

*Thoracostoma coronatum* (Eberth, 1863)

(Fig. 84)

*Description.* Body length 7.5–10.5 mm. Maximum diameter 150–195  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $a = 38$ – $65$ ). Six labial papillae supported by conspicuous cuticularised subcuticular structures. Ten stout cephalic setae, 4–6  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Six files of stout cervical setae with conspicuous innervation. Scattered short somatic setae present throughout the body. Head bears a conspicuous cephalic capsule, the posterior suture lying posterior to the amphid and lined with cuticular granules. The ventral section of the cephalic capsule resembles a hollow tooth, the tropis (Fig. 84A). Amphids 8  $\mu\text{m}$  wide (0.16 c.d.). Buccal cavity narrow, conical with a dorsal tooth situated about level with the cephalic setae. The dorsal wall of the buccal cavity is well cuticularised and in optical section resembles a large hollow dorsal tooth. Ocelli situated about 110–120  $\mu\text{m}$  from the anterior. Nerve ring situated 0.33 times oesophagus length from anterior. Tail short and rounded; caudal glands extend anterior to cloaca.

Spicules 115–130  $\mu\text{m}$  with ventral alae.

Gubernaculum 90–100  $\mu\text{m}$  long lying almost parallel to distal part of spicules but carrying a distinct solid knob-shaped apophysis. Ventral supplement situated about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  anterior to cloaca. Two rows of 13–16 subventral papillae, each on a rounded protuberance; two situated posterior to cloaca. Testes paired, opposed.

Two opposed, reflexed ovaries. Vulva 63% of body length from anterior.

*Distribution.* West Ireland (under stones, amongst weed, on shore to 50 m); Plymouth (amongst weed and hydroids); Falmouth (in sponge and weed); Northumberland (kelp holdfasts); Isles of Scilly (amongst weed, sponges, hydroids, debris and kelp holdfasts).

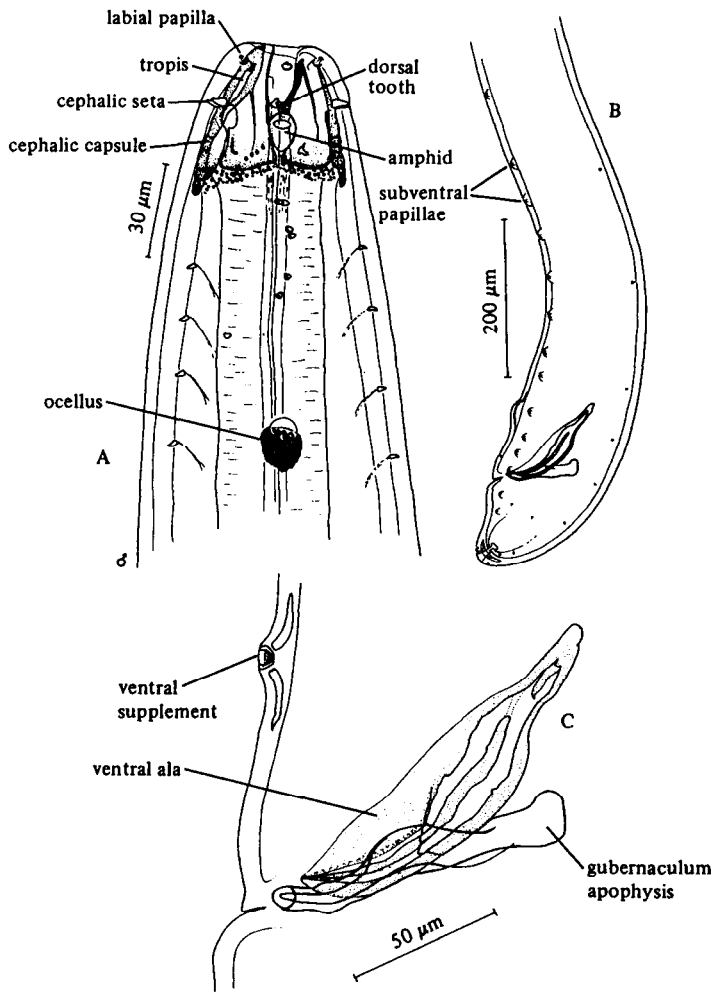


Fig. 84. *Thoracostoma coronatum*. A, Male head; B, Male tail; C, Copulatory apparatus. Original.