

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

M. R. SIDDIQI¹) and J. KLINGLER²). *Amplimerlinius dubius* comb. n. for *Aphelenchus dubius* Steiner, 1914.

Goodey (1932) proposed *Anguillulina macrura* nom. nov. for *Aphelenchus dubius* Steiner, 1914 which had become a junior homonym of *Anguillulina dubia* (Bütschli, 1873) Goodey, 1932 after Goodey's (1932) transfer of *Aphelenchus dubius* and *Tylenchus dubius* Bütschli, 1873 to the genus *Anguillulina* Gervais & van Beneden, 1859. Both *Anguillulina dubia* (Bütschli) and *A. macrura* were later transferred to the genus *Tylenchorhynchus* Cobb, 1913 by Filipjev (1936) and *Aphelenchus dubius* Steiner remained a junior homonym of *T. dubius* (Bütschli). This homonymy was broken upon the proposal of the genus *Merlinius* by Siddiqi (1970) because *Aphelenchus dubius* was then renamed as *Merlinius dubius* (Steiner) Siddiqi, 1970. Tarjan (1973) proposed *Aphelenchus dubius* Steiner, 1914 as *species inquirenda*. In 1976, Siddiqi proposed the genus *Amplimerlinius* for species similar to *Merlinius dubius* but did not transfer this species to it.

In the description of *Aphelenchus dubius*, Steiner (1914) mentioned the habitat as "trockene Ackererde" (dry soil from arable land). No further details were given about the locality. In this publication on free-living nematodes from Switzerland, Steiner described several species, some with a definite indication of a locality, others without it. From the context of this publication, we assume that the localities were not mentioned for those samples which originated from the surroundings of Thalwil (near Zurich) where Steiner then lived and worked. The species for which the localities are given were collected in remote places.

Soil samples originating from a meadow, adjacent to fallow arable land, near the village of Langnau am Albis, about 3 km from Thalwil (coordinates of the exact location are 682.150/237.970 in kilometer-grid of Swiss national map) yielded several individuals of a species whose females fit the measurements, description and illustrations of those described by Steiner (loc. cit.) as *Aphelenchus dubius*. The same species was also found by us from arable land in Tänikon TG and Oberwil BL (near Basel), and we assume that the species enjoys a fairly wide distribution in Switzerland and in Western Europe.

From the study of these topotypes we propose the name *Amplimerlinius dubius* (Steiner, 1914) comb. n. for this species. As the original type material is no

¹) Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology, St. Albans, England.

