

ON THE IDENTITY OF *OXYDIRUS AMPLICEPHALUS* COLOMBA  
& VINCIGUERRA, 1979 (DORYLAIMIDA : BELONDIRIDAE)

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Accepted for publication 2 November 1992.

**Key-words :** *Oxydirus amplicephalus*, *O. loofi*, taxonomy.

In 1980 Ferris *et al.* published a revision of the genus *Oxydirus* Thorne, 1939. They had not yet seen the publication of *O. amplicephalus* Colomba & Vinciguerra, 1979, described on the basis of four males from the Island of Sicily, Italia. Dr. Vinciguerra kindly lent me the three paratypes of this species. Two are somewhat flattened; of one the tail is evidently incomplete. Dimensions : L = 1.37-1.39 mm; a = 43-48; b = 5.4-6.4; c = 5.5-6.2; c' = 13 [11 in the specimen with incomplete tail]; tail length = [220] 238-253  $\mu$ m; pharynx = 218-252  $\mu$ m; odontostyle = 6  $\mu$ m; spicules (along axis) = 29-32  $\mu$ m; supplement number = 7-9 (in one specimen not visible owing to sublateral position on the slide). The pharynx widens at about 58-61 % of its length. The tail is very slender, almost filiform, and does not show swellings. The original description gave spiculum length as

26  $\mu$ m; comparison with the illustration shows that this is the straight distance between the extremities. The hyaline distal part of the tail measures 26-35  $\mu$ m.

These males agree wholly with those of *O. loofi* Ferris, Goseco & Ferris, 1980. Consequently *O. loofi* Ferris, Goseco & Ferris, 1980 is herewith placed in synonymy with *O. amplicephalus* Colomba & Vinciguerra, 1979, the latter name becoming the valid one for this species. The synonymy of these two species was mentioned already in Bongers' (1988) book; I had told him my opinion, but not pointed out that it was still unpublished. For measurements see the Table. There is a difference in body length between *O. amplicephalus* and *O. loofi*, but in the first place the gap is lessened by the "other specimens", and secondly, upon synonymization body length of the longest specimens is 122-126 % of that of

**Table 1.** Dimensions of *Oxydirus amplicephalus* and *O. loofi* (all measurements in  $\mu$ m, except L, in mm)

	<i>O. amplicephalus</i>		<i>O. loofi</i>			
	Males		Males		Females	
	orig. descr.	own meas.	types	other specimens	types	other specimens
n	4	3	2	3	2	5
L	1.33-1.41	1.37-1.39	1.62-1.68	1.36-1.43	1.71-1.75	1.44-1.63
a	40-46	43-48	56-62	48-65	49-50	48-54
b	5.6-6.7	5.4-6.4	7.6-7.7	6.5-6.7	6.8-8.8	6.7-7.4
c	5.3-6.4	5.5-6.2	5.6-6.1	5.9-6.8	5.2-5.3	5.9-6.5
c'	13-15	13	?	12-14	17	14-16
Tail	$\pm$ 250	238-253	265-296	211-239	326	237-275
Pharynx	206-261	218-252	208-221	205-219	251	211-233
Ph. exp. %	60	58-61	61-63	60-63	63	59-62
Spicules	26	29-32	26-29	30-33	-	-
Suppl.	7-9	7-9	10	7-10	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	38-40	38-42
Odontostyle	4.8-5.0	6	5-6	6-8	5.6	5-6
h	?	26-35	?	33	?	?

