

Thalassoalaimus tardus De Man, 1893
(Fig. 90)

Description. Body length 1.5–3.2 mm (a = 55–102). Cuticle smooth. Twelve cephalic setae arranged in two circles, all 0.5–0.8 h.d. long. Four cervical setae slightly longer than cephalic setae, 3.6–5.3 times h.d. from anterior. Amphids pocket-like with elliptical openings, immediately behind cephalic setae, 0.5 times c.d. wide. No buccal cavity. Oesophagus 0.14 times body length, with small posterior bulb. Excretory pore not prominent. Tail conical, 2.2–3.0 a.b.d. long.

Spicules 1 a.b.d. long, broad.

Gubernaculum about half as long as spicules. Male with two precloacal raised supplements, about as far apart from each other as the posterior one is from the cloaca.

Only posterior ovary present, reflexed, with a small pre-vulvar sac. Vulva at 24–30% of body length.

Distribution. Plymouth (intertidal algae); Blyth estuary (intertidal mud); Skippers Island, Essex (intertidal mud); Exe estuary (intertidal mud and sand); Isles of Scilly (intertidal algae).

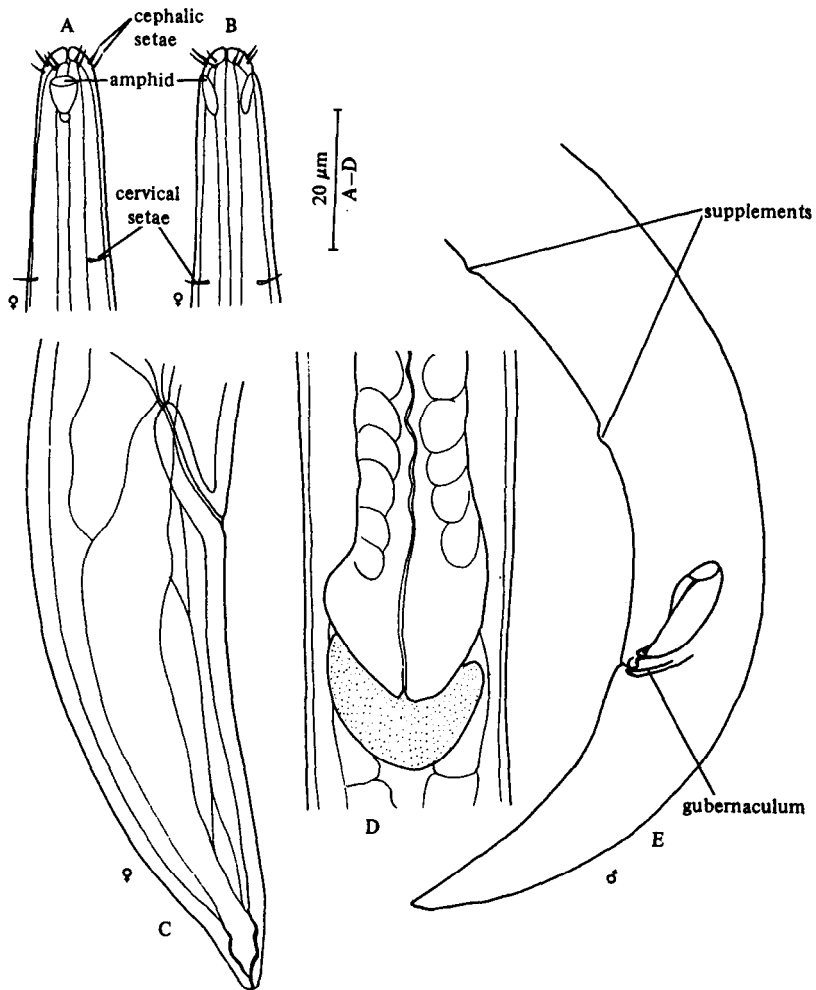


Fig. 90. *Thalassoalaimus tardus*. A, Female head (lateral); B, Female head (dorsal); C, Female tail; D, Oesophageal bulb (original); E, Posterior end of male (from Stekhoven, 1935).