen proximally.

A juvenile/female specimen described by Wieser (1951) from intertidal seaweeds at Plymouth had a single preanal tubular supplement in the same position as the posteriormost supplement in the male (which had five supplements).

Distribution. Northumberland coast, North East England (sublittoral fine sand and mud); Plymouth, South West England (intertidal seaweeds); Strangford Lough, North East Ireland (intertidal sand).

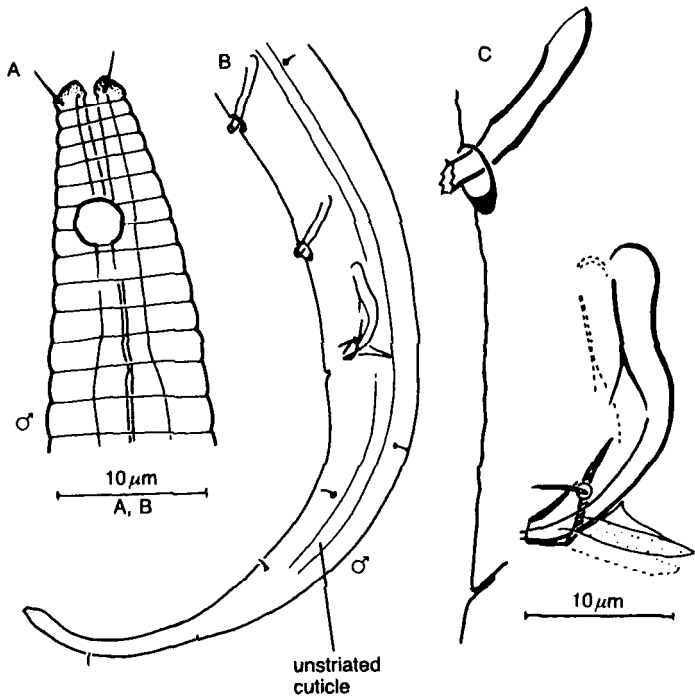


Fig. 198. *Leptolaimus elegans*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C, Cloacal region.
From Lorenzen (1972c).