

A review of the genus *Amphimonhystera* Allgén, 1929 (Monhysterida: Xyalidae, Marine Freelifving Nematodes) with description of three new species

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Abstract

Four of the six known *Amphimonhystera* species are either redescribed or described including, *A. galea* Fadeeva, 1984, *A. marisalbi* sp. n., *A. molloyensis* sp. n. and *A. pallida* sp. n. (the two former species from the White Sea, Northern Russia and the two latter species from the Arctic deep sea). Generic diagnosis is emended and a pictorial key for identification of *Amphimonhystera* species is constructed. Characters of *Amphimonhystera* and some problems with Xyalidae taxonomy are discussed. Genotype *A. anechma* differs significantly from the other five *Amphimonhystera* species by having a tail tip devoid of terminal setae. *A. marisalbi* sp. n. is most similar to *A. galea* in general appearance and structural characters but differs from the latter by very low inner labial sensilla, lesser number of setae in the cephalic crown as well as by shorter setae of the cephalic crown and tail terminal setae. *A. molloyensis* sp. n. is distinctly separated from both *A. galea* and *A. pallida* sp. n. by very short setae of the cephalic circle and by proximal position of the amphids. *A. pallida* sp. n. differs from the more similar *A. molloyensis* sp. n. by a smaller and less elongate amphid and a longer distance from the anterior end to the amphid. The differences between *A. pallida* sp. n. and *A. galea* are shorter setae of the cephalic circle and a longer distance from the anterior end to the amphid.

Key words: *Amphimonhystera*, Arctic Ocean, deep-sea nematodes, marine free-living nematodes, Monhysterida, Nematoda, taxonomy, Xyalidae, White Sea

Introduction

In a survey of marine fauna of Ireland, Southern (1914) described a peculiar monhysterid nematode species under the name *Monohystera anechma*. This species is distinguished by