

Illustrated Key to the Genera of Free-Living Marine Nematodes in the Superfamily Chromadoroidea—Exclusive of the Chromadoridae¹

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Introduction

This is an illustrated key to 55 genera of free-living marine nematodes of the superfamily Chromadoroidea, exclusive of the Chromadoridae (Nematoda: Chromadorida: Chromadorina). Illustrations are almost all limited to the heads and caudal regions of the included genera. Specific anatomical features are designated to facilitate use of the key.

This is the fourth in a series of keys by the authors to the groups of the free-living marine nematodes. The purpose of these keys is to provide students and other interested persons with a tool to begin the identification of free-living marine nematodes. These keys, along with those provided by Tarjan (1980) and Platt and Warwick (1983), should provide a basis for the identification of the genera of free-living marine nematodes.

Hope and Murphy (1972), Gerlach and Riemann (1974), Andrassy (1976), Lorenzen (1981), and Inglis (1983) have published classifications of free-living marine nematodes. Platt and Warwick (1988) provided descriptions and figures for the species of chromadorids reported from Britain.

The key presented herein is not intended to reflect phylogenetic relationships. It includes 55 genera of free-living marine nematodes in the suborder Chromadorina, superfamily Chromadoroidea, exclusive of the family Chromadoridae.

Although the key follows the classification of Lorenzen (1981), Jensen (1979) and Platt (1982) should be consulted regarding the Comesomatidae and Ethmolaimidae. Jensen (1979) revised the Comesomatidae and provided keys to the subfamilies, genera, and species. Lorenzen (1981) recognized the family Neotonchidae. Platt (1982) revised the family Ethmolaimidae and included the neotonchids in the Ethmolaimidae as the subfamily Neotonchinae Wieser & Hopper, 1966. Platt (1982) provided keys to the subfamilies, genera, and species of the Ethmolaimidae. Platt and Warwick (1988) also included the neotonchids in the Ethmolaimidae but did not segregate taxa at the subfamily level.

1. This document is EENY082, one of a series of the Entomology and Nematology Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date August 1999. Revised June 2014 and June 2021. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication. This document is also available on the Featured Creatures website at <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/>.

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Use of the Key

Couplet numbers and lowercase letters refer to the location of related lower-ranked taxa. When one arrives at a family or subfamily name, rather than another couplet, the genera within that taxon immediately follow in couplets designated by lower-case letters. The parenthetical part of each couplet designation indicates the referent couplet, allowing one to work backward, as well as forward, through the key.

Illustrations in the key were obtained from published references. In some cases, portions of the anatomy shown on the drawings are labeled or emphasized with ink; in other cases pertinent anatomical details have been deleted to better portray the structures of interest. Credit is given for each illustration used.

Taxa included in the key.

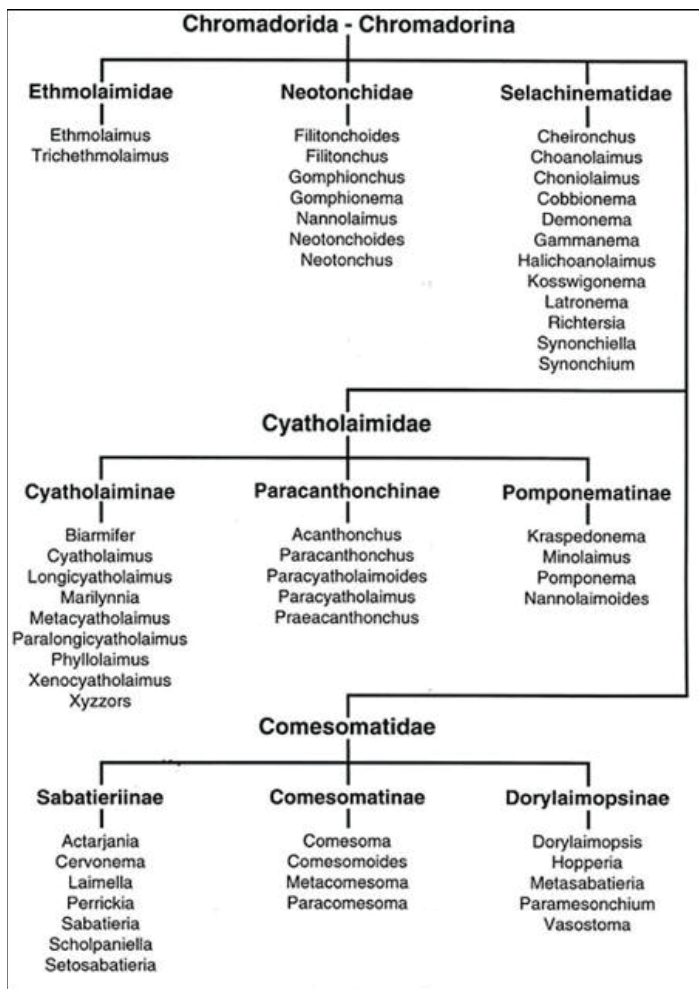


Figure 1. Flow chart of the taxa included in the key for free-living marine nematodes, super family Chromadoridae.

