OSSTELLA HAMATA N. GEN., N. SP., ZELDIA SERRATA N. SP. AND
ACROBELES THORNEI N. SP., THREE NEW NEMATODES FROM
SOUTH AFRICA (RHABDITIDA: CEPHALOBIDAE)

BY

JUAN HEYNS

Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa

Three new nematodes are described. Osstella hamata n. gen., n. sp. is placed in a new subfamily Osstellinae: The stoma projects beyond the level of the lips, which are replaced by hooks. The basal bulb has no valve. In Zeldia serrata n. sp. the labial probolae have minutely serrated edges. Acrobeles thornei n. sp. is distinctive because the cuticle is divided into plates.

The three new species described in this paper were collected from cultivated fields in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. Measurements and drawings were made from specimens killed by heat, fixed in F.A.A. and mounted in glycerine.

Family Cephalobidae Chitw. and Chitw., 1934
Subfamily Osstellinae n. subfn.

Diagnosis: Cephalobidae. Rhabdions fused to form a tube, projecting beyond level of lips. Lips replaced by two subdorsal and two subventral hooks. Esophagus with subcylindrical corpus, isthmus not well demarcated, and basal bulb weakly developed, non-muscular and without valves. Ovary single, prodelphic, reflexed back past vulva, without additional flexures. Spermatheca present near flexure.

Male unknown.

Type genus: Osstella n. gen.

Diagnosis: Characters of the subfamily.

This nematode is exceptional in the absence of the typical valvular apparatus in the basal esophageal bulb. The only other recorded genus in the Cephalobidae similar to it in this respect is Daubaylia Chitw. and Chitw., 1934, which is a parasite of snails, and which has a totally different head structure. The female gonad, without a double flexure but with a spermatheca, corresponds with that of Elaphonema Heyns, 1962.

OSSTELLA HAMATA N. SP.

(Fig. 1)

2 females: $L = 0.59-0.63$ mm; $a = 25-27$; $b = 4.2-4.6$; $c = 11.6-12.7$; $V = 10.5-17.7$ mm; $59.6-5.10.8$. 
Body subcylindrical, tapering only slightly towards the extremities. Cuticle coarsely annulated, the annules about 2.7 μ wide around the middle of the body. Lateral field about one-seventh as wide as body, marked by three incisures, the