

Neotonchus meeki Warwick, 1971

(Fig. 96)

Description. Body length 0.7–0.8 mm. Maximum diameter 26–30 μm ($a = 25\text{--}29$). Cuticle has well-developed lateral differentiation of fewer rows of larger lateral dots beginning level with the posterior end of the oesophagus (Fig. 96B). Lateral cuticle pores are present, but small and difficult to detect. Posterior to the oesophageal region the larger sublateral pores, mainly dorso-sublateral and at the edge of the area of lateral differentiation, are each associated with a seta and there are about ten such pore-seta complexes on each side (NB – not illustrated in Fig. 96). Labial papillae minute. Six 2.0–2.5 μm (0.2 h.d.) and four longer 6–7 μm (0.6 h.d.) cephalic setae, and a dorso-sublateral subcephalic seta beside each amphid. Amphids in male 4.5 turns, 7–8 μm (0.6 c.d.) wide. Buccal cavity with a large triangular dorsal tooth (Fig. 96C) opposed by two small subventral teeth. Oesophagus with rounded posterior bulb containing plasmatic interruptions in the middle (Fig. 96B). Tail about 4 a.b.d. with lateral longitudinal row of punctations on posterior third.

Spicules 18–21 μm (0.9–1.0 a.b.d.) measured as a curve, relatively straight. 6–8 precloacal supplements.

Distribution. Northumberland coast, North East England (sublittoral fine sand and silt); Firth of Forth, East Scotland; Firth of Clyde, West Scotland (intertidal sand).

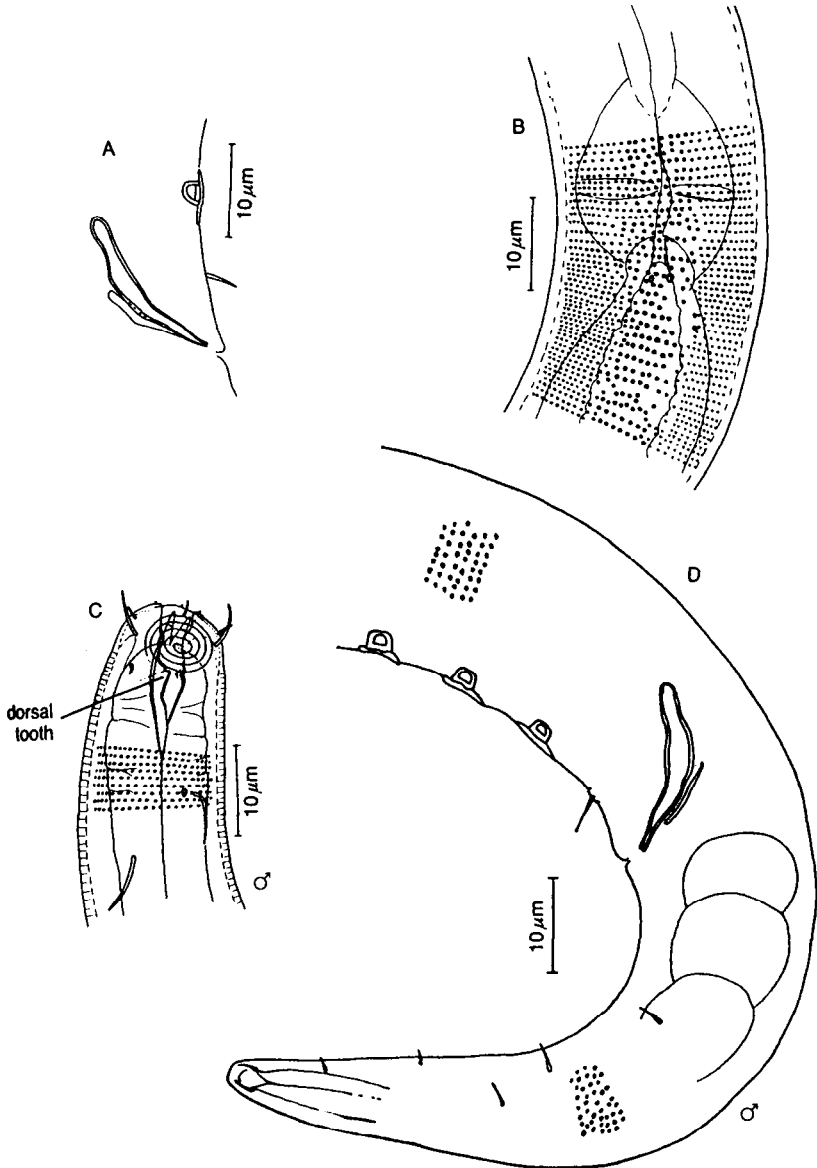


Fig. 96. *Neotonchus meeki*. A, Cloacal region; B, Region of oesophageal bulb; C, Male head; D, Male tail. Original.