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Paracomesoma minor sp. n. and *Microlaimus validus* sp. n. (Nematoda) from the coast of Vietnam

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Abstract

Two nematode species isolated from sediments of the littoral zone of South China Sea on the coast of Vietnam are described and illustrated. *Paracomesoma minor* **sp. n.** is closely related to *P. elegans* Gagarin & Thanh, 2009 and *P. lissum* Gagarin & Thanh, 2009. It differs from the former species in the shorter body, longer and more slender tail, longer cephalic setae and shorter spicules, and from the latter species in the shorter body, longer cephalic setae, presence of cervical setae and smaller number of precloacal supplements in males. *Microlaimus validus* **sp. n.** is morphologically closest to *M. citrus* Gerlach, 1959 and *M. nanus* Blome, 1982 and differs from both species in the longer body, relatively shorter pharynx and relatively shorter and thicker tail.

Key words: description, free-living marine nematodes, *Microlaimus validus* **sp. n**., new species, *Paracomesoma minor* **sp. n**., South China Sea, taxonomy, Vietnam

Introduction

The free-living nematode fauna of Vietnam has been studied in connection with the creation of a new database for the biomonitoring assessment of water quality in watershed and wetland ecosystems of Vietnam in its entirety. This work was conducted during 2007–2010 as a part of the Vietnam National project for study of biodiversity of free-living nematodes of coastal Vietnam in the Ho Chi Minh City region.

Material and methods

Nematode samples were collected in March 2010 from littoral zone along the South China Sea coast of North Vietnam. Samples were taken from a boat using a Polar grab. One sample was collected at each station. Three replicates (subsamples) were taken for nematode analysis. All samples were fixed in hot 40% formalin. The nematodes were extracted by centrifugation method using Ludox-TM 50 solution, gradually transferred to anhydrous glycerin and finally mounted on permanent slides (Williams & Williams 1974). Observations, measurements and photographs were made using a Nikon Eclipse 8oi light microscope equipped with Nomarski DIC accessories, Nikon DS-Fil digital camera and PC with NIS-Elements D 3.2 software for imaging and analysis. In these samples, 67 species of free-living nematodes have been found, and 20 of these appear to be new to science. The descriptions of nine new species have already been published (Gagarin 2012, 2013a, 2013b; Nguyen Vu Thanh & Gagarin 2013). Descriptions and illustrations of two more new species are given in the present article.

Abbreviations:

a—body length divided by maximum body diameter;
a.d.—anal or cloacal body diameter, in μm;

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