Abbreviations Used in the Key

- a—amphid
- bc—buccal cavity
- cs—cephalic sensilla
- eb—esophageal bulb
- g—gubernaculum
- ga—gubernacular apophysis
- lp—longitudinal punctations
- ls—labial sensilla
- m—mandible
- ps—precloacal supplement
- r—rugae
- rs—cervical sensilla
- s—spicule
- sp—small spines
- ss—somatic sensilla
- t—teeth

Key to the Genera (exclusive of the Chromadoridae)

Chromadoroidea. Cuticle with punctations; transverse striations present or absent. Head without helmet. Amphid variable in shape, difficult to discern in some species. Only those species with a spiral or circular amphid included in the key.

[Note: When two consecutive numbers are shown, they refer to the anterior and posterior ends of the nematode.]

1. Amphid a distinct spiral (Figs. 53a, 81a) 2
- 1'. Amphid not a distinct spiral Chromadoridae (not included)
- 2 (1). Anterior part of buccal cavity with 12 rugae (Fig. 13r); females with reflexed ovaries 5
- 2'. Anterior part of buccal cavity without 12 rugae; females with outstretched ovaries Comesomatidae 3

3 (2). Posterior part of buccal cavity weakly cuticularized; spicules short (2 anal body diameters or less) (Fig. 6s); gubernaculum with dorso-caudally directed apophyses (Fig. 4ga) Sabatieriinae

- **a.** Sublateral longitudinally orientated rows of long cervical sensillae present (Figs. 102, 103) *Setosabatieria* Platt, 1985
- **a'.** Sublateral longitudinally orientated rows of long cervical sensillae absent. b
- **b(a).** Amphids situated about 2.0 head diameters posterior to the anterior end (Fig. 7a) outer labial and cephalic sensillae equal in length (Figs. 7cs, 8) *Cervonema* Wieser, 1954
- **b'.** Amphids situated about 1.0 head diameter posterior to anterior end; outer labial and cephalic sensillae equal or unequal in length c
- **c(b).** Outer labial and cephalic sensillae equal in length; amphid with more than 4 spirals (Figs. 89a, 90) *Pierrickia* Vitiello, 1970
- **c'.** Outer labial and cephalic sensillae unequal in length; amphid with less than 4 spirals d
- **d(c).** Outer labial sensillae shorter than cephalic sensillae; cuticle with lateral differentiation (Figs. 3cs, 4) *Actarjania* Hopper, 1967
- **d'.** Outer labial sensillae longer than cephalic sensillae; cuticle without lateral differentiation e
- **e(d).** Outer labial and cephalic sensillae close together; cuticle without distinct punctations (Figs. 49, 50) *Laimella* Cobb, 1920
- **e'.** Outer labial and cephalic sensillae well separated; cuticle with distinct punctations f
- **f(e).** Gubernacular apophyses long, directed caudally or dorso-caudally (Figs. 98, 99ga) *Sabatieria* De Rouville, 1903
- **f'.** Gubernacular apophyses short, directed dorsally (Figs. 100, 101ga) *Scholpaniella* Sergeeva, 1979

3'. Posterior part of buccal cavity heavily or moderately cuticularized; spicules elongate (more than 2.0 anal diameters long) (Fig. 18s); gubernacular apophyses directed caudally, parallel to spicules (Fig. 18ga), or absent 4

4 (3). Posterior part of buccal cavity collapsed, weakly cuticularized (Fig. 19bc); teeth present or absent Comesomatinae

- **a.** Teeth present at anterior end of buccal cavity; cuticle with or without distinct punctations (Figs. 77, 78). *Paracomesoma* Hope & Murphy, 1972
 - **a'.** Teeth absent at anterior end of buccal cavity; cuticle with distinct punctations b
 - **b(a).** Cuticle with lateral differentiation; gubernaculum with caudally directed apophyses (Figs. 19, 20) *Comesomoides* Goubault, 1980
 - **b'.** Cuticle without lateral differentiation; gubernacular apophyses parallel to spicules (Fig. 18ga) c
 - **c(b).** Outer labial and cephalic sensillae in single circle of 10 (Figs. 57cs, 58) *Metacomesoma* Wieser, 1954
 - **c'.** Outer labial and cephalic sensillae in two separate circles (Figs. 17cs, 18) *Comesoma* Bastian, 1865
- 4'.** Posterior part of buccal cavity expanded, heavily cuticularized (Fig. 42bc), teeth present or absent Dorylaimopsinae

