Chapter 11

Description and diagnosis of Hemicycliophora species

1. Hemicycliophora typica de Man, 1921
   (Figs 25, 26)

In a compost heap at the Municipal Park, Bergen-op-Zoom, The Netherlands, de Man (1917) found a single male nematode specimen that he later described (de Man, 1921) as Hemicycliophora typica n. gen. n. sp. However, he was unable to distinguish fully the new genus due to the uncertain structure of the pharynx and buccal cavity, and consequently it was placed in the family Alaimidae (Baylis & Daubney, 1926). Loos (1948) demonstrated that females of Hemicycliophora actually belonged to the genus Procriconema, which was created by Micoletzky (1925) for females with a long stylet with large basal knobs and a distinct pharynx with median bulb and males unknown. The male of P. membranifer was identical to that of H. typica. Subsequently, Loos regarded P. membranifer as a junior synonym of H. typica and transferred all Procriconema species to Hemicycliophora. However, Thorne (1955) redescribed H. typica from specimens supposedly collected from the type locality. He showed that the females did not have longitudinal striae as described by Loos and therefore reinstated H. membranifer as a valid species. Soon after, Meyl (1955) and Paetzold (1958) also reported descriptions of H. typica that agreed with Thorne’s description. Goodey (1963) did not accept Thorne’s description of H. typica as the latter description was based on male and female specimens not collected from the type locality as claimed, but from soil in Zeeland, some 112 km away. Consequently, he renamed H. typica Thorne, 1955, as H. thornei and considered the identities of both species uncertain. Loof (1968) redescribed H. typica from topotypes and their progeny, and designated a neotype after determining that the holotype no longer
Fig. 25. Hemicycliophora typica. Neotype population. A: Female anterior region; B: Female posterior region; C: Female cuticle sculpture; D: Female en face; E: Male en face; F: Male anterior end; G: Male pharyngo-intestinal junction; H: Male tail. After Loof (1968).