

Rhyps paraornata Platt and Zhang, 1982
(Fig. 57)

Description. Body length 0.9–1.3 mm. Maximum diameter 23–29 μm ($a = 36\text{--}53$). Cuticle strongly annulated and heterogeneously ornamented (Fig. 57F). In the anterior third of the oesophageal region, from about the point where the body characteristically narrows (Fig. 57A), each annule bears a transverse row of long and smaller round dots. In the posterior part of the oesophageal region, the dots are smaller and appear to be partly linked diagonally, giving a reticulated appearance. The regular nature of the ornamentation breaks down posterior to the oesophagus, and lateral differentiation of large dumbbell-shaped punctations begins. Just posterior to the mid-point of the body the pattern of lateral differentiation reverses, and at the point of change there is a single round dot. Lateral differentiation ends just anterior to the anus, and transverse rows of discrete dots are present on the tail. Six labial setae. Six 2–3 μm cephalic setae situated just anterior to four shorter 1.5–2 μm cephalic setae. Short 4–6 μm sublateral somatic setae at infrequent intervals throughout the body and at a third of the oesophagus length there are four longer somatic setae. The elongated first body annule forms a cephalic shield and bears six triangular flap-like extensions anteriorly which alternate with the six groups of cephalic setae. The shield is irregularly punctated and bears the large transverse amphids 11 μm wide (0.9 c.d.). Buccal cavity with a large pointed dorsal tooth and two smaller subventral teeth. Oesophagus widens posteriorly to a weak bulb (Fig. 57A). Tail 5 a.b.d. in male, 7 a.b.d. in female, conical with an unstrained end cone.

Male copulatory apparatus complex, consisting of two long double-jointed spicules, a paired gubernaculum and two lateral telamons. The posterior part of the spicule is slightly longer than the anterior; total arc length 70–96 μm . Telemons 22 μm ; gubernaculum 18 μm . Cloaca surrounded by irregular cuticular pegs (Fig. 57D) and anteriorly there is a small ventral spine. Ventral part of precloacal body annules more thickly cuticularised, gradually reducing in thickness anterior to proximal end of spicules.

Distribution. Loch Ewe, West Scotland (sublittoral sand).

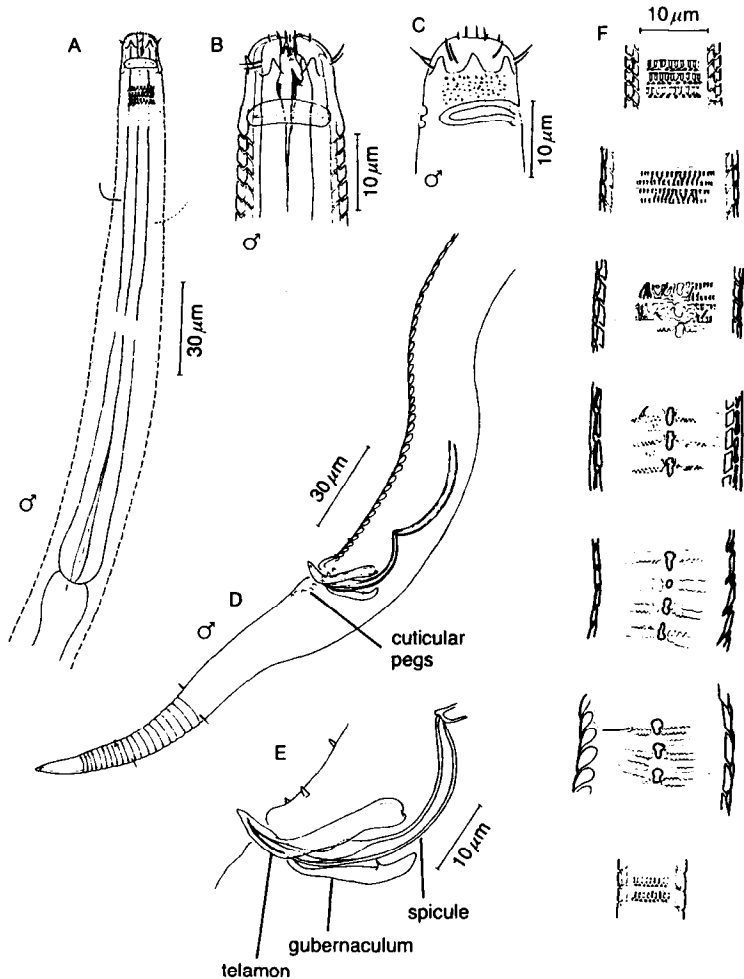


Fig. 57. *Rhips paraornata*. A, Anterior region of male; B, Male head; C, Male head showing cuticle pattern; D, Posterior region of male; E, Cloacal region; F, Cuticle pattern in different regions of the body, anterior (top) to posterior. From Platt and Zhang (1982).