

*Mesacanthion hirsutum* Gerlach, 1952  
(Fig. 60)

*Description.* Body length 1.9–2.3 mm. Maximum diameter 35–53  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $a = 37\text{--}63$ ). Cuticle smooth. Lips very high and pointed. Six labial setae unusually long and slender (12–14  $\mu\text{m}$ , about half the h.d.). Cephalic setae arise slightly anterior to the middle of the cephalic capsule, longer six 1 h.d., shorter four about one-third this length. Six whorls of long slender cervical setae in male, the first just posterior to the cephalic capsule, posterior two close together at about the level of the nerve ring. First whorl absent in female, setae of remaining whorls less numerous and shorter than in the male, posterior two whorls with only three or four setae. Dorsal onchium is slightly smaller than the two subventral ones. Tail relatively long, about 8 a.b.d.

Spicules 1.3 a.b.d. (36–42  $\mu\text{m}$ ), arcuate, slender.

Supplement 2.6–3.3 a.b.d. in front of cloaca.

Vulva at 51–54% of body length.

*Distribution.* Exe estuary (intertidal sand).

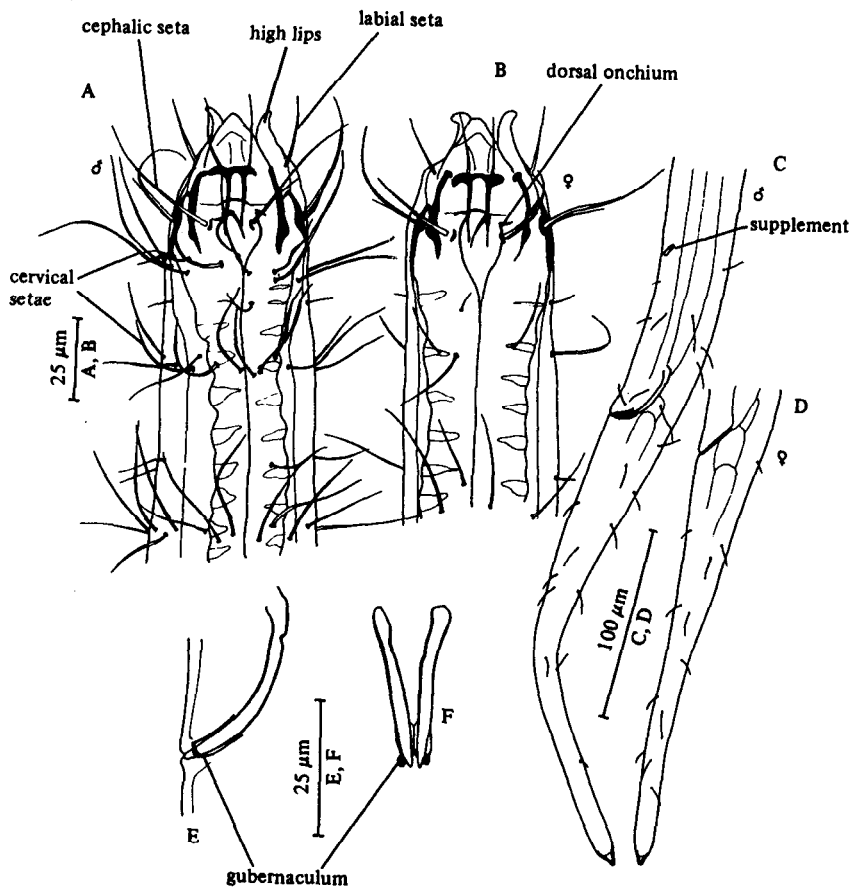


Fig. 60. *Mesacanthion hirsutum*. A, Male head; B, Female head; C, Male tail; D, Female tail; E, Spicules and gubernaculum (lateral); F, Spicules and gubernaculum (ventral). Original.