SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

W. Decraemer*: A note on the type material of Tricoma spuria Inglis, 1968.

During a study of Tricoma species from Papua New Guinea a restudy of the type material of Tricoma spuria Inglis, 1968 was needed to clarify some of the taxonomic problems I came across. T. spuria was originally described from 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ and 2 juveniles. No holotype was indicated and type material was chosen from a total number of 10 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ and 6 juveniles, some in bad condition (Inglis, 1968: p. 29-30). Type material was deposited in the nematode collection of the British Museum of Natural History, London: 2 ♂♂, 1 juvenile (BM-NH Reg. Nos 1965.1103-1104) and 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (BM-NH Reg. Nos 1965.1105-1108).

At present the collection of the BM-NH only contains three type specimens of T. spuria: 1 ♀ (slide 1965.1105-1108) 1 ♂ (slide 1965.1105), and 1 ♂ (slide 1965.1103-1104). A study revealed that: slide 1965.1105-1108 contains the female specimen represented by Inglis (1968, Fig. 68); slide 1965.1105 includes a male specimen with 62 main rings, belonging to the same species as the female specimen; its copulatory apparatus was represented by Inglis (1968, Fig. 70); slide 1965.1103-1104, however, shows a male specimen, different from the former male, and with an aberrant copulatory apparatus represented by Inglis (1968, Fig. 72).

Among the syntypes, I designated the male specimen of slide 1965.1105 as lectotype of Tricoma spuria.

Additional data on T. spuria


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Somatic setae fine, tapering to an open tip. Terminal pair of subventral and subdorsal setae differentiated by length and shape: elongated, stout setae slightly laterally displaced with a bell-shaped end. Somatic setae inserted on low peduncles not protruding out of the concretion ring. Stoma wide, thick-walled, at base embracing the slightly protruding end of the pharynx; apparently three teeth. Pharynx detached from stoma. Postrectal blind sac absent. Ocelli present opposite ring 11 (♂), ring 13 (♀).

Male: internal structure in bad condition. Somatic setae arranged as follows: 11 subdorsal setae on each side, right 6, 9, 13, 18, 22, 29, 37, 43, 48, 52, 57, left 6, 9, 13, 18, 24, 29, 36, 43, 48, 53, 58; 21 subventral, right 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 25, 28, 32, 35, 38, 40, 43, 45, 48, 51, 56, 57, left 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 47, 51, 55, 57, first pair of setae on ring 3 displaced laterally. Spicules 46 μm long, slightly curved; corpus mainly with parallel walls, distally tapered to pointed tip, proximally with a narrower, offset capitulum. Gubernaculum 31 μm long, consists of a 16 μm long distal part with thin sclerotized wall and two weakly sclerotized apophyses, 15 μm long. Distal part of gubernaculum with a 2.5 μm large rounded, posteriorly curved end.

Female: Somatic setae arranged as follows: subdorsal: right side 6, 10, 18, 23, 30, 36, 44, 50, 54, 59, 61 = 11, left side 7, 13, 19, 24, 30, 38, 46, 50, 53, 58 = 10; subventral: right side 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 20, 23, 27, 31, 34, 37, 41, 46, 51, 55, 57 = 18, left side 4*), 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17, 20, 23, 27, 31, 33, 36, 39, 42, 46, 50, 55, 57 = 19 with the first pair of setae on ring 4 laterally displaced. Reproductive system didelphic-amphidelphic with outstretched branches. Vulva large, slightly protruding from naked medioventral part of the body wall in main ring 33. Tail with 9 main rings.

Diagnosis. T. spuria is characterized by its habitus, 62 main rings, 10-11 pairs of subdorsal setae in ♀, 11 in ♂ and 18-19 pairs of subventral setae in ♀, 21 in ♂, a broad triangular head-shape, the presence of differentiated setae subdorsally and subventrally on the tail in both sexes (stout, elongated setae with bell-shaped tip), and by the shape of the copulatory apparatus with the gubernaculum consisting of a distally hooked corpus and two dorsocaudally orientated apophyses.

Discussion. T. hopperi australiensis Decraemer, 1978 and T. hopperi hopperi Timm, 1970) resemble T. spuria especially in the shape of the spicules and hooked gubernaculum, a feature by which they differ from all other Tricoma species. T. spuria differs from both species in the number of main rings, the somatic setae, the length of the spicules and the position of the vulva.

*) Seta broken off.