



Description of two new and five known species of the genus *Axonchium* Cobb, 1920 (Nematoda : Dorylamida) from India with diagnostic compendia and keys to species of the genera *Axonchium* and *Syncheilaxonchium* Coomans & Nair, 1975

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Abstract

Two new and six known species of soil-inhabiting nematodes belonging to the genus *Axonchium* Cobb, 1920 are described and illustrated from India. *Axonchium meghalayense* n. sp. is characterized by its body length (1.6–1.9 mm), odontostyle length (9.5–10 µm), the presence of a short isthmus-like structure between the anterior and posterior parts of the pharynx, and rounded tail. The vagina in females is slightly bent posteriorly, and the anterior uterine branch is a long sac. Males have 41 µm long spicules, lateral guiding pieces with bifurcated distal ends, and five ventromedian supplements starting above the range of spicules. Body length in *A. noreasum* n. sp. is 1.0–1.5 mm, its odontostyle is 7–10 µm long, and the two parts of the pharynx about each other. Females have a posteriorly directed vagina, and an anterior uterine branch 45–138 µm long. Males have two well-spaced ventromedian supplements, spicules 30–36 µm long and conoid tail. *Axonchium amplicolle* Cobb, 1920; *Axonchium bulbosum* Williams, 1958; *Axonchium elegans* Jairajpuri, 1964; *Axonchium neoeletum* Rahman, Jairajpuri & Ahmad, 1985; *Axonchium phukani* Rahman, Jairajpuri & Ahmad, 1985; *Axonchium parasacatum* Rahman, Jairajpuri & Ahmad, 1985 are redescribed. Three recently described species, *Axonchium sturhani* Naz et al., 2007, *A. parassaculum* Naz et al., 2007 and *A. singaporense* Ahmad & Naz, 2010, because of their continuous lip region with amalgamated lips are transferred to the genus *Syncheilaxonchium* as *S. sturhani* (Naz et al., 2007) n. comb., *S. parassaculum* (Naz et al., 2007) n. comb. and *S. singaporense* (Ahmad & Naz, 2010b) n. comb. Keys and compendia to the species of the genera *Axonchium* and *Syncheilaxonchium* Coomans & Nair, 1975 are also provided.

Key words: *Axonchium*, compendium, India, key to species, known species, new species, *Syncheilaxonchium*