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***Plesiorotylenchus truncatus* (SHER, 1964) N. COMB.
(NEMATA : HOPLOLAIMIDAE)**

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Plesiorotylenchus Vovlas, Castillo & Lamberti, 1993 described in the Hoplolaimidae, is characterized by the continuous lip region with *i*) longitudinal striae radially disposed, *ii*) distinct rectangular labial disc, *iii*) no differentiated lip sectors. The type and only species is *P. striaticeps* Vovlas, Castillo & Lamberti, 1993. However, a second species could be placed in that genus.

Scutellonema truncatum Sher, 1964 was characterized by its "lip region conical, truncate, not offset, without annules; labial disc elevated, basal lip annule with six longitudinal striations" (Germani *et al.*, 1986). SEM photographs of the head (Figs 1 A, B and 2 A in Germani *et al.*, 1986) show a head pattern similar to that of *P. striaticeps*: lip region conical, continuous, labial disc prominent and rectangular, no transverse annulation, lip sectors not differentiated, presence of six faint, longitudinal, striae (one ventral, one dorsal, four submedian). This head pattern does not fit entirely with the emended diagnosis of the genus *Scutellonema* proposed by Germani *et al.* (1986).

S. truncatum head differs from that of *P. striaticeps* only by the absence of numerous longitudinal striations, only six of them being present, corresponding probably to the limits of the lip sectors.

This species therefore appears to represent an interesting transitional form between "true" *Scutellonema* species and *Plesiorotylenchus*. However, it appears closer to the latter genus by the head pattern and, consequent-

ly, it is proposed to transfer *S. truncatum* to the genus *Plesiorotylenchus* as *Plesiorotylenchus truncatus* (Sher, 1964) n. comb. *P. truncatus* differs from *P. striaticeps* by *i*) the shorter female body (0.5-0.8 *vs* 1.26-1.72 mm), *ii*) the shorter stylet (21-29 *vs* 45-50 μ m), *iii*) the greater diameter of the phasmid (1.8-3.7* *vs* 1-1.25** μ m), *iv*) the number of longitudinal striae on the head (6 *vs* 35-40), *v*) the absence *vs* presence of males.

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* Measured on the female paratype deposited in the Laboratoire de Biologie Parasitaire, Protistologie, Helminthologie, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

** Measured on drawing Fig. 2 in Vovlas *et al.* (1993).