

ON THE USE OF THE GENERIC NAME *MACROPOSTHONIA* DE MAN, 1880  
(NEMATODA : CRICONEMATIDAE)

August COOMANS\*, André DE GRISSE\*\*, Étienne GERAERT\*,  
Pieter A. A. LOOF\*\*\*, Michel LUC\*\*\*\* and Dewey J. RASKI\*\*\*\*\*

\* *Instituut voor Dierkunde, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium,*

\*\* *Laboratorium voor Agrozologie, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent, Belgium,*

\*\*\* *Department of Nematology, Agricultural University P.O.B. 8123, 6700 ES Wageningen, The Netherlands,*

\*\*\*\* *Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Laboratoire des Vers, 61, rue de Buffon, 75005 Paris, France, and*

\*\*\*\*\* *Department of Nematology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, USA.*

For several years, the status of *Macroposthonia* de Man, 1880 has been controversial. Some taxonomists (namely De Grisse, Loof, and Siddiqi) consider it as valid, whereas others (namely Luc and Raski) reject it and place it among *genera dubia*.

In an attempt to solve the problems resulting of such a disagreement, a meeting was held, on May 2nd 1988, at the Institute of Zoology, State University Gent, Belgium. The participants were : A. Coomans, A. De Grisse, E. Geraert, P. A. A. Loof, M. Luc and D. J. Raski.

After heated, but friendly, discussions, all the participants agreed that the arguments for considering *Macroposthonia* a *genus dubium* are well-founded and convincing. Consequently they recommend all taxonomists should avoid use of the name *Macroposthonia*.

These arguments were developed earlier (Luc & Raski, 1981), and are briefly reviewed below :

— the type species, *M. annulata* de Man, 1880, was described on males only. These males clearly belong to Criconematidae, but in that family males show no or insufficient differential characters at generic level, although the curved, acute tail with caudal alae, is known only in species reassembled in "*Macroposthonia*" *sensu* De Grisse & Loof, 1965,

— the type specimens are lost,

— the type locality refers to a moist meadow, close to the town of Leiden, The Netherlands, but building activity over the past one hundred years prevents sampling for topotypes, and neotype, except maybe in remaining gardens and parks.

So the species is known only by the original description (de Man, 1880) and the illustration published later (de Man, 1884),

— identification of *M. annulata* to "*Criconemoides kirjanovae* Andrassy, 1962, as proposed earlier by De Grisse and Loof (1965), is questionable because the male of *M. annulata* differs from that of *C. kirjanovae* by several characters :

- fore-part of body conical, non-annulated *vs* rounded, annulated,

- lateral field with two incisures *vs* four,
- caudal alae well-developed *vs* poorly developed.

As a matter of fact, only the first character appears to be firmly established. Concerning the two other *i)* de Man often used to draw only two incisures in animals proven later to have four (various *Tylenchus*, *Plectus*); *ii)* de Man's lateral and ventral drawings of the tail are somewhat different, the caudal alae appearing more developed on the latter which is perhaps a theoretical reconstruction (?) from data obtained in lateral view. But both cases are unproven hypotheses and as such they cannot be used to argue for the adequation of *M. annulata* and "*C. kirjanovae*."

Consequently, since *i)* the type is not extant; *ii)* a neotype cannot be established, and *iii)* characters of *M. annulata* prevent its identification with "*C. kirjanovae*", or with any other species in the group, there is sound evidence and logic to support the consideration of *Macroposthonia*, as a *genus dubium* and *Macroposthonia annulata* a *species dubia*.

REFERENCES

- ANDRÁSSY, I. (1962). Neue Nematoden-Arten aus Ungarn. I. Zehn neue Arten der Unterklasse Secernentea (Phasmidia). *Acta zool. hungar.*, 8 : 1-23.
- DE GRISSE, A. & LOOF, P. A. A. (1965). Revision of the genus *Criconemoides* (Nematoda). *Meded. Landbouwhogeschool. OpzoekingsStns Gent*, 30 : 577-603.
- LUC, M. & RASKI, D. J. (1981). Status of the genera *Macroposthonia*, *Criconemoides*, *Criconemella* and *Xenocriconemella* (Criconematidae : Nematoda). *Revue Nématol.*, 4 : 3-21.
- DE MAN, J. G. (1880). Die einheimischen, frei in der reinen Erde und im süßen Wasser lebenden Nematoden. *T. nederl. Dierk. Vereen.*, 5 : 1-104.
- DE MAN, J. G. (1884). *Die frei in der reinen Erde und im süßen Wasser lebenden Nematoden der niederländischen Fauna*. Leiden, Nederland, Brill, vi + 206 p., 34 pl., 145 figs.
- Accepté pour publication le 17 mai 1989.*