²) Eidgenössische Forschungsanstalt, CH-8820 Wädenswil, Switzerland,

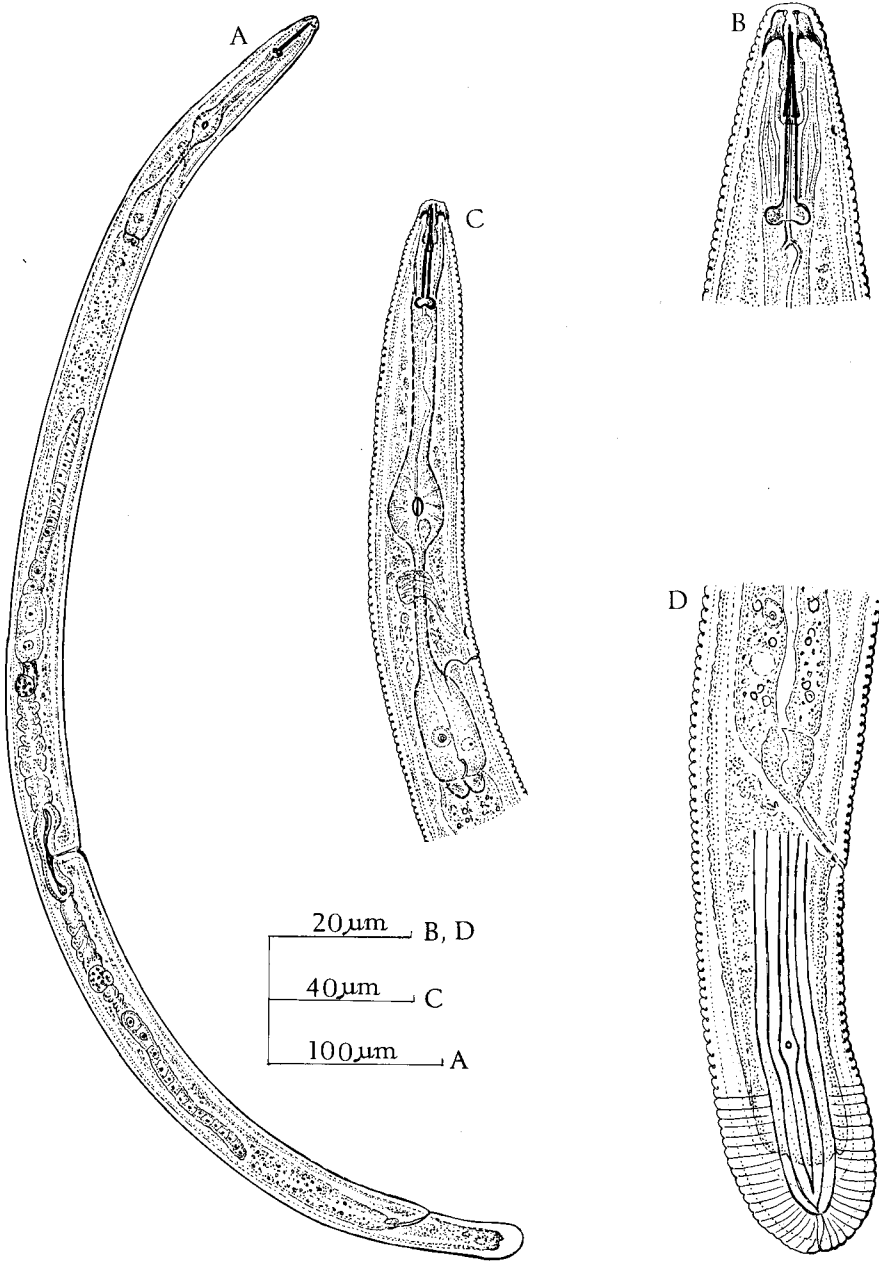


Fig. 1. *Amplimerlinius dubius* (Steiner). Neotype female. A. Entire female. B. Head end. C. Oesophageal region. D. Tail end.

longer available (A. M. Golden informed us that the Steiner collection at the USDA Nematode Collection at Beltsville, Maryland, USA does not contain any specimen of *Aphelenchus dubius* Steiner), we have designated a Neotype (female) out of these topotypes which is described below.

Amplimerlinius dubius (Steiner, 1914) comb.n.

(syn. *Aphelenchus dubius* Steiner, 1914; *Anguillulina macrura* Goodey, 1932; *Tylenchorhynchus macrurus* (Goodey, 1932) Filipjev, 1936; *Merlinius dubius* (Steiner, 1914) Siddiqi, 1976)

(Fig. 1, A-D)

Measurements—Topotypes: 15 ♀ ♀: L = 0.72-0.95 mm (0.81 mm); a = 24.2-29.6 (26.1); b = 4.5-5.8 (5.0); c = 13.3-17.0 (15.1); \acute{c} = 2.1-2.7 (2.5); V = 54.8-58.9 (57.0); Stylet = 25.0-29.5 μ m (27.0 μ m).

7 ♂ ♂: L = 0.70-0.85 mm (0.78 mm); a = 25.5-28.8 (27.2); b = 4.7-5.6 (5.2); c = 11.2-12.4 (11.9); Stylet = 25-27 μ m (26 μ m); spicules = 28.5-32.0 μ m (30 μ m); gubernaculum = 9.0-11.5 μ m (10.4 μ m).

Description—Neotype female (new designation): L = 0.9 mm; a = 28.1; b = 5.4; c = 16; \acute{c} = 2.7; V = $^{28-57.7-23}$; Stylet = 28.2 = μ m.

Body arcuate ventrally (Fig. 1, A). Cuticle striae 1.3 μ m apart near middle. Lateral fields with six smooth incisures, occupying about a third of body-width near middle, not areolated except in oesophageal region. Cephalic region continuous with body contour, with four annules; no longitudinal indentations or grooves on cephalic annules; labial disc absent; framework strongly sclerotized, its outer margins extending posteriorly from basal plate three body annules. Anterior cephalids just behind outer margins of cephalic framework, posterior cephalids about nine body annules behind them. Stylet 28.2 μ m long (Steiner (1914) gave stylet length as one quarter of the oesophageal length of 113 μ m, i.e. 28.2 μ m), with conus 13.5 μ m long and large rounded, well separated basal knobs whose anterior margins appear sloping backwards and outwards. Orifice of dorsal oesophageal gland 3.7 μ m behind stylet base. Oesophagus and paired gonads typical of the genus (Fig. 1, A & C). Excretory pore opposite distal end of basal bulb, three annules behind hemizonid. Vulva open, epiptygma double. Spermatheca with sperm. Tail sub-clavate, 2.7 times anal body-width long, regularly annulated around terminus; hyaline terminal portion 12.5 μ m long (Fig. 1, D). Phasmids conspicuous at middle of tail.

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