



Three new species of free-living nematodes from the South-East Atlantic Abyss (DIVA I Expedition)*

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Abstract

Three new nematode species were found in the Angola Basin (south-east Atlantic Ocean) at depths of about 5500 m. *Paracyatholaimus diva* sp. nov. (Cyatholaimidae) is characterised by outer labial and cephalic setae of about $3-5 \,\mu m$, multispiral amphidial fovea with six turns in males and four turns in females situated at the level of the dorsal tooth, buccal cavity armoured with only one prominent dorsal tooth, tail consisting of anterior conical and posterior slender cylindrical half portions, and six preanal midventral setose supplementary organs. Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov. is most similar to *Paracyatholaimus rotundus* Gerlach, 1964 but differs by slightly longer body (936–1176 μ m versus 705 μ m), tail shape (with clearly narrowed posterior half versus conical), six versus four supplementary organs of different shape. The genus Paracyatholaimus Micoletzky, 1923 is briefly reviewed. The genus now includes twenty-four valid species. Five species are considered as species inquirendae, mainly because of inadequate type material lacking adult stages and/ or incomplete descriptions. A pictorial guide for identification of the valid species of Paracyatholaimus is provided. Pomponema proximamphidum sp. nov. shares subapical position of the amphidial fovea and distinct lateral differentiation of the somatic cuticle with five Pomponema species: P. concinnum Wieser, 1954, P. corniculata Gourbault, 1980, P. mirabile Cobb, 1917, P. multipapillatum Filipjev, 1922 and P. stomachor Wieser, 1954 but differs from them by tail length, longer posterior cylindrical portion of the tail, relative width of the amphidial fovea, position of the ventral pore and lesser number of supplementary organs. Desmodora striatocephala sp. nov. is well characterized by a combination of very large amphidial fovea occupying nearly the entire lateral surface of the cephalic capsule and thickened midventral preanal cuticle with a few supplementary papillae inserted therein in males. D. striatocephala sp. nov. differs from related species D. cuddlesae Inglis, 1963 and to some lesser degree with D. inflexa Wieser, 1954 with shorter body, relative tail length, bigger size of the amphidial fovea and lesser number of supplementary papillae.

Key words: Angola Basin, Cyatholaimidae, *Desmodora*, Desmodoridae, deep sea biodiversity, DIVA I expedition, marine nematodes, *Paracyatholaimus*, *Pomponema*, pictorial guide, taxonomy

Introduction

Deep-sea nematodes are known to be very rich in species numbers and most of the species still remain to be described (Fonseca *et al.* 2006). During the DIVA-I (Latitudinal Gradients of Deep-Sea Biodiversity in the Atlantic Ocean) expedition, nematode communities from the Angola Basin were investigated. The Angola Basin is situated off the Namibian and Angolan coast north of the Walvis Ridge where water depths reach almost 5500 m. General data on the Angola Basin site and sample methods are published by Kröncke & Türkay (2003) and Rose *et al.* (2005).

Nematode communities of both stations 325 and 346 investigated are dominated by the families Chromadoridae (mostly *Acantholaimus*), Xyalidae, Monhysteridae and Oxystominidae, comprising together about 75% of the specimens. *Paracyatholaimus diva* sp. nov., *Pomponema proximamphidum* sp. nov. and *Desmodora striatocephala* sp. nov. constitute 3%, 0.7% and 0.7–1.5% in their ssamples of stations 325, 346 and 325-346, respectively. Three new species described here were chosen for the first communication because of their larger size. Following papers are intended to be successive reports on various nematode families. Although all three species are represented by quite of adult individuals suitable for description per thousand nematode specimens in two samples examined, I decide to establish new species because of their diagnostic distinctness.

Material and methods

Two abyssal stations, 325 and 346, in the Angola Basin were sampled during the DIVA-I campaign of the RV *Meteor* M48/1 from July 6 to August 2, 2000. Station 325 (19°58.2'S, 002°59.8'E; depth: 5448 m) is located 300 km southwest of station 346 (16°17.0'S, 005°27.0'E; depth: 5389 m). Food availability and sediment structure differed between the two stations. Total organic carbon was higher at station 346 (0.62%) than at station 325 (0.41%). Mud and chlorophyll-*a* content turned out to be higher at station 325 (98.94%, 1.72 μ g/g) compared to station 346 (95.23%, 1.67 μ g/g).

Both stations were sampled using a Barnett's multicorer. Each core with a diameter of 9.6 cm consisted of the upper 5 cm layer of sediment; the surface of each core amounted to 72.4 cm², the volume to 362 cm³. The upper 5 cm sediment was preserved in 5% formaldehyde solution on board. In the laboratory the fixed samples were washed through a 40- μ m mesh sieve with tap water. Meiofauna and organic material were extracted from the remaining sand particles by centrifugation with a colloidal silica polymer (Levasil) as flotation medium and kaolin to cover heavier particles. The centrifugation was repeated three times at 4000 rpm for 6 min, respectively. After each centrifugation the floating matter was decanted and rinsed with tap water.

Nematodes were extracted and processed to glycerin by means of slow evaporation. Specimens were mounted into permanent glycerin slides with a paraffin-beeswax ring. Extraction of nematodes and preparation of slides were performed at DZMB-Senckenberg, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. I was provided with ready slides which were then studied with an Olympus BX51 light microscope equipped with Nomarski optics.

Slides with type specimens of these new species are deposited in the collection of DZMB-Senckenberg (German Centre for Marine Biodiversity Research), Südstrand 44, 26382 Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

Abbreviations. a—body length divided by maximum body diameter; a.d.—anal body diameter; am.w., μ m —width of the amphid; am.w., %—width of the amphid, as a percentage of corresponding body diameter; b body length divided by pharyngeal length; c—body length divided by tail length; c'—tail length in anal diameters; calc (calculated)—morphometric value calculated from drawings of published species descriptions; c.b.d.—corresponding body diameter; cheil.l.—cheilostoma length; o.l.s.—length of outer labial setae; c.s. length of cephalic setae; diam.c.s.—body diameter at the level of cephalic setae; diam.am.—body diameter at the level of amphids; diam.n.r.—body diameter at the level of nerve ring; diam.ca.—body diameter at the level of cardia; diam.midb.—midbody diameter; dis.am.—distance from the cephalic apex to the anterior rim of the amphid; dist.tail part, %—length of posterior cylindrical tail portion as a percentage of the entire tail; dis.v.pore – distance from the cephalic apex to the ventral pore; dors.t.l.—dorsal tooth length; gub.l. – gubernaculum length; L—body length; spic.arc—spicule length along the arch; spic.chord—spicule length along the chord; st.l.—total stoma length; st.w.—maximal stoma width; suppl.l.—length of preanal supplementary organs; suppl.n.—number of preanal supplementary organs; termin sp.—length of terminal spinnerete tube; V —distance of vulva from anterior end as percentage of body length.

All measurements in μ m unless otherwise stated.

TAXONOMY Cyatholaimidae Filipjev, 1918 Paracyatholaimus Micoletzky, 1923

Wieser, 1954a: 26, emended

Diagnosis

Cuticle punctated, lateral differentiation hardly developed. Six outer labial sensilla + four cephalic sensilla setose, in a single circle. Amphidial fovea multispiral. Cheilostoma armoured with twelve rugae; distinct dorsal tooth, often supplemented with smaller subventral teeth and occasionally other denticles in the stegostoma. Precloacal ventromedian supplements as setae-like organs half inserted into the body. Gubernaculum hardly dilated at the distal end and devoid of denticles or serrations. Tail conical or with more or less slender cylindrical distal portion.

Type species

Cyatholaimus dubiosus Bütschli, 1874.

List of valid species

- Paracyatholaimus arcticus Kreis, 1963. Kreis, 1963: 39-40, fig. 20 A-C; Iceland. 1
- 2 Paracyatholaimus botosaneanui Andrássy, 1973. Andrássy, 1973: 259-261, Abb. 9 A-C; Cuba.
- 3 Paracyatholaimus chilensis Gerlach, 1953. Gerlach, 1953b: 19-21, Abb. 9 a-e; Chile.
- 4 Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov. Present paper.
- Paracyatholaimus dubiosus (Bütschli, 1874). Bütschli, 1874: 48, fig. 31 a, b (=Cyatholaimus dubiosus); 5 Kiel Bay. Micoletzky, 1922: 377 (to subgenus Paracyatholaimus). Meyl, 1954: 428-429, Abb. 2 a-f; (Mediterranean).
- Paracyatholaimus duplicatus Gerlach, 1964. Gerlach, 1964b: 77–78, Abb. 5 a-d; Maldive Islands. 6
- 7 Paracyatholaimus helicellus Wieser, 1954. Wieser, 1954a: 27, fig. 107 a-c; Chile.
- 8 Paracyatholaimus intermedius (de Man, 1880). De Man, 1880: 16–17 (=Cyatholaimus intermedius); De Man, 1884: 52–54, fig. 25–25f (=Cyatholaimus intermedius); Kattegat. Gerlach, 1953a: 21–22, Abb. 5; Baltic Sea. Gerlach, 1965: 127–128, Abb. 9 a-c; Spitzbergen. Bussau, 1990: 170–172, Abb. 3 A-C; North Sea, coastal dunes.
- 9 Paracyatholaimus lewisi Coomans, Vincx & Decraemer, 1985. Coomans et al., 1985: 268, fig. 2 A-F; Solomon Islands, freshwater pool on a coral island; no males described.
- 10 Paracyatholaimus occultus Gerlach, 1956. Gerlach, 1956: 91-92, Abb. 29 a-c; Kiel Bay.
- 11 Paracyatholaimus paucipapillatus Gerlach, 1955. Gerlach, 1955: 265–267, Abb. 7 a-e; El Salvador.
- 12 Paracyatholaimus pentodon Riemann, 1966. Riemann, 1966: 125–127, Abb. 31 a-e; North Sea. Platt & Warwick, 1988: 282, fig. 128; East and West Scotland.
- 13 Paracyatholaimus pesavis Wieser & Hopper, 1967: 268–269, pl. XVI, fig. 32 a-e; Florida.
- 14 Paracyatholaimus proximus (Bütschli, 1874). Bütschli, 1874: 49, fig. 30 a-b (=Cyatholaimus proximus); Kiel Bay. De Man, 1922: 239–240, fig. 28 a, b (=Cyatholaimus proximus); North Sea. Micoletzky, 1924: 140 (to subgenus Paracyatholaimus).
- 15 Paracyatholaimus pugettensis Wieser & Hopper, 1967. Wieser, 1959: 37-38, fig. 35 a-c (=Longicyatholaimus quadriseta Wieser, 1959, nec L. quadriseta Wieser 1954); Puget Sound, Washington, USA. Wieser & Hopper, 1967: 265.
- 16 Paracyatholaimus quadriseta (Wieser, 1954). Wieser, 1954a: 13, fig. 98 a, b (=Longicyatholaimus quadriseta); Chile. Hopper, 1972: 69 (=Marilynia quadriseta).
- 17 Paracyatholaimus rotundus Gerlach, 1964. Gerlach, 1964a: 25, Abb. 2 d-e; Red Sea.
- 18 Paracyatholaimus saradi Gerlach, 1967. Gerlach, 1967: 30-31, Abb. 15 a-e; Red Sea.
- 19 Paracyatholaimus separatus Wieser, 1954. Wieser, 1954b: 194–196, Abb. 12 a-c; Mediterranean.

- 20 Paracyatholaimus spinulosus Jensen, 1985. Jensen, 1985: 253-254, fig. 7 A-F; Gulf of Mexico.
- 21 Paracyatholaimus ternus Wieser, 1954. Wieser, 1954a: 27-28, fig. 108 a-e; Chile.
- 22 *Paracyatholaimus truncatus* (Cobb, 1914). Cobb, 1914: 60–62, fig. 17 (=*Cyatholaimus truncatus*); Florida, fresh or brackish water. Micoletzky, 1922: 377 (to subgenus *Paracyatholaimus*). Finding of Riemann (1970) in a similar habitat at the Caribbean coast of Colombia may be doubtful because of the lesser male body length (1050 *vs* 1600 μ m), strong conical inner labial papillae, other pattern of four preanal supplementary organs (both posteriormost and penultimate organs are situated at the level of spicules while those of the type specimen are separated by much greater distances).
- 23 Paracyatholaimus vancouverensis Sharma & Vincx, 1982: 276-278, fig. 15-23; British Columbia.
- 24 Paracyatholaimus vitraeus Gerlach, 1957. Gerlach, 1957: 140–141, Abb. 21 1–o; Brazil.

Remarks to species composition of the genus Paracyatholaimus

Four species originally assigned to *Paracyatholaimus*, i.e. *choanolaimoides* Stekhoven, 1942, *effilatus* Stekhoven, 1946, *major* Kreis, 1928 and *tyrrhenicus* Brunetti, 1949, were later transferred to other genera by various authors (Gerlach & Riemann 1973) and are not considered here.

Twenty-seven species of *Paracyatholaimus* are enumerated in the NeMys (Deprez et al. 2005) where *P. parasaveljevi* Allgén, 1935 is designated *species inquirenda*. Here four more other species are considered as *species inquirendae* because of insufficient type material lacking adult stages and/ or incomplete descriptions:

Cyatholaimus chungsani Hoeppli et Chu, 1932; China. The species was shifted to *Paracyatholaimus* by Meyl (1954) and, missing in the NeMys list, is here considered as *species inquirenda* because of the very poor original description even lacking details actually indicating its affiliation with *Paracyatholaimus*. This is one of three species ascribed to *Paracyatholaimus* which were found in fresh-water habitats.

Paracyatholaimus exilis (Cobb, 1898) Micoletzky, 1924 (= *Cyatholaimus e*. Cobb, 1898); Australia. The original description is based on only a female specimen and lacks illustrations.

Paracyatholaimus oistospiculoides (Allgén, 1935) Wieser, 1954 (= *Paracanthonchus o.* Allgén, 1935); Norway Sea. The original description and drawings based on a single male specimen are too poor to determine the genus.

Paracyatholaimus parasaveljevi Allgén, 1935; Norway Sea. Wieser (1954a) qualified the species as species inquirenda.

Paracyatholaimus tenuispiculum (Allgén, 1951) Wieser, 1954 (= *Paracanthonchus t*. Allgén, 1951); Hawaii. The original description and drawings are based on a single male specimen and lacks many details such as amphids and length of anterior setae.

Illustrated guide for species of Paracyatholaimus (Figs 1 & 2, Table 1)

The guide is a set of simplified images (Figs 1 & 2) constructed in some accordance with the approved practice of Platt (1984) and others (e.g., Platt & Warwick, 1998). Species of *Paracyatholaimus* differ from one another in rather fine morphological details concerning mainly length of anterior setae, number of turns in the multispiral amphidial fovea, supplementary organs and copulatory apparatus. The species can neither be disposed in a morphological continuum nor grouped in any evident morphological clusters. Therefore, it is not easy to develop a convenient polytomous or dichotomous key. I arrange the images of species in alphabetical order. An important component of the guide is Table 1, where the most important morphometric data are summarized.



FIGURE 1. Pictorial guide for valid species of *Paracyatholaimus*. Part 1, beginning. Simplified images of species come from the published descriptions: *arcticus*—Kreis, 1963; *botosaneanui*—Andrássy, 1973; *chilensis*—Gerlach, 1953b; *diva*—orig.; *dubiosus*—Meyl, 1954; *duplicatus*—Gerlach, 1964b; *helicellus*—Wieser, 1954a; *intermedius*—Gerlach, 1953a; *lewisi*—Coomans et al., 1985; *occultus* —Gerlach, 1956; *paucipapillatus*—Gerlach, 1955; *pentodon*—Riemann, 1966.



FIGURE 2. Pictorial guide for valid species of *Paracyatholaimus*. Part 2, ending. Simplified images of species come from the published descriptions: *pesavis*—Wieser & Hopper, 1967; *proximus*—de Man, 1922; *pugettensis*—Wieser, 1959; *quadriseta*—Wieser, 1954a; *rotundus*—Gerlach, 1964a; *saradi*—Gerlach, 1967; *separatus*—Wieser, 1954b; *spinulosus*—Jensen, 1985; *ternus*—Wieser, 1954a; *truncatus*—Cobb, 1914; *vancouverensis*—Sharma & Vincx, 1982; *vitraeus*—Gerlach, 1957.

Species	Characters								
	L	a	с	o.l.s., µm	am.w., μm, % c.b.d.	amphid, number of turns	c'	spic., μm	suppl. n.
arcticus	789–925	22.8-25.3	9.8–11.7	5.7	7.7	2.5	3.07	25-27 (chord)	5–6
botosaneanui	1170-1400	31–33	13.5–15	10–12	9–10	5-5.5	3–3.3	26–28	4
chilensis	1256	21	14	5	33% c.b.d., hardly discernible	3	2.53 calc	36–39	7
diva	936–1176	23.8–28	7.45-8.86	3–4	12.5–14	6	3.02– 3.43	34–36 (chord), 45–51 (arch)	6
dubiosus	1092–1326	25.5–31.5	11–13.2	8-12 calc	8 calc 32% calc	4.5	5.5	25–31	4
duplicatus	1485	21	5.4	7–8	12	5	5.5-6.5	48	6 (2+2+2)
helicellus	1410-1820	28.3-32	13.7–16	7–7.5	5.5, 23%	2	2.6	40	9
intermedius	740–1575	21.2–34	9–14	7–10	9	3–4	3 calc	28–36	4–9
occultus	1295	36	11.3	4–5	14	4	3.5–4	36	0
paucipapillatus	1445–1860	22–28	13.9–14.1	8-15	42% calc	5–6	2.5	35–48	2
pentodon	1700–1920	41.2	14.4	20.5	20-22	3-3.25	3–3.4	49	4
pesavis	1080-1170	?	?	5–8	11	5	2.5 calc	29–31	3
proximus	1128–1400	21-22	10.6–12	minute	25% calc	3	2.8 calc	24	1 (?)
pugettensis	1310-2230	26.3-40.5	7–10	5–9	10-10.5	5	5.5-6.5	46–54	4–5
quadriseta	1210	31.8	6.6	8–9	11.5	5	6.3	40	6–7
rotundus	705	25	7	3–4	9	5	>4	30	4
saradi	817	27	10.6	8-11	11	4.5	3	30	14
separatus	680	26.8	9.8	7	9	4.5–5	3–3.2	25	1
spinulosus	877	35	8.6	4	5	?	5 calc	20 (arch), 16 (chord)	6
truncatus	1600	43.5	11.1	0.5 diam.c.s.	33%	2.5	3.46	1.3 a.d.	4
ternus	800-1120	33.7–37	10.6–12.3	5-6.5	8–9	3.5	2.7–3	36	3+
vancouverensis	1890–1960	34–35	12.1–16	3–4	10	5.5	5	30	5
vitraeus	960	20	10.7	3.5–5	27-33%	3.5	3–3.5	23–26	5

TABLE 1. Morphometry of valid Paracyatholaimus species (males).

Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov. Figs 3–6

Figs 3–6

Type material:**Holotype:** male 1, two paratype males 2 & 3 and one paratype female mounted in glycerin on glass slides. Type specimens deposited in the DIVA nematode collection DZMB-Senckenberg, Südstrand 44, 26382 Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

Type locality: DIVA I, Meteor 48/1, Station 325/4, multicorer 8: South-east Atlantic Ocean, 19°58.3'S & 002°59.8'E, depth 5450 m. 14 July 2000.

Etymology: the species name is derived from the acronym DIVA. *Morphometric data*: Table 2.

Label	Specimens & labels							
	1 (holotype)	2 (paratype)	3 (paratype)	(paratype)				
	Box B N 55(6) DIVA I, M 48/1, st. 325/4, MuC 8	Box B N 55(7) DIVA I, M 48/1, st. 325/4, MuC 8	Box B N 56(4) DIVA I, M 48/1, st. 325/4, MuC 8	Box B N 59(5) DIVA I, M 48/1, st. 325/4, MuC 8				
L	936	1120	1176	1147				
a	24.6	23.8	28	26.1				
b	6.65	7.00	7.35	6.23				
c	7.45	8.75	8.86	8.64				
V (%)	-	-	-	46				
diam.c.s.	17	~17	19	18				
diam.am.	23.5	?	22	30				
diam.n.r.	34	31	39	32				
diam.ca.	38	40	41	39				
	38	47	42	44				
a.d.	33	39	40	30				
c.s.+o.l.s.	3+3.5	?	3.5+4	3.5+5				
c.s.+o.l.s. (%)	17.5+20.5	?	18.5+21	19.5+27.5				
am.w.	12.5	?	14	8				
am.w. (%)	53	?	64	26.5				
dis.am.	11.5	?	11	4				
st.w.	7	?	8	8				
st.l.	16.5	?	15	18				
cheil.l.	5	?	3.5	3.5				
dors.t.l.	12	?	11	12				
spic.chord	34	36	34	-				
spic.arc	45	51	46.5	-				
gub.l.	33	29	31	-				
suppl.l.	3	?	?	-				
с'	3.14	3.02	3.43	5.08				
dist.tail part (%)	59	41	45	49.8				
termin sp.	7.5	8	7	?				

TABLE 2. Morphometry of Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov.

Description. Body cylindrical. Cuticle transversally annulated and punctated. The dots (punctations) about the same size along the body and closely arranged in transversal rows. No clear lateral differentiation in size and position of the dots. The dots become a bit more distinct and convex to the amphid and to the anal region.

Anterior end truncate. Mouth opening surrounded by unclear conical lips with hardly visible inner labial sensilla. Outer labial and cephalic sensilla constitute a jointed circle of 6+4 short setae. Four cephalic setae slightly smaller than six outer labial setae. Both outer labial and cephalic sensilla seem to be two-jointed, with the proximal joint thicker and at least twice as long as the distal joint. However, the jointed setae are often difficult to recognize in this species. The jointed nature of the outer labial setae is more evident in the female than in the males.

Amphidial fovea large, round or slightly transversally oval in outline, multispirally coiled with about six

turns in the males and four turns in the female, situated at a distance from the apex. Amphidial fovea of the female notably smaller than that of the male. Cervical setae about four in number, situated laterally posterior to the amphid. There are very few small setae scarcely distributed along the body.

Cuticular pores indistinct in the pharyngeal region but become very obviously crater-shaped more posteriorly Cuticular pores arranged in two sublateral rows from the level of the cardia posteriad. There are 21 lateroventral pores and \sim 37 laterodorsal pores on the left body side of the holotype male.



FIGURE 3. Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov., entire. A: male N1 (holotype); B: female (paratype). Scale bars: 100 µm.





FIGURE 4. Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov., anterior ends. A: male N1 (holotype); B: female (paratype). Scale bars: 10 µm.

Cheilostoma cup-shaped, its walls reinforced by triangular rugae apparently twelve in number. A big pointed sclerotized tooth on the dorsal side of the pharyngeal portion of the buccal cavity. There are no smaller opposite teeth, but obscure subventral cuticular hardenings in the buccal cavity.

Pharynx evenly muscular throughout its length, widening posteriorly but not forming a true bulb. Internal cuticular lining twisted and folded. Cardia poorly visible. Nerve ring hardly discernible in some specimens. Renette cell not found except an oval body just posterior to the cardia ventrally.

Didelphic, ovaries antidromously reflected; anterior ovary situated subventrally to the right of the intestine, posterior ovary subventrally to the left of the intestine. Diorchic; anterior testis outstretched, posterior smaller testis reflexed. Anterior testis situated to the right of the intestine, posterior testis to the left of the intestine. Spicules short, weak, sharply angularly bent, distally pointed, proximally with wide knobs. Gubernaculum paired, composed of two slightly sigmoid-curved platelets parallel to the distal portion of the spicules. Six supplementary organs arranged in a midventral preanal row. They look like thick conical setae one third protruded of cuticle and directed aslant anteriad.



FIGURE 5. Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov., details. A: male N1 (holotype), anterior body; B: male N1 (holotype), posterior end; C: female (paratype), posterior end. Scale bars: $50 \,\mu$ m.



FIGURE 6. Paracyatholaimus diva sp. nov., cloacal region of the male N1 (holotype). Scale bar: 10 µm.

Tail of moderate length, consists of proximal conical and distal slender cylindrical portions, with delicate terminal spinnerete tube. There are a few short lateroventral setae on the tail.

Diagnosis: Paracyatholaimus. Body length 936–1176 μ m. No lateral differentiation in the cuticle. Outer labial and cephalic setae about 3.5–5 μ m. Amphidial fovea multispiral with six turns in males and four turns

in females situated at the level of the dorsal tooth. Buccal cavity armoured with a prominent dorsal tooth and no subventral teeth. Tail consists of anterior conical and posterior slender cylindrical half portions. Diorchic, posterior testis reflexed. Spicules sharply bent, distally pointed, proximally knobbed. Gubernaculum distally narrowed and toothless. Six preanal midventral setose supplementary organs.

Differential diagnosis: The new species resembles Paracyatholaimus rotundus Gerlach, 1964 closer than other Paracyatholaimus species. P. rotundus is known from only one male specimen from the Red Sea. P. diva sp. nov. differs from P. rotundus by a slightly longer body (936–1176 μ m versus 705 μ m), tail shape (with clearly narrowed posterior half versus conical), six versus four supplementary organs of another shape.

P. diva sp. nov. shares large multispiral amphidial fovea with 5–6 turns with P. botosaneanui Andrássy, 1973, P. duplicatus Gerlach, 1964, P. paucipapillatus Gerlach, 1955, P. pugettensis Wieser & Hopper, 1967, P. quadriseta (Wieser, 1954) and P. vancouverensis Sharma & Vincx, 1982. P. diva sp. nov. differs from P. botosaneanui by slightly a thicker body (a 23.8–28 versus 31–33), index c (7.45–8.86 versus 13.5–15), smaller cephalic setae (3–4 μ m versus 10–12 μ m), longer spicules (34–36 μ m versus 26–28 μ m) and six versus four supplementary organs of another shape; from *P. duplicatus* by shorter body (936–1176 μ m versus 1485 μ m), smaller cephalic setae ($3-4 \mu m$ versus $7-8 \mu m$), relatively shorter nearly conical tail (c' 3.02-3.43 versus 5.5-6.5) and arrangement of supplementary organs (three distinct pairs in *P. duplicatus*); from *P. paucipapillatus* by shorter body (936–1176 μ m versus 1445–1860 μ m), index c (7.45–8.86 versus 13.9–14.1), much smaller cephalic setae (3–4 μ m versus 8–15 μ m) and six versus two supplementary organs; from P. pugettensis by shorter body (936–1176 μ m versus 1310–2230 μ m), smaller cephalic setae (3–4 μ m versus 5–9 μ m), relatively shorter tail (c' 3.02–3.43 versus 5.5–6.5) and six versus four to five supplementary organs; from P. *quadriseta* by smaller cephalic setae (3–4 μ m versus 8–9 μ m) and relatively shorter tail (c'3.02–3.43 versus 6.3); from P. vancouverensis by shorter body (936–1176 μ m versus 1890–1960 μ m), relatively thicker body (a 23.8–28 versus 34–35), wider amphidial fovea (53–63% versus 42% c.b.d.) and relatively shorter tail (c 7.45– 8.86 versus 12.1-16, c' 3.02-3.43 versus 5).

Pomponema Cobb, 1917

The genus was revised by Lorenzen (1972). An emended generic diagnosis of *Pomponema* is provided by Platt & Warwick (1988). According to NeMys (Deprez et al. 2005), twenty-nine *Pomponema* species have been described up until recently.

Pomponema proximamphidum sp. nov. Figs 7–9

Type material: **Holotype** male N1, two paratype males NN2 & 3 mounted in glycerin on glass slides. Type specimens are deposited in the DIVA nematode collection.

Type locality: DIVA I, Meteor 48/1, Station 346/2, Multicorer 3: South-east Atlantic Ocean, 16°17.0'S & 005°27.0'E, depth 5389 m. 27 July 2000.

Etymology: The species name reflects the position of amphids close to the labial position.

Morphometric data: Table 3.

Description. Body cylindrical, slender. Cuticle annulated and punctated with dots. Cuticle heterogeneous: thick, light-refracting, brownish in colour cuticle with sharp annules in the anterior body while thinner, lighter in colour cuticle with less sharply defined annules from about 0.4 pharynx length onwards. Anterior end characterized by large, distinct dots arranged in regular transversal rows becoming smaller towards the midpharynx and fusing thereafter into transversal lines. Lateral differentiations of the body cuticle begin just posterior

to the amphidial fovea. Lateral differentiation expressed in a pattern of a sequence of paired big light-refractive dots sharply set off other lateromedian dots of the respective transversal row. The big dots in pairs joined by narrow dots. Space between big lateral dots about 7 μ m at the level of the nerve ring and 4 μ m on the midbody.

Character	Specimens & labels						
	1 (holotype)*	2 (paratype)	3 (paratype)				
	Box A N3(7) DIVA I, M 48/1, 346/2, MuC3	Box A N9(3) DIVA I, M 48/1, 346/2, MuC3	Box A N9(4) DIVA I, M 48/1, 346/2, MuC3				
L	911	1138	1203				
a	27.6	34	?				
b	4.67	5.83	6.17				
c	4.00	6.03	5.87				
diam.c.s.	13	14	14				
diam.am.	19	19	20				
diam.n.r.	38	29	30				
diam.ca.	41	32	29				
diam.midb.	47	33.5	?				
a.d.	27	24	24				
o.l.s.	2+5.5***	2+5	2+5				
C.S.	4.5	4	4				
am.w.	9	10.5	11.5				
am.w. (%)	59	55	57.5				
st.w.	8	8	6				
st.l.	27	24	25				
cheil.l.	8	8	6				
dors.t.l.	17	19	18				
dis.v.pore	54	60	58				
spic.chord	33	33	35				
spic.arc	41	46	44.5				
gub.l.	21	19	17				
suppl.n.	14	13	13				
suppl.l.	7–6**	8–7	10 - 7				
c'	8.12	7.45	7.89				
dist.tail part (%)	62	52	52				
termin sp.	?	3.5	3–4				

TABLE 3. Morphometry of *Pomponema* sp. nov.

*The specimen was slightly flattened while being measured.

**Anteriormost - posteriormost supplement

***lateral + lateromedian sensilla

Inner labial sensilla indistinct. Outer labial and cephalic sensilla constitute together a common circle. Six outer labial setae differ notably to one another: lateral setae much shorter than lateromedian outer labial setae. Four cephalic setae a little shorter than the outer labial lateromedian setae. Cervical and somatic setae not

found. There are few fuzzy cuticular pores in the pharyngeal region and no visible pores farther posteriad.

Amphidial fovea very large multispiral groove, ventrally coiled, with about five turns. It is half shifted to the apical surface of the head.



FIGURE 7. *Pomponema proximamphidum* sp. nov., anterior ends. **A**: male N1 (holotype), depicted right row of denticles; **B**: male N3 (paratype), surface view; **C**: male N3 (paratype), optical section, depicted left row of denticles. Scale bars: 10 μ m.



FIGURE 8. *Pomponema proximamphidum* sp. nov., details of the holotype male. **A**: anterior body; **B**: posterior end; **C**: copulatory apparatus. Scale bars: A, B 50 µm; C 10 µm.

Buccal cavity differentiated into two compartments. Cheilostoma shaped as a truncate cone; its walls armoured with twelve stick-like ternary (three-storyed) rugae. Stegostoma provided with a big and acute dorsal tooth as well as two smaller subventral acute teeth. At the level of each side of the subventral teeth, a lateroventral row of six to eight tiny two-storyed dentlicles.

Pharynx evenly muscular throughout its length, slightly widening posteriorly but not forming a well defined bulb. Nerve ring well visible at the midpharynx. Terminal ampulla of the dorsal pharyngeal gland discernible at the base of the dorsal tooth. Cardia indistinct. There are rather large swallowed particles inside the

intestine lumen.

Renette ampulla transparent and voluminous; ventral pore situated at a distance of about one third pharynx length from the anterior end.

Reproductive system diorchic. Both anterior outstretched and posterior reflected testes situated to the left of the intestine in all the specimens. Vas deferens consists of several parts (from anterior end caudad): medium granulated, finely granulated, homogeneous, and coarsely granulated.

Spicules short, arched, distally pointed and proximally widened. Gubernaculum as paired slightly curved plate distally adjoined to spicules. There is a small funnel-like structure with an indented sclerotized rim at each lateral side of the spicule distal tip.

Thirteen to fourteen midventral preanal supplementary organs. Each organ consists of a stout cylindrical body and a flat cover with a central opening. The supplementary organs may or may not be elevated above the body cuticle depending on the body curvature. There a small midventral sensilla just anterior to the cloacal opening.

Tail relatively long, consisting of proximal conical and slender cylindrical parts. A short terminal spinneret tube at the tail end. There are a few small setae laterally on the conical part.

Diagnosis. Male body length 911–1203 μ m. Cuticle heterogeneous: anteriormost cuticle thicker, brownish, with sharp annules in the anterior body while more posterior cuticle thinner, light, with less sharply defined annules. Lateral differentiation expressed in a pattern of a sequence of paired light-refractive dots sharply set off other much smaller lateromedian dots. Inner labial sensilla as conical papillae. Six outer labial sensilla differ notably to one another: labial sensilla as minute setae much shorter than lateromedian sensilla looking like true short setae. Four cephalic setae a little shorter than outer labial lateromedian setae. Amphidial fovea very large, multispiral, with about five turns; half shifted to the apical surface of the head. Stegostoma armoured by a big acute dorsal tooth, two smaller subventral acute teeth and two lateroventral rows of denticles at the level of the subventral teeth. Ventral pore situated at a distance of about one third pharynx length from the anterior end. Diorchic, posterior testis reflexed. Spicules short, arched, distally pointed and proximally widened. Gubernaculum as paired slightly curved plate with a small funnel-like structure with an indented sclerotized rim at each lateral side of the spicule distal tip. Thirteen to fourteen midventral preanal supplementary organs. Tail length 7.45–8.12 anal diameters; its distal cylindrical part 52–62% of the entire tail.

Differential diagnosis: P. proximamphidum sp. nov. share the subapical position of the amphidial fovea and distinct lateral differentiation of the somatic cuticle with five other species: P. concinnum Wieser, 1954, P. corniculata Gourbault, 1980, P. mirabile Cobb, 1917, P. multipapillatum Filipjev, 1922 and P. stomachor Wieser, 1954.

P. proximamphidum sp. nov. differs from *P. concinnum* (Chile, 70–80 m) with the index c' (7.45–8.12 *versus* 6), longer posterior cylindrical part of the tail (52–62% *versus* 41%), relative width of the amphidial fovea (55–59% c.b.d. *versus* 40% c.b.d.), lesser number of supplementary organs (13–14 *versus* 20).

P. proximamphidum sp. nov. differs from *P. corniculata*, a geographically close species (Angola Basin, 2063–3615 m) with much longer tail (index c 4.00–6.03 *versus* 11.4–13.5 and c' 7.45–8.12 *versus* 2.3–2.5) with longer posterior cylindrical part of the tail (52–62% *versus* 21%), more anterior position of the ventral pore at about half the distance from the cephalic apex to the nerve ring *versus* just at the nerve ring (54–60 μ m and 105 μ m, respectively), bigger amphidial fovea (width 9–11.5 μ m *versus* 7 μ m), lesser number of supplementary organs (13–14 *versus* 20).

The original description of *P. mirabile* (no locality indicated by Cobb) misses some significant details and any indication on locality, hence the relation of the new species to *P. mirabile* remains unclear. However *P. proximamphidum* sp. nov. is distinctly separated from *P. mirabile* in the body length (911–1203 μ m versus >1800 μ m), smooth versus jonted setae of the cephalic ring, smaller amphidial fovea (55–59% c.b.d. versus 93% c.b.d.), lesser number of supplementary organs (13–14 versus 20).



FIGURE 9. *Pomponema proximamphidum* sp. nov., details. A: male N1 (holotype), entire; B: male N3 (paratype), cloacal region. Scale bars: A 100 μ m; B 10 μ m.

P. multipapillatum is known from two thorough descriptions of Filipjev (1922, Black Sea, sublittoral silt) and Lorenzen (1972, Helgoland in the North Sea, 30–34 m). *P. proximamphidum* sp. nov. differs from *P. multipapillatum* with much longer tail (index c 4.00–6.03 *versus* 7.3–10 and c' 7.45–8.12 *versus* 3.7–4.5) with longer posterior cylindrical part of the tail (52–62% *versus* 28–44%), position of the ventral pore (respectively 54–60 μ m and 15–38 μ m from the cephalic apex to the ventral pore), shorter setae of the cephalic ring (2–4.5 μ m *versus* 4–8 μ m), lesser number of supplementary organs (13–14 *versus* 15–19).

P. proximamphidum sp. nov. differs from *P. stomachor* (Chile, tidal exposed sand) by smaller body (911–1203 μ m versus 1950–2170 μ m), longer tail (index c 4–6.03 versus 7.1–8, c' 7.45–8.12 versus 7), much shorter setae of the cephalic crown (2–5.5 μ m versus 3–18 μ m), smaller amphidial fovea (9–11.5 versus 20 μ m), shorter distance from the cephalic apex to the ventral excretory pore (width 54–60 μ m versus 110–150 μ m), smaller spicules (33–44.5 μ m versus 75 μ m), lesser number of supplementary organs (13–14 versus 15–19).

Desmodoridae Filipjev, 1922 *Desmodora* de Man, 1889

Verschelde *et al.* (1998) proposed a taxonomic revision together with an emended generic diagnosis and a list of valid species of *Desmodora*. The list is supplemented in the NeMys database (Deprez et al. 2005).

Desmodora striatocephala sp. nov.

Figs 10-11

Type material: **Holotype** male. Type specimen deposited in the DIVA nematode collection.

Type locality: DIVA I, Meteor 48/1, Station 325/4, Multicorer 8: South-east Atlantic Ocean, 19°58.3'S & 002°59.8'E, depth 5450 m. 14 July 2000.

Etymology: The species name reflects fine cross striation of the head.

Description. Body cylindrical, of brownish-yellow colouration. Anterior end truncate. Somatic cuticle finely but distinctly annulated (just posterior to the cephalic capsule, nine annules for 10 μ m on convex body side and twelve annules on the opposite concave side; in the midbody, 17–20 annules for 10 μ m), with no lateral differentiation.

Body length 1009 μ m, a 34.8, b 7.6, c 7.4. Body diameter at the level of: cephalic setae 16 μ m, amphidial fovea 21 μ m, nerve ring 29 μ m, cardia 29 μ m, midbody 29 μ m, cloaca 24 μ m.

Labial region slightly drawn inward and therefore inner and outer labial sensilla not discernible. There are four short cephalic setae $3 \mu m$ long at anterior cephalic capsule. Cephalic capsule $18 \mu m$ long, shaped by thick cuticle with very fine traces of fused annules; the annules of the cephalic capsule by a factor of 1.5–2 wider and much less distinct than postcapsular annules.

Amphidial fovea very large and occupies nearly the whole lateral surface of the cephalic capsule. Amphidial fovea loop-shaped, slightly longitudinally oval and narrowed to its anterior end. Exit site of the amphidial nerve is thus unusually situated at the anterior end of the fovea where descending and ascending branches contact with one another. Amphidial fovea width 16 μ m or 76% c.b.d; distance from the cephalic apex to the amphidial fovea 3–4 μ m.

Somatic setae arranged in longitudinal rows distinct in the pharyngeal region and becoming irregular in the intestinal region.

Cheilostoma indistinctly discernible because of the dense pigmentation. The subsequent part of the buccal cavity narrow, equal to the cephalic capsule. Walls of the buccal cavity and small but distinct dorsal tooth very weakly sclerotized.



FIGURE 10. *Desmodora striatocephala* sp. nov., holotype male. **A**: total view; **B**: anterior body; **C**: posterior end. Scale bars: A 100 *im*; B, C 50 *µ*m.

Pharynx slender, evenly muscular, with sinuous cuticular lining of the internal lumen. Posteriorly, the pharynx widened into a clear roundish bulb. Pharynx width at the level of the nerve ring 13 μ m; posterior bulb 24 μ m wide and 25 μ m long. Nerve ring hardly visible. No indication of a renette cell.

Cardia short, trapezium-shaped. Intestine with yellow-brownish inclusion droplets.

Testis singular, outstretched, situated ventrally to the intestine. Spermatozoa relatively large, of uncertain shape, with granular content. Vas deferens divided into alternate regions made up of cells with transparent and coarsely granulated content.



FIGURE 11. Desmodora striatocephala sp. nov., details of the holotype male. A: Anterior end; B: cloacal region. Scale bars: 10 µm.

Spicules arched, distally pointed and proximally widened into shovel-like knobs, Gubernaculum paired, as two curved plates nearly parallel to the distal half of the spicules. Spicules length 29 μ m (chord) and 40 μ m (arch); gubernaculum plate 15 μ m long.

Precloacal ventral cuticle thickened and transparent. About five midventral supplementary organs inserted in the precloacal cuticle. Supplementary organ presents an intracuticular canal with a small papilla on the surface of the cuticle. The supplementary organs decrease in size from the cloaca anteriad.

Tail elongate conical, relatively slender, with terminal spinnerete tube. Tail length 5.32 anal diameters long. There a few pre- and postanal subventral setae on the posterior body; their length up to 4.5 μ m, greater than those of the intestinal region.

Diagnosis. Body length 1009 μ m, a 34.8, c 7.38. There are four short cephalic setae 3 μ m long at anterior cephalic capsule. Cephalic capsule 18 μ m long, shaped by thick cuticle with traces of fused annules; the annules of the cephalic capsule by a factor of 1.5–2 wider and much less distinct than postcapsular annules. Amphidial fovea very large and occupies nearly the whole lateral surface of the cephalic capsule. Amphidial fovea loop-shaped, slightly longitudinally oval and narrowed to its anterior end. Amphidial fovea width 16 μ m or 76% c.b.d. Precloacal ventral cuticle thickened and transparent. About five midventral supplementary organs inserted in the precloacal cuticle. Supplementary organ present as an intracuticular canal with a small papilla on the surface of the cuticle. Tail elongate conical, relatively slender. Tail length 5.32 anal diameters long.

Differential diagnosis: *Desmodora striatocephala* sp. nov. is characterized by very fine but distinct cross striation of the cephalic capsule. Some related desmodorid genera such as *Paradesmodora* Stekhoven, 1950, *Echinodesmodora* Blome, 1982 and *Stygodesmodora* Blome, 1982 are also characterized by a cross-striated periamphidial cuticle hardly distinguishable from that of the neck region. However, the cephalic region of *D. striatocephalata* is clearly different in having a thickened cuticle with very fine transversal grooves thus forming a cephalic capsule set off the neck region with thinner cuticle and sharp grooves between annules.

Desmodora striatocephala sp. nov. is well characterized by a combination of very large amphidial fovea occupying nearly the entire lateral surface of the cephalic capsule and thickened midventral preanal cuticle with a few supplementary papillae inserted therein in males. The new species shares this set of features with *D. cuddlesae* Inglis, 1963 and to some lesser degree with *D. inflexa* Wieser, 1954. *D. striatocephala* sp. nov. differs from *D. cuddlesae* by the shorter body (1009 μ m versus 1760–1980 μ m), relatively longer tail (c 7.38 versus 13.5–14.1, c' 5.32 versus 2.65–2.75), absolutely smaller but relatively bigger amphidial fovea (16 μ m wide and 76% c.b.d. versus 26–37 μ m and 59% c.b.d.), about five versus twenty-nine preanal supplementary papillae in the ventral thickened transparent cuticle. *D. striatocephala* differs from *D. inflexa* with shorter body (1009 μ m versus 2450 μ m), relatively thicker body (a 34.8 versus 53.7), about five versus fourteen preanal supplementary papillae in the ventral thickened transparent cuticle and shorter tail (c 7.38 versus 25.8, c' 5.32 versus 2.00). Other *Desmodora* species with ventrally thickened preanal cuticles are much more distinguished from *D. striatocephala* in other characters.

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