**ROTYLENCHUS EXIMIUS N. SP. (NEMATODA: HOPLOLAIMINAE) FOUND AROUND ALMOND ROOTS IN TUNISIA**

**BY**

M. RAFIQ SIDDIQI
Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

*Rotylenchus eximius* n. sp. has an offset head, 38-41 μ long buccal spear bearing spherical basal knobs, orifice of dorsal oesophageal gland 11-13 μ behind spear base, spermatheca in uterus, a postanal extension of the intestine, and phasmids located in the anal region. Only females have been found.

**ROTYLENCHUS EXIMIUS N. SP.**

(Figs. 1-11)

*Measurements.* 6 females (in glycerine): L = 1.2-1.4 mm; a = 32-37; b = 8-9; c = 48-57; V = 54-55; spear = 38-41 μ; o 1) = 28-31.

Holotype female: L = 1.35 mm; a = 37; b = 9; c = 48; V = 54; spear = 39 μ; o = 31.

**Description. Female:** Body assumes a slightly ventrally arcuate to a close C-shaped form when relaxed in hot water. Body cuticle marked with coarse, transverse striae 3 μ apart near mid-body. Lateral fields marked with four incisures which completely interrupt transverse striae except in the cervical region (Fig. 6), about 1/5 as wide as body. Hypodermis finely striated. Phasmids small, pore-like, located near anal region (Figs. 9-11).

Head set off, button-like, with its cuticle divided into small irregular blocks (Fig. 4); last annule of head with about 16 such blocks (Fig. 3). Labial framework highly sclerotized, typically hexaradiate, with dorsal and ventral arms bifurcate posteriorly. Outer margins of labial framework extending from basal plate about two body annules posteriorly; its inner margins drawn out to form an inverted funnel-shaped spear guide which, besides the basal region of the labial framework, provides the attachment surfaces for the protruder muscles of the spear. *En face* view shows six lips and an elevated labial disc (Fig. 2). A pair of cephalids located behind head at level of fifth body annule.

Buccal spear robust; its basal knobs rounded, about 7 μ across. Outlet of dorsal oesophageal gland about three to four spear knob-widths or 11-13 μ behind spear base. Procorpus of oesophagus cylindrical, narrowed at its junction with median

---

1) Distance of the orifice of dorsal oesophageal gland from spear base expressed as % of spear length.