DESCRIPTION OF PARACTINOLAIMOIDES UNICUS N. GEN., N. SP.  
(DORYLAIMIDA: ACTINOLAIMIDAE) FROM INDIA

BY

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Paractinolaimoides n. gen. is distinctive in having four sclerotized plates at the level of the onchia  
in addition to mural denticles arranged in several rows. The new genus is related to Paractinolaimus  
Meyl, 1957 and Scleroactinolaimus Ahmad et al., 1992 but differs from them in the nature of the  
cheilostomal armature. The type species Paractinolaimoides unicus n. gen., n.sp. is described and  
illustrated.

Keywords: Soil nematode, Dorylaimida, Actinolaimidae, Paractinolaimoides unicus n. gen., n.sp.

A soil sample collected from Chikmagalur, Karnataka State, India, yielded  
specimens of an actinolaimid nematode which on detailed study was found not  
to fit in any nominal genus. The name Paractinolaimoides unicus n. gen., n.sp. is  
proposed. The new genus is placed in the subfamily Paractinolaiminae because  
of the presence of mural denticles.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were killed and fixed in hot 4% formaldehyde, dehydrated by the  
slow method and mounted in anhydrous glycerin. Measurements were made  
with an ocular micrometer.

Paractinolaimoides n. gen.

Diagnosis: Paractinolaiminae. Body moderate sized, slightly ventrally curved  
upon fixation. Cuticle thick with fine transverse striae. Lip region offset by a  
depression. Amphids stirrup-shaped with slit-like apertures. Vestibular ring  
corrugated. Cheilostome, in addition to four onchia, provided with numerous  
denticles arranged in well defined rows and four additional vertical plates at the  
level of onchia. Odontostyle dorylaimoid with aperture about half of its length.  
Post-extension constriction of oesophagus present. Basal shield present. Female  
reproductive system amphidelphic; vulva transverse. Males with dorylaimoid  
spicules, lateral guiding pieces and 11-12 spaced ventromedian supplements  
arranged in a series. Female tail elongate-filiform with an acute tip, male tail  
short conoid with bluntly rounded tip.
Type species *Paractinolaimoides unicus* n. gen., n.sp.

*Diagnosis and relationship:* *Paractinolaimoides* n. gen. is distinctive in having four sclerotized plates at the level of the onchia in addition to mural denticles arranged in several rows.

The new genus is closely related to *Paractinolaimus* Meyl, 1957 in having mural denticles and ventromedian supplements arranged in a series, but differs from it in having four additional cheilostomal plates at the level of the onchia. Similar but long and very strongly developed vertical plates have recently been reported in *Scleroactinolaimus* Ahmad, Khan & Ahmad, 1992 but the new genus differs from it in having mural denticles, comparatively smaller and weak additional plates and broader odontostyle.

**DESCRIPTION**

*Paractinolaimoides unicus* n.sp.

(Fig. 1)

Measurements:

*Paratype female* (*n* = 1): L = 1.94 mm; a = 54; b = 4.4; c = 7.8; c' = 11; V = 48; G₁ = 12; G₂ = 14; odontostyle 21 μm; odontophore 24 μm; prerectum 87 μm; rectum 30 μm; tail 247 μm; ABD 22.5 μm.

*Holotype female:* L = 2.13 mm; a = 43; b = 3.7; c = 8.0; c' = 9.3; V = 49; G₁ = 10; G₂ = 13; odontostyle 22.5 μm; odontophore 25.5 μm; prerectum 105 μm; rectum 45 μm; tail 266 μm; ABD 28.5 μm.

*Paratype males* (*n* = 2): L = 2.00-2.13 mm; a = 42-46; b = 3.7-3.8; c = 83-85; c' = 0.7-0.8; T = 54-66; odontostyle 22.5-24.0 μm; odontophore 25-26 μm; spicules 54-57 μm; lateral guiding pieces 10.5-12.0 μm; ventromedian supplements 11-12; prerectum 150-157 μm; rectum 52-54 μm; tail 24-26 μm; ABD 30-35 μm.

*Adults:* Body straight to slightly ventrally curved upon fixation, more prominently in the posterior region, especially in males. Cuticle finely transversely striated, 3 μm thick at mid-body and 4.5-6.0 μm on tail. Lateral chords about one-fourth of corresponding body-width at mid-body. Lateral body pores irregularly arranged throughout body, dorsal and ventral body pores three each in the oesophageal region.

Lip region rounded, set off by expansion and slight depression, 2.5 times as wide as high. Amphids stirrup-shaped, apertures 10.5 μm or about half of lip region width wide. Vestibular ring corrugated. Cheilostome armed with four large onchia and numerous denticles arranged in rows, four additional vertical plates associated with cheilostome present at the level of the onchia. Odontostyle 1.0-1.2 lip region widths long with aperture about half of its length. Guiding ring ‘double’, fixed ring at 18-20 μm or 0.8-0.9 lip region width from