A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF NYGOLAIMITAE (ENOPTIDA)

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Aetholaimus bucculentus n. sp., n. g., collected from soil around sugar cane roots in Mauritius, is described and figured. It differs from all previously known Nygolaimids by the sclerotization of its stoma.

NYGOLAIMITAE 1)

Aetholaimus n.g.

Stoma partly sclerotized; consisting of an outer bowl-like chamber (vestibule) with sclerotized thickenings and an inner chamber supported by six sclerotized, movable ribs. Spear a mural tooth, borne subventrally on the wall of an eversible pharynx. Oesophagus mural tooth, borne subventrally on the wall of an eversible pharynx. Oesophagus well developed throughout, expanded posteriorly for more than half its length, without a spiral sheath of connective tissue. Three glandular bodies at oesophageal-intestinal junction. Ovaries paired, reflexed.

Type species: Aetholaimus bucculentus n. sp.

Distinguished from all known genera of the Nygolaimidae by the possession of a stoma with a sclerotized supporting framework: otherwise resembling Nygolaimus.

Aetholaimus bucculentus n. sp. (Fig. 1)

5 ♀ ♂; L = 1.46 (1.32-1.57); a = 50 (43-54); b = 4.2 (4-4.5); c = 86 (83-90); V = 6.844 (42-46) 7.9

Holotype: L = 1.51 mm., a = 55; b = 4; c = 86; V = 6.7448.7

Body cylindroid, long and slender, widest in region of reproductive organs, tapering very gradually to both extremities, less robust and more supple than that of most Dorylaimoids. Tail short, slightly bulbous, rounded at terminus.

Cuticle with fine transverse striae. Two pairs of pores distinct near terminus.

Anterior end truncate. Lip region only slightly set off when viewed in profile, papillae not conspicuous. Stoma consisting of a bowl-shaped vestibule in the lip region and an inner spacious, more or less cylindrically-shaped chamber; walls of vestibule with strong, heavily sclerotized, curved ridges; walls of inner chamber with six slightly curved, sclerotized ribs situated between the radii of the lips and with their anterior ends abutting on the thickened vestibule, upon which

1) The family and subfamily classification adopted is that proposed by Clark (1961).
Fig. 1. *Aetholaimus bucculentus* n. sp., n. g. (female). A-C: Head end showing spear in different positions. D-F: Stomatal structures in head-on view at levels i, ii, iii, marked on figure A. G: Moulting specimen. H: Posterior part of oesophagus. I: Tail.