

SESHADRIELLA DAREKAR & KHAN, 1981, A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF CRICONEMELLA
DE GRISSE & LOOF, 1965 (NEMATODA : CRICONEMATIDAE)

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Seshadriella Darekar & Khan, 1981, with type and only species *S. magnilobata* (1) Darekar & Khan, 1981, has been described as "close to *Macroposthonia* de Man, 1880, *Madinema* Khan, Chawla & Saha, 1976 and *Discocriconemella* De Grisse & Loof, 1965" and placed in the family Madinematidae. One can note that following the actions of Luc and Raski (1981), *Macroposthonia* has to be considered as a genus dubium, *Madinema* as a junior synonym of *Criconemella* De Grisse & Loof, 1965 and Madinematidae as a junior synonym of Criconematidae.

Diagnostic characters given for *Seshadriella* are :
i) 20-25 lateral grooves at posterior end of body ;
ii) well differentiated first head annule, which is unbroken ;
iii) second annule separated from the first by collar-like extension (anteriad) ;
iv) labial disc absent (?). Other characters, not diagnostic, are :
i) rings = 60-68 ;
ii) annules with fine crenate margins ;
iii) anastomoses rare ;
iv) submedian lobes large, distinct, not fused ;
v) vulva open.

One slide labelled as two paratype females of *Seshadriella magnilobata* were loaned by IARI for study. Comparison with the original description and illustrations revealed that :
i) "lateral grooves" are laterad as illustrated (orig. fig. 1 F), but they are also ventrad (orig. fig. 1 G). Actually paratype specimens do not show any distinctive "grooves" ;
ii) the crenate margins of the annules are not detectable on paratypes ;
iii) the labial disc is described as absent and no labial disc is identifiable from lateral view on paratype. One of the paratype females was mounted *in toto* in glycerine jelly, in face view. Due to the thickness of the mounting few details of the labial area could be observed with accuracy ; nevertheless we could observe the presence of four distinct submedian lobes, detached from each other and of medium size ; yet the center of the labial area remained obscure.

The *in toto* mount in glycerine jelly described earlier was made possible by discovery of a third undetected paratype specimen under the ring of the slide. As a consequence of inadequate ringing compound the slide was losing glycerine endangering survival of the paratype specimens. Remounting was required and the extra specimen was recovered. Subsequently

that specimen was prepared for study by SEM and a photograph from it is shown in Fig. 2. The photograph shows clearly that : 1) the submedian lobes are distinct, well-developed and separate from each other as reported in the original description ; 2) there is a labial with an "I" shaped oral apercute and small, oval amphidial apertures laterad ; 3) there is no significant "collar" or notable separation between the first (head) and second (first body) annules ; 4) original drawings (Fig. 1 B, F, G) show fine

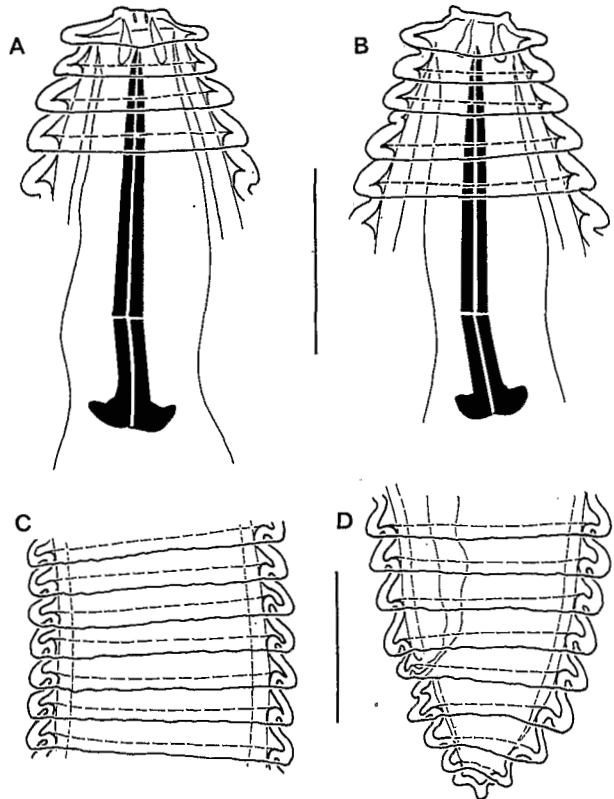


Fig. 1. *Criconemella magnilobata* (Darekar & Khan, 1981) nov. comb. Female. A, B : anterior end ; C : mid-part of body ; D : posterior end. (bars represent 25 μ m).

(1) The original species name *magnilobatus* is here emended as *magnilobata*, *Seshadriella* being feminine in gender.

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crenate posterior margins on *all* body annules except first (head) and last two on the tail — no crenations are notable on any annules when examined by light microscopy (Fig. 1 C, D) or by SEM ; 5) no lateral grooves or arches were detectable on surface of annules of posterior part of body.

The above evidence of presence of labial disc, lack of crenate borders of annules, lack of lateral grooves leaves only one character to consider here as possible evidence to support a separate generic taxon : "one head annule set-off, or well differentiated from the second which has a collarlike extension". In fact the first annule is smaller than the succeeding (second) body annule (16 *vs* 18 μ m in the description ; 19 *vs* 20 μ m on these two paratypes). This is consistent with *Criconemella* in which the body annules gradually diminish in width and thickness at the anterior end. The first annule does appear to be more rounded and not retrorse as in the second and succeeding annules. Otherwise it is not especially distinguished from other body annules. Considering the collar-like (anteriad) extension of the second annule, this is noted in the drawings of the two paratypes. In one (Fig. 1 A) it is slightly more noticeable than in the other (Fig. 1 B). This is not so clearly notable by SEM photographs. Furthermore, illustrations for at least six species of *Criconemella* (*discus*, *ferniae*, *fimbriata*, *inuitata*, *michieli*, *lafaensis*) show a slight separation of the first annule somewhat reminiscent of that given for *S. magnilobata*. Yet they are readily accepted as members of *Criconemella*. The nature and degree of the "collar-like extension" is not sufficient to suggest a generic distinction in view of all the other links to *Criconemella*.

Consequently, *Seshadriella* is considered a junior synonym of *Criconemella*. Although available infor-

mation on *S. magnilobata* is incomplete (no data on juveniles), data are sufficient to transfer this species to the genus *Criconemella* as *C. magnilobata* (Darekar & Khan, 1981) nov. comb.



Fig. 2. *Criconemella magnilobata* (Darekar & Khan, 1981) nov. comb. SEM picture of female labial region (lateral view tilted towards face region), (approx. \times 4 000).

REFERENCES

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