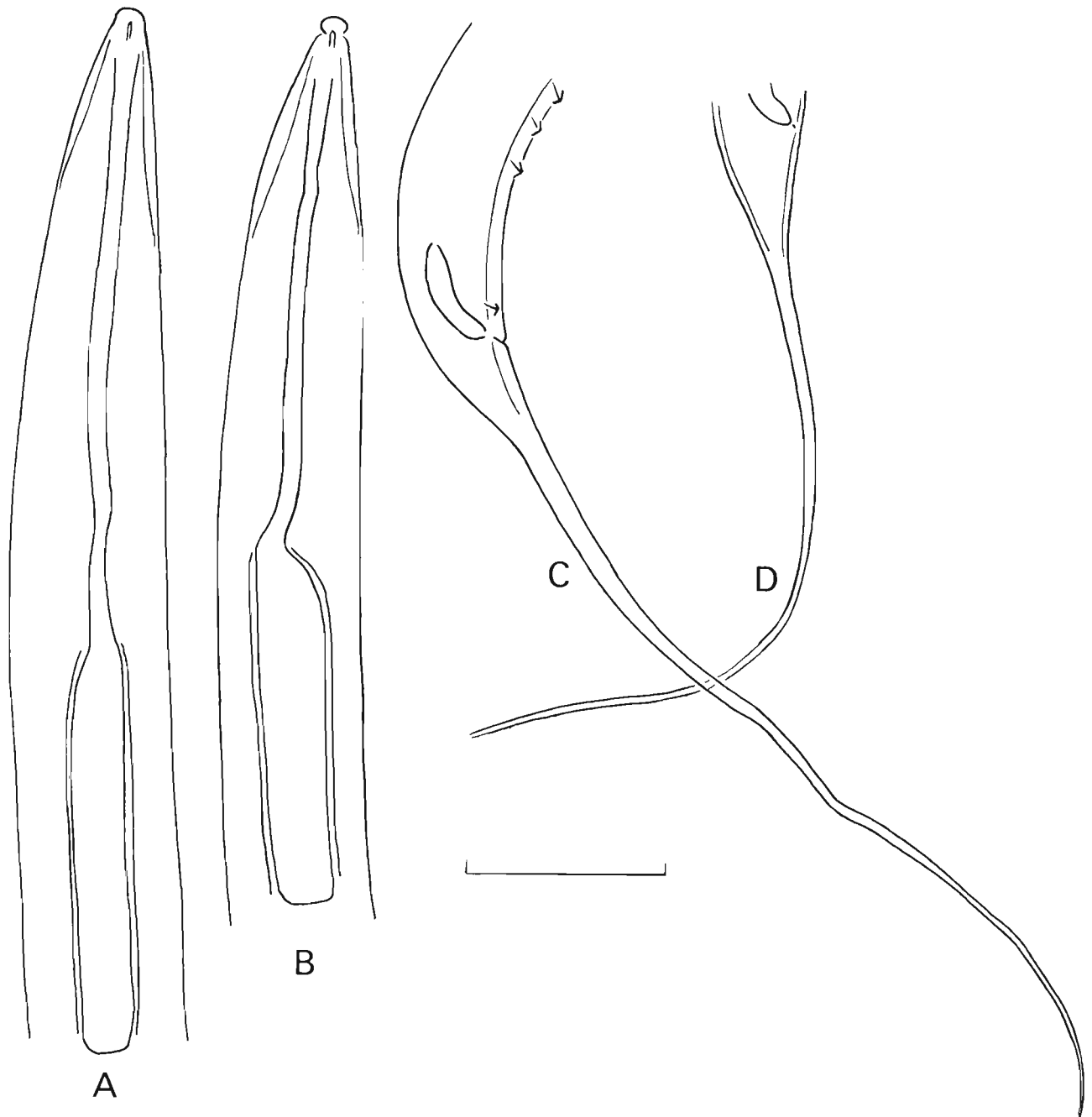


Fig. 1. *Oxydirus amplicephalus*, males. A, B : Neck region; C : Tail, lateral position; D : Tail, sublateral position (scale line = 50  $\mu$ m).

the shortest specimens, which is of the same order of magnitude as in other *Oxydirus* species.

Dr. M. T. Vinciguerra, Catania, Italy, is thanked for putting paratypes of *O. amplicephalus* at my disposal.

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