CRICONEMATIDS FROM A CYPRESS FOREST OF SOUTH ARGENTINA

BY

NORMA BRUGNI1) and ELISEO CHAVES2)

1) Centro Regional Universitario de Bariloche, 8400 Argentina
2) INTA — Estación Experimental de Balcarce, 7620 Argentina

One new and two known species of criconematids are described from a cypress forest in South Argentina. Ogma comahuensis sp.nov. is characterized by having eight longitudinal bands of semicircular scales with irregularly shaped spines, 58-70 body annuli, head with two crenated annuli of the same size, stylet 89-100 µm long, vulva on 8-11 annuli from posterior end and tail conical with pointed terminus. This species can be distinguished from the other species in the genus with tipped scales, by its peculiar semicircular scales packed by irregular shaped spines. Hemicycliophora arenaria males differ from the original description and from all other Hemicycliophora males in having a bursa reaching the tail tip. Criconema mutabile is described from male and females; the male has four lateral lines.

Keywords: taxonomy, soil nematodes, Criconematina, new species, Argentina

During the years 1987-88, several soil samples were taken in an ecotone cypress system (Austrocedrus chilensis (Don) Flor. et Boutleje) in the Andean-Patagonian region of Argentina. The sampling site was located at Estancia San Ramón, Departamento de Pilcaniyeu, Provincia de Rio Negro (960 m.l.s.); pH of soil 7.3-6.6; mean temperature 2-5°C (winter); 11-14°C (summer). The samples were taken at 60 cm depth, near the rootlets of trees.

One new species and two known species of criconematids were found and are described here. The nematodes were fixed in hot formaldehyde and processed to pure dehydrated glycerine by the de Grisse (1969) method. All females of Hemicycliophora were measured along the external cuticle. The nematodes were prepared for scanning electron microscopy (SEM) according to Rivoal (1974) and observed with a JEOL JSM 6400 SEM.

DESCRIPTION

Hemicycliophora arenaria Raski, 1958
(Fig. 1, A-D)

Females (n = 20): L = 0.64-0.85 mm (0.74±0.04); a = 17-31 (23±2.8); b = 4.4-5.8 (5.1±0.4); c = 13.5-20.6 (16.4±2.1); V = 89-91.5 (90±0.8); stylet = 73-81µm (78.5±1.8); prorhabdion = 60.8-67.7 (65±2.0); R = 150-178 (164±7.7); Rst = 18-21 (19±0.9); Rex = 30-38 (33±1.9); Roes = 30-38 (33±2.4);