HIRSCHMANNIA N.G. DIFFERENTIATED FROM RADOPHOLUS THORNE, 1949 (NEMATODA: TYLENCHOIDEA)

BY

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Re-examination of a specimen of Tylenchorhyncbus spinicaudatus Sch. Stek., 1944 showed it to be conspecific with Radopholus lavabri Luc, 1957. This is made the type of Hirschmannia n.g. which also contains H. gracilis n. comb. and H. oryzae n. comb. The lectotype of H. spinicaudata is redescribed and Radopholus redefined.

Schuurmans Stekhoven (1944) described two female nematodes, from material collected in the Albert National Park, former Belgian Congo, as Tylenchorhyncbus spinicaudatus. The species has been overlooked by nematologists and subsequently not dealt with in either general or specialised papers, though Tarjan (1961) records it. One of us (M.L.) has recently examined one of the original specimens and found that, in two important respects, the original description was inadequate: 1) there is a considerable overlap of oesophagus and intestine instead of an abutted junction as figured by Schuurmans Stekhoven (Fig. 1 a, c); 2) the lateral field is 2/7 of the body-width and is areolated so that each of the four incisures is crenate (Schuurmans Stekhoven reported the lateral fields at 1/8 of the body-width and not crenate). These clarifications of the form of the oesophagus, combined with the shape of the head, spear and tail, indicate that the species should be transferred from Tylenchorhyncbus to Radopholus. Further, a comparison of Schuurmans Stekhoven's specimen with types of Radopholus lavabri Luc, 1957 show that Tylenchorhyncbus spinicaudatus and Radopholus lavabri are conspecific, though there are slight differences which can be attributed to geographic variation.

Thorne (1949) established Radopholus, with type R. similis, “to receive those didelphic species which most clearly resemble the genus Pratylenchus”. An appraisal of the species at present contained in Radopholus indicates that there are two separate groups. With R. similis go R. inaequalis and R. neosimilis and the second group comprises R. lavabri, R. gracilis, R. oryzae and R. mucronatus. For the latter group we propose the name Hirschmannia in honour of Dr Hedwig Hirschmann whose work on Radopholus gracilis did much to clarify its status and synonymy (Hirschmann, 1955).

The differences between the two groups are indicated in Table I.
Fig. 1. *Hirschmannia spinicaudata* (Sch. Stek., 1944) n. comb. holotype female. a, anterior part; b, tail; c, anterior part. (a & b after Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1944; c, original).