- **a.** Teeth absent (Figs. 61bc, 62) *Metasabatieria* Timm, 1961
- **a'.** Teeth present b
- **b(a).** Lateral differentiation present c
- **b'.** Lateral differentiation absent (Figs. 110, 111) *Vasostoma* Wieser, 1954
- **c(b).** Lateral differentiation of longitudinal rows of coarse punctations (Figs. 26lp, 27) *Dorylaimopsis* Ditlevsen, 1918
- **c'.** Lateral differentiation of transverse rows of coarse punctations. d
- **d(c).** Posterior part of buccal cavity cylindrical (Figs. 42bc, 43) *Hopperia* Vitiello, 1969
- **d'.** Posterior part of buccal cavity conical (Figs. 85bc, 86) *Paramesonchium* Hopper, 1967

5 (2). Amphid unispiral (Fig. 28a); buccal cavity elongate, not funnel-shaped (Fig. 108bc) Ethmolaimidae

- **a.** Extremely long somatic sensillae present; teeth equal (Figs. 108, 109) *Trichethmolaimus* Platt, 1982
- **a'.** Extremely long somatic sensillae absent; teeth unequal, dorsal tooth largest (Figs. 28, 29) *Ethmolaimus* De Man, 1880

5'. Amphid multispiral; buccal cavity elongate, sometimes funnel-shaped 6

6 (5). Teeth mostly absent, mandibles present (Fig. 106m) or absent; if both teeth and mandibles absent, then cuticle

with numerous longitudinal rows of small spines (Fig. 96sp)
..... Selachinematidae

- **a.** Buccal cavity in two parts (Fig. 38); anterior part cup-shaped, posterior part cylindrical, both parts supported by cuticularized rods; mandibles absent b
- **a'.** Buccal cavity not divided into two parts; mandibles present (Fig. 104m) or absent g
- **b(a).** Esophagus with distinct posterior bulb (Figs. 13, 14) *Choniolaimus* Ditlevsen, 1918
- **b'.** Esophagus without distinct posterior bulb c
- **c(b).** Cephalic sensillae short, papilliform d
- **c'.** Cephalic sensillae longer, setiform e
- **d(c).** Tail short, conical; tip blunt (Figs. 11, 12) *Choanolaimus* De Man, 1880
- **d'.** Tail long, cylindrical then conical, sometimes flagellate (Figs. 40, 41) *Halichoanolaimus* De Man, 1886
- **e(c).** Cuticle with 12-50 longitudinal rows of punctations (Figs. 51, 52ld) *Latronema* Wieser, 1954
- **e'.** Cuticle without longitudinal rows of punctations f
- **f(e).** Tail short, conical (Figs. 38, 39) *Gammanema* Cobb, 1920
- **f'.** Tail long, flagellate (Figs. 15, 16) *Cobbionema* Filipjev, 1922
- **g(a).** Mandibles present h
- **g'.** Mandibles absent; cuticle with numerous longitudinal rows of small spines (Figs. 96sp, 97) *Richtersia* Steiner, 1916
- **h(g).** Mandibles equal in length (Fig. 104m) i
- **h'.** Mandibles unequal in length, dorsally reduced (Fig. 24m) j
- **i(h).** Mandibles single distally (Fig. 106m); cephalic sensillae papilliform; lateral differentiation absent; gubernaculum absent (Figs. 106, 107) *Synonchium* Cobb, 1920
- **i'.** Mandibles doubled distally (Fig. 104m); cephalic sensillae setiform; lateral differentiation present; gubernaculum present (Figs. 104, 105) *Synonchiella* Cobb, 1933
- **j(h).** Esophagus with distinct peribuccal bulb (9eb, 10) *Cheironchus* Cobb, 1917
- **j'.** Esophagus without distinct peribuccal bulb, tail variable k

- **k(j).** Tail conical then filiform (Figs. 23-25) *Demonema* Cobb, 1894
- **k'.** Tail short, conical (Figs. 44, 45) *Kosswigonema* Gerlach, 1964

6'. Teeth, if present, appear as a single dorsal tooth and two subventral teeth (Fig. 71t) or a single dorsal tooth (Fig. 36t). If teeth absent then buccal cavity not divided into cup-shaped and cylindrical parts; mandibles absent 7

7 (6). Esophagus with posterior bulb; spicules typically bent about 2/3 distance from proximal end (Fig. 70s); male precloacal supplements well developed, cup-shaped Neotonchidae

- **a.** Buccal cavity small, not heavily cuticularized (Fig. 67bc) b
- **a'.** Buccal cavity large, heavily cuticularized (Fig. 36bc) d
- **b(a).** Labial sensillae setiform (Figs. 67, 68) *Nanolaimus* Cobb, 1920
- **b'.** Labial sensillae papilliform (Fig. 30ls) c
- **c(b).** Spicules broad (Figs. 32, 33) *Filitonchus* Platt, 1982
- **c'.** Spicules slender (Figs. 30, 31) *Filitonchoides* Jensen, 1986
- **d(a).** Dorsal tooth massive (Fig. 36t); subventral teeth absent; spicules with lateral pieces (Figs. 36, 37) *Gomphonema* Wieser & Hopper, 1966
- **d'.** Dorsal tooth not as massive; subventral teeth present or absent; spicules without lateral pieces e
- **e(d).** Dorsal tooth extending anteriorly into vestibule; subventral teeth present, small (Figs. 34, 35) *Gomphonchus* Platt, 1982
- **e'.** Dorsal tooth not extending anteriorly into vestibule (Fig. 71t); subventral teeth present or absent f
- **f(e).** Dorsal and two small subventral teeth present (Figs. 71t, 72) *Neotonchus* Cobb, 1933
- **f'.** Dorsal tooth present; subventral teeth reduced to ventral ridges (Figs. 69, 70) *Neotonchoides* Platt, 1982

7'. Esophagus with or without a posterior bulb; spicules not characteristically bent about 2/3 distance from proximal end; precloacal supplements cup-shaped, tubular or absent Cyatholaimidae 8

8 (7). Ten longitudinal alae present; cuticular punctations absent (Figs. 112, 113) *Xenocyatholaimus* Gerlach, 1953

8'. Longitudinal alae absent; cuticular punctations present 9

9 (8). Precloacal supplements present in male 10

9'. Precloacal supplements absent in male Cyatholaiminae (in part)

- a. Esophagus with posterior bulb; teeth absent (Figs. 83, 84) *Paralongicyatholaimus* Stekhoven, 1950
- a'. Esophagus without a posterior bulb; teeth present or absent b
- b(a). Dorsal tooth reduced or absent; lateral differentiation present (Figs. 59, 60) *Metacyatholaimus* Stekhoven, 1942
- b'. Dorsal tooth prominent (Fig. 22t); lateral differentiation absent c
- c(b). Lips leaf-like, bent backward (Figs. 87, 88) *Phyllolaimus* Murphy, 1963
- c'. Lips not leaf-like, not bent backward (Figs. 21, 22) *Cyatholaimus* Bastian, 1865

10 (9). Male precloacal supplements weakly cuticularized, simple cup-shaped (Fig. 6ps) or narrow tubes; lateral differentiation present Cyatholaiminae (in part)

- a. Male precloacal supplements simple tubes (Figs. 93-95) *Praeacanthonchus* Micoletzky, 1924
- a'. Male precloacal supplements small, cup-shaped (Fig. 6ps) b
- b(a). Buccal cavity with single dorsal tooth; subventral teeth as two pairs c
- b'. Buccal cavity with single dorsal tooth (Fig. 53t); subventral teeth absent or as a single pair d
- c(b). Hypodermal pore complexes present in eight longitudinal rows (Figs. 114-115) *Xyzzors* Inglis, 1963
- c'. Pores arranged in 12 longitudinal rows, reduced in area between nerve ring and preanal region (Figs. 55-56) *Marilynnia* Hopper, 1972
- d(b). Lateral differentiation present (Figs. 53, 54) *Longicyatholaimus* Micoletzky, 1924
- d'. Lateral differentiation absent (Figs. 5-6) *Biarmifer* Wieser, 1954

10'. Male precloacal supplements strongly cuticularized, complex cup-shaped (Fig. 64ps), tubular (Fig. 2ps) or setose; lateral differentiation present or absent 11

11 (10). Male precloacal supplements protrusible tubes (Fig. 2ps) or setose (Fig. 80ps) Paracanthonchinae

- a. Male precloacal supplements protrusible tubes . . b
- a'. Male precloacal supplements setose c
- b(a). Gubernaculum dentate (Fig. 75g) (Figs. 73-76) *Paracanthonchus* Micoletzky, 1924
- b'. Gubernaculum not dentate (Figs. 1, 2) *Acanthonchus* Cobb, 1920
- c(a). Amphids of both sexes dissimilar in size (Figs. 81, 82) *Paracyatholaimoides* Gerlach, 1953
- c'. Amphids of both sexes similar in size (Figs. 79, 80) *Paracyatholaimus* Micoletzky, 1922

11'. Male precloacal supplements complex, consisting of a number of elements (Fig. 64ps) Pomponematinae

- a. Buccal cavity large with teeth (Fig. 46t) b
- a'. Buccal cavity small without teeth (