NEW AND KNOWN SPECIES OF *CHRONOGASTER* COBB, 1913
(NEMATODA: LEPTOLAIMIDAE)

BY

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Several *Chronogaster* species are described from West Africa, Brazil and Papua New Guinea. Redescriptions are given for *C. serrulata* Loof, 1973 and *C. magnifica* Andrássy, 1956. New species described are: *C. multispinatoides* n. sp., which is close to *C. multispinata* Heyns & Coomans, 1980 but differs from it in most measurements; *C. parva* n. sp. which is distinguished by its small size and long slender tail with laterally directed terminus; and three species with vacuolated lateral glandular bodies, viz. *C. rotundicauda* n. sp. with a bluntly rounded tail terminus, *C. spicata* n. sp. with a single stout dorsal mucro at the tail terminus, and *C. cameroonensis* n. sp. with a relatively long tail bearing a single delicate mucro. A single specimen is reported which differs from *C. parva* n. sp. only in tail length and shape, and another single specimen resembling *C. tenuis* Loof and Jairajpuri, 1965 is described but not named. A key is also supplied for the females of *Chronogaster*.

**Keywords**: taxonomy, identification, key.

The taxonomic history and morphology of the genus *Chronogaster* Cobb, 1913 were discussed by Heyns & Coomans (1980) in a paper in which they described four new species from South Africa. The present paper deals with several species from West Africa, Brazil and Papua New Guinea, mostly collected by various members of the Instituut voor Dierkunde, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Belgium. The species are from freshwater as well as from terrestrial habitats.

The terminology used in this paper agrees with that of our previous paper, except that we now use the term pharynx for that part of the feeding apparatus previously referred to as oesophagus.

It should also be pointed out that whereas previous authors (see page 193 in Heyns & Coomans, 1980) referred to the crystalloids as being in the body cavity, cross sectioning of *Chronogaster rotundicauda* n. sp. has revealed that the crystalloids are mainly within the cells of the body wall, and not in the body cavity.

**DESCRIPTIONS**

*Chronogaster serrulata* Loof, 1973
(Fig. 1 A-H)

This species was described by Loof (1973) from a freshwater ditch near Uitkyk in Suriname. The present material, comprising 17 females and four

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Fig. 1. *Chronogaster serrulata* Loofof, 1973. A: Anterior end. B: Surface view of head. C: Basal bulb and prolongation. D: Portion of body showing nerve ring and excretory duct. E: Vulval region with part of uterine egg. F-H: Tail end in various views, lateral and ventral. a-g: Transverse sections at the levels indicated in C. In b only the pharynx is shown; in all others the entire section is shown.