

NEMATODES FROM WEST BENGAL (INDIA) X.
A NEW SPECIES OF *ANATONCHUS* (COBB, 1916) DE-CONINCK, 1939
(ANATONCHIDAE : MONONCHIDA)

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ABSTRACT

Anatonchus sukuli n. sp. is being described from around roots of an insectivorous plant, *Drosera burmanni* at Santiniketan, district Birbhum, West Bengal. The new species is characterized by having L=4.98-4.93 mm, buccal cavity 62-73 × 52-71 μ m, distally sclerotized and highly muscular vagina and male with 142-148 μ m long spicules.

INTRODUCTION

The present material was sent by Dr. N. C. Sukul, Reader in Zoology Department at Visva Bharati University, West Bengal for identification. These specimens represent a new species of the genus *Anatonchus* (Cobb, 1916) De Coninck, 1939 which is described hereunder as *Anatonchus sukuli*.

This species is named after Dr. N. C. Sukul.

MATERIAL

The type specimens have been registered and deposited with the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. *Anatonchus sukuli*: Holotype female on slide WN 448, paratype males on slide WN 449.

Anatonchus sukuli n. sp.

(Fig. 1)

Measurements :

Holotype Female : L=4.93 mm ; a=47 ;
b=5.0 ; c=8 ;
V=1164¹¹.

Paratypes (2 ♂♂) : L=4.38-4.72 mm ;
a=43-46 ; b=5.1-5.2 ;
c=12 ; T=39-42.

Description :

Body ventrally curved in the posterior half upon fixation, tapering slightly anterior to base of oesophagus but markedly posteriorly. Cuticle 3-4 μ m thick at mid-body, finely striated. Lateral chords about 1/5th-1/4th of corresponding body-width near middle. Lip region slightly wider than adjoining body, 62-73 μ m wide and 18-21 μ m high.

Amphids funnel-shaped, apertures 8-10 μm wide. Sensillar pouches 17-18 μm from amphidial slits.

Buccal cavity 62-73 \times 52-71 μm ; its walls are weakly developed. Three medium sized teeth hinged to anterior wall of buccal cavity

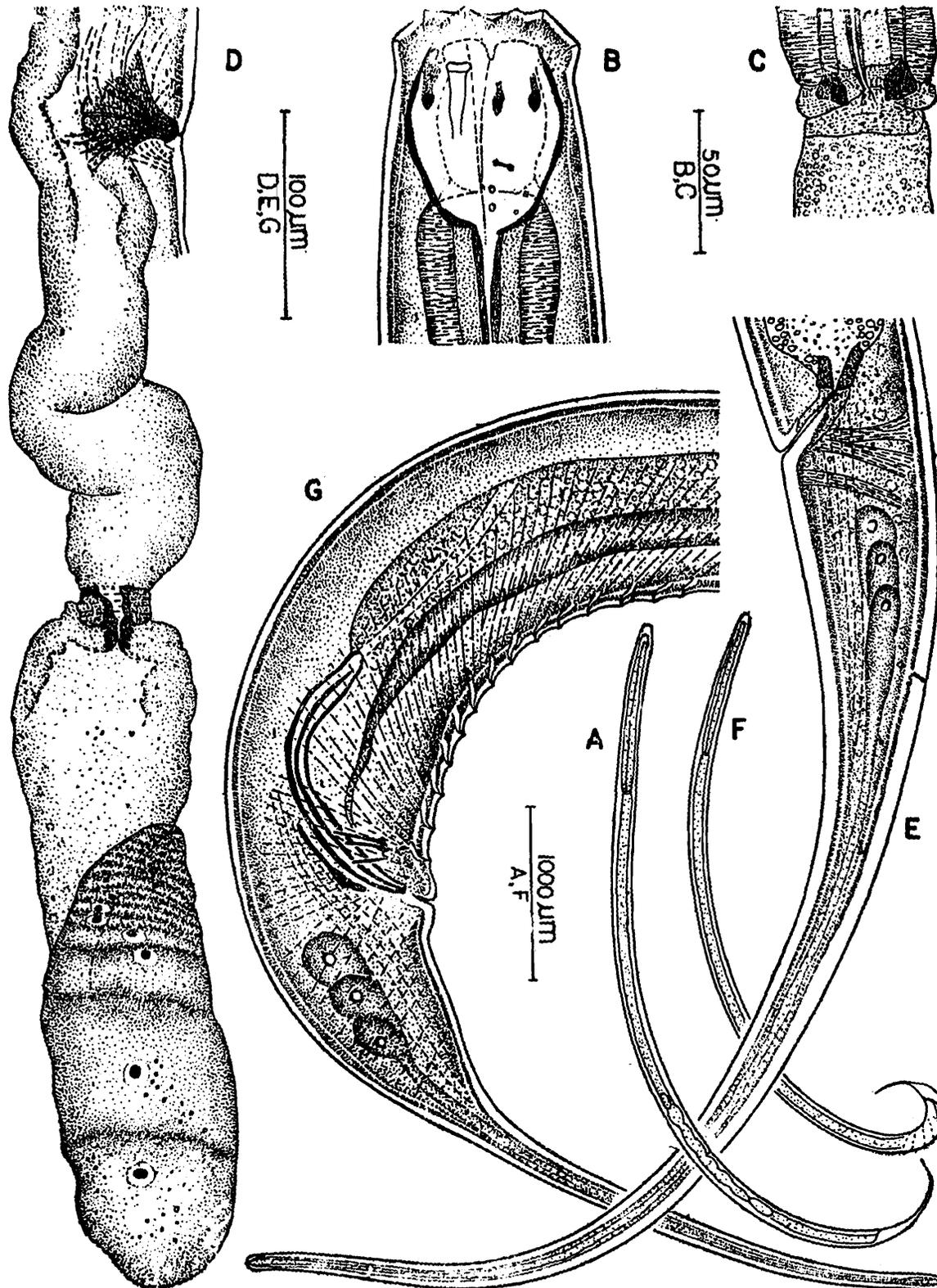


Fig. 1. *Anatonchus sukuli* n. sp. : A—Entire female, B—Head end, C—Oesophago-intestinal junction, D—Female posterior gonad, E—Female tail, F—Entire male, G—Male posterior region.

at 43-50 μm or about 68-71% from base of stoma. Oesophago-intestinal junction tuberculate. Nerve ring 201-225 μm or 23-24% of neck region from anterior end. Rectum 50 μm long.

Female reproductive system amphidelphic. Vulva a transverse slit. Vagina moderately sclerotized distally, extending inwards 41 μm or less than $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of corresponding body-width, marked with muscular bands, surrounded by sphincter. Uterus and oviduct are separated by a well developed sphincter which is almost like a flower. Ovaries reflexed; oocytes arranged in a single row except in growth region. Tail elongate, 590 μm or about 7.5 anal body-widths long. Caudal glands three, leading to a terminal duct.

Male is similar to female in general shape except more curved in posterior third of body. Male reproductive system typical. Spicules 142-148 μm or about 1.6-1.7 anal body-widths long medially. Gubernaculum 45-47 μm and lateral accessory pieces 18-19 μm long. Supplements 14-15, spaced nearly at regular intervals. Copulatory muscles 44-46 in number. Tail similar to female, 360-398 μm or 4.2-4.4 anal body-widths long.

Type habitat and locality : Collected from soil around roots of an insectivorous plant, *Drosera burmanni*, at Santiniketan, district Birbhum, West Bengal (India).

Differential diagnosis : *Anatonchus sukuli* n. sp. comes close to *A. ginglymodontus* Mulvey, 1961 but differs from it in having longer body, differently shaped tail, larger buccal cavity, pre and post-vulval papillae absent, distally sclerotized and highly muscular vagina, and male with longer and differently shaped spicules ($L=2.2-2.9$ mm; tail gradually tapering, buccal cavity 50-63 \times 40-51 μm , pre and post-vulval papillae present, vagina neither distally sclerotized nor marked with muscular bands, and male with 110 μm long spicules in *A. ginglymodontus*).

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REFERENCE

- MULVEY, R. H. 1961. The Mononchidae : A family of predaceous nematodes II. Genus *Anatonchus* (Enoplida : Mononchidae). *Can. J. Zool.*, **39**, 807-826.

