CRICONEMOIDES CITRICOLA N. SP. (NEMATODA: CRICONEMATIDAE), WITH A REDESCRIPTION OF CRICONEMA MURRAYI (SOUTHERN, 1914)

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Criconemoides citricola n. sp. from Mysore State, India, has an attenuated tail end, 73-78 body annules, 48-51 μ long spear and vulva located on 8-9th annule from posterior end.

Criconema murrayi obtained from strawberry soil, Woodleigh, Devon, England is redescribed because the original description is poor and insufficient.

Criconemoides citricola n. sp. was found heavily infesting the roots of Citrus sinensis at Jog Falls, Mysore State, South India. Presumably this eelworm was contributing towards the poor growth and yield of the citrus tree.

Criconema murrayi was originally described by Southern (1914) as Ogma murrayi from moss in Belclare, County Mayo, Ireland. His description is poor and many morphological data are lacking, especially on the oesophagus, spear, excretory and reproductive systems. The species is, therefore, being redescribed here.

CRICONEMOIDES CITRICOLA N. SP.

(Fig. 1, F-M)

Measurements. 15 females (in glycerine): L = 0.38-0.47 mm; a = 9-11; b = 4.0-5.5; c = 22-32; V = 90-92; spear = 48-51 μ; total body annules = 73-78.

Female (Holotype): L = 0.42 mm; a = 10.5; b = 4.1; c = 24; V = 50-91.

Body short and plump, anteriorly blunt and posteriorly tapering behind vulvar region to an attenuated tail (Fig. 1, M), only slightly ventrally arcuate. First body annule directed outward and forward, distinctly marked off from the rest, 16 μ wide, other 76 annules are retrorse, covered by thick cuticle which is finely crenate at the annular edges. Lateral fields or lines absent although occasional anastomoses are present. At the posterior end cuticular bumps are formed due to the broken annules.

En face view shows four well developed sub-lateral lobes around a large, low, labial disc. Amphidial apertures small, oval, on lateral margins of labial disc (Fig. 1, H). Cephalic frame-work sclerotized, hexaradiate. Spear very robust, 49.5 μ long, extending through 11 body annules; spear shaft 15 μ long; spear knobs 10 μ across. Protractors of spear strongly developed.

(The drawings of H. pseudobrachyurus are included in this figure, because the present author described it as a new species before the paper of De Grisse (1964) was published. When both species proved to be identical the description in the present paper was withdrawn).