



Re-description of two atypical species of *Pungentus* Thorne & Swanger, 1936, with proposal of *Stenodorylaimus* gen. n. (Nematoda, Dorylaimida, Nordiidae)

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Abstract

Two species of the genus *Pungentus* originally described by Thorne and Swanger (1936), namely *P. intertextus* and *P. textilis*, are re-described on studying type material. Both species are very similar morphologically and characterized by having large general size (body 3.7–5.1 mm long), odontostyle comparatively long (about twice the lip region width) and slender, with small aperture, relatively short neck (b -ratio = 7.0–9.0), rounded conoid tail, and slightly irregularly spaced ventromedian supplements which lack hiatus. This morphological pattern significantly differs from that found in other *Pungentus* species, and hence a new genus *Stenodorylaimus* is proposed to accommodate the two species herein studied. Descriptions, measurements, line illustrations and LM pictures are provided for both species. The new genus is compared in detail with its closest relatives.

Key words: Dorylaimida, morphology, nematodes, new genus, *Pungentus*, re-description, taxonomy, type material

Introduction

In their early monograph of dorylaims, Thorne and Swanger (1936) described two new species of *Dorylaimus* Dujardin, 1845, namely *D. intertextus* and *D. textilis*, which were later transferred to the new genus *Pungentus* by Thorne (1939). The true identity of these species has remained controversial until now.

Referring to *D. intertextus*, Thorne and Swanger (1936) stated that “This species was described from poorly prepared specimens. A further study may show that it belongs to a genus other than *Dorylaimus*, perhaps *Pungentus*”. Thorne (1939) examined additional material subsequently collected from the type locality and noted that “... There are no cuticularized pieces about the vestibule yet the species so closely resembles *Pungentus textilis* that it might be classed as a variety by some workers. Therefore the species is transferred to *Pungentus* although it lacks what is probably the most outstanding generic character”. Goodey (1963) classified it under the genus *Eudorylaimus* Andrassy, 1959 because it had no cuticularized plates around the stoma entrance. And Jairajpuri and Baqri (1966; see also Ahmad & Jairajpuri, 1979) regarded it as *species inquirendae* because of the poor and inadequate description. No other information of taxonomic interest about this species is available, since after its original description the type material was never re-examined, and its only later record in the Iberian Peninsula (Palomo, 1979) has not been confirmed.

Concerning *D. textilis*, there are no data other than that provided by the American authors.

Type material of both species forms part of Thorne's collection deposited with USDANC in Beltsville (Maryland, USA), and was available to study by courtesy of Dr. Zafar A. Handoo. The main objective of this contribution is to present the results obtained upon re-examination of this material and to clarify its identity.

Material and methods

The specimens studied are preserved in six permanent glycerine mounts, and placed on 76 × 26 mm aluminium slides to allow handling. The information included on the labels of slides of Thorne's collection and the specimens