

FIGS. 194. Fig. 1. Triangular and transparent cuticular areas (arrows) in the 8th and 9th abdominal sternites of the female larva. Fig. 2. A vertical furrow (arrow) on the posterior half of the 8th and 9th abdominal sternites of the female pupa. Figs. 3. and 4. The 8th and 9th abdominal sternites of the male larva (Fig. 3) and pupa (Fig. 4) showing no sexual markings on them.

genital pore on the 8th abdominal sternite and an oviducal pore on the 9th abdominal sternite. The female larva of the present insect resemble the above cases only in having their 8th and 9th abdominal sternites associated with the external sexual characters but differ from both in having flat transparent areas instead of the pits or dark areas. Likewise, the female pupa of the present insect resembles the condition described by Kean and Platt³ and not that described by Stammeshaus⁴ and Lal and Chandra⁵.

From the foregoing it is clear that the external sexual characters in the juvenile stages of different species of Lepidoptera could be very variable and need to be ascertained individually in each case.

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PLECTONCHUS CUCUMIS SP. N.
 (NEMATODA, PANAGROLAIMIDAE) FROM
CUCUMIS MELO VAR. *PHUT*

DURING the survey, for helminth contamination of fruits and vegetables undertaken at Jodhpur, Rajasthan, a species of *Plectonchus* hitherto undescribed was found in the slimy rotten part of the fruit of *Cucumis melo* var. *phut*.

Plectonchus cucumis spn. (Fig. 1 A-D).

Holotype (female): L = 1.12 mm; a = 16; b = 6; c = 9; V = 71.4.

Paratype (females, n = 6): L = 0.90-1.09 (0.99) mm; a = 12.8-15.5 (14.1); b = 5.2-6.4 (5.8); c = 6.9-8.3 (7.6); V = 71.5-73.4 (72.4).

Body stout. Cuticle 2 μ thick with fine longitudinal striations. Head with three conical lips not offset, each with one apical papilla. Stoma short cylindrical, 10-12 μ long with poorly developed rhabdions (in one specimen only cheilorhabdions fairly sclerotized; in second, pro-, meso-, and meta-rhabdions slightly sclerotized; and in remaining rhabdions not distinct).

Corpus nearly cylindrical, 123-125 μ long, isthmus short, 20-23 μ and terminal bulb valvated 31-32 \times 28-29 μ in size. Nerve ring encircles the middle of isthmus. Excretory pore not visible. Intestine transparent, moderately broad with thick granular walls and a narrow lumen. Rectum 43-35 μ long. Vulva post-equatorial. Ovary single, prodelphic and reflexed, about 110-112 μ long. Uterus with 8-14 coilings. Vagina short, 18-20 μ long. Tail conoid.

Male not known.

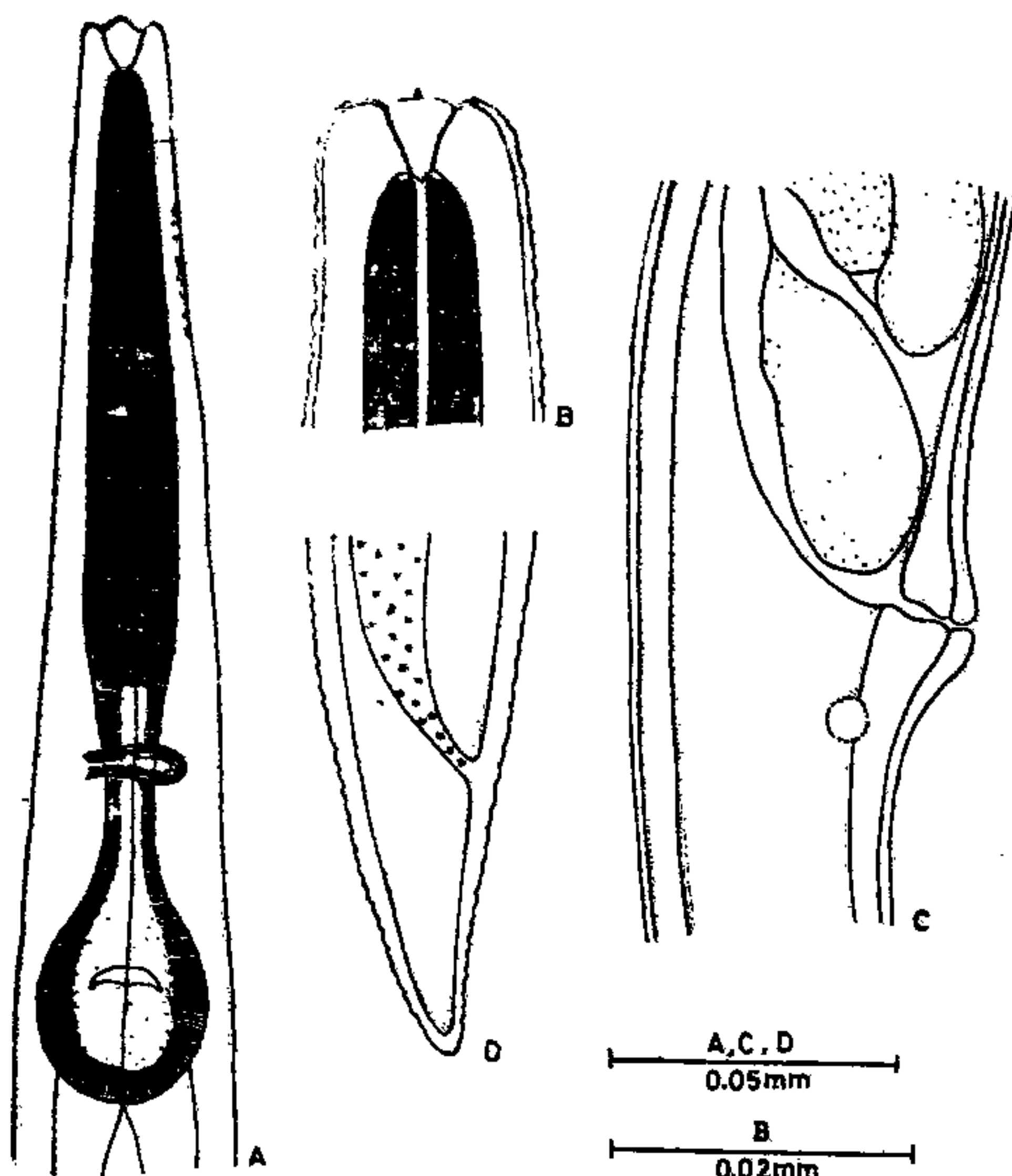


FIG. 1. *Plectonchus cucumis* sp.n. Female—A. Anterior end; B. Anterior end 15, \times 100; C. Vulvar region; D. Tail.

Diagnosis :

P. cucumis sp.n. is distinguished by fairly wide buccal chamber, characteristic tail and value of 'a' and 'c'. The present species resembles *P. cuniculari* Fuchs, 1930¹ in general topography, yet, differs in the number of uterine coils and shape of the tail, besides the host.

Type Locality and Habitat :

Collected from slimy flux of the fruit of *Cucumis melo* var. *phut* by Mr. G. R. Soni on October 8, 1978 at Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Type Slides :

Holotype on slide No. 104, Paratypes (4) on slide No. 105 and (2) on slide No. 106, deposited in the Department of Zoology, University of Jodhpur, Jodhpur.

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THE APHIDOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INDIA

At the plenary session of "Symposium on Recent Trends in Aphidological Studies" held under the auspices of Utkal University, Bhubaneswar (June 9-12, 1979), a society named "The Aphidological Society, India" has been formed to cater the needs of scientists working on problems concerning aphids. The Society

intends to publish a newsletter and to held periodical symposia presently.

Details can be had from the General Secretary, The Aphidological Society, India, c/o Entomology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, 35 Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta 700 019.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU FELLOWSHIP

Prof. T. N. Ananthakrishnan, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta 700 012, has been awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship. During the tenure

of the Fellowship, Prof. Ananthakrishnan will work on the project 'Ecology of Thysanoptera'.