wall: no juveniles that had hatched but not emerged were found. Pea root diffusate may retain its activity in the soil after removal of the plants, for leachate from soil in which peas had been grown 12 weeks before induced hatches of almost 25% in cysts from the pot cultures.

The hatching of *H. goettingiana* in pea root diffusate seems to involve an interaction with the soil and the age of the plant.

We thank Miss Jude Bennison for checking the cyst identification.


**MARIA TERESA VINCIGUERRA**1): Position and relationships of the genus Thonus Thorne, 1974 (*Nematoda, Dorylaimoidea*).

Tjepkema *et al.*, (1972) divided *Eudorylaimus* Andrásy, 1959 into six groups on body length, “c” value and tail shape. One is the “nothus” group, type species *Eudorylaimus nothus* (Thorne & Swanger, 1936), which has the following distinctive characters: L = 0.8-3.0 mm; a = 20; b = 3.5; c = 20; lips separated from each other and offset from the body; spear 10 times as long as wide, tail bluntly conoid, straight or slightly curved ventrally. The species of the “nothus” group differ from others in the genus, and especially from species in the “carteri” group (of which *E. carteri* (Bastian, 1865) is the type species of *Eudorylaimus*) in tail shape, bluntly conoid but conical, pointed, ventrally curved in the others. Many species of this group are similar to some of *Aporcelaimellus* from which they differ in the following: lips not as deeply offset, anterior end of spear guiding sheath ring-like or only weakly plicated, cuticle with two layers, not three. Some insufficiently described species of the “nothus” group may belong to *Aporcelaimellus*, which, with *Eudorylaimus*, needs a revised definition.

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Loof & Coomans (1970) point out that *Eudorylaimus kaszabi* (Andrássy, 1959), belonging to the “nothus” group of Tjepkema et al. (1972), differs from species of the “carteri” group in morphological features and in the unusually great variability of the distance between the anterior subventral gland nucleus (S1N1) and the posterior one (S1N2): the coefficient K (distance between the dorsal gland nucleus (DN) and S1N1 % of the DN-S1N2 distance) ranges from 36 to 76, whereas it is usually >70 in Dorylaimidae and <70 in Aporcelaimidae; so *E. kaszabi* is misplaced in *Eudorylaimus*.

Thorne (1974) established a new genus of Dorylaimoidea, *Thonus*, with five new species and two others belonging to *Eudorylaimus*: namely *E. nothus* (which he designated as the type species of *Thonus*) and *E. circulifer* Loof, 1961. *Thonus* is distinguished from *Aporcelaimellus* by its smaller size, less muscular oesophagus, shorter spear aperture and thick, disc-like portion of cardia (Thorne, 1974).

Although the two previously known species included in the genus *Thonus* were attributed to *Eudorylaimus*, Thorne gave no reason for their transfer nor did he draw attention to differences between the two genera. Moreover, the position assigned by Thorne to the new genus *Thonus* is doubtful as in the index and in the text it is included in the family Aporcelaimidae, whereas in the diagnosis it is attributed to Dorylaiminae, a subfamily of Dorylaimidae.

Many specimens of *E. kaszabi* from Northern Italy (Lombardore, Rovasenda) have features supporting its transfer to the genus *Thonus*: small size (about 1 mm), thin two-layered cuticle, odontostyle aperture 2/5 of odontostyle length, disc-like portion of cardia between oesophagus and intestine, tail straight, convex-conoid with blunt terminus, small glands anterior and posterior to the vulva, which, however, seems to be longitudinal. Unlike the males of the *Thonus* species described by Thorne (1974), males of *E. kaszabi* have many supplements (17-18) close together. The shape of the vulva, usually constant within a species, is less so within a genus. In almost all species of *Eudorylaimus* the vulva is transverse but in some it is longitudinal. *Aporcelaimellus*, characterized in its original description by a pore-like vulva, has many species with a transverse vulva. The same can be said of the number of supplements. Therefore I transfer this species to *Thonus* giving *Thonus kaszabi* (Andrássy, 1959) n. comb.

Probably most species in the “nothus” group will have to be transferred from *Eudorylaimus* to *Thonus* and some to *Aporcelaimellus*. Then the genus *Eudorylaimus* should include only those species with a conical tail, more or less pointed or subdigitate, often ventrally curved. Consequently a new diagnosis of the genus *Thonus* can be given and its position among Dorylaimoidea better defined.


Small nematodes, rarely >2.0 mm long. Lips distinct and more or less offset from the body. Tail shape the same in both sexes, hemispheroid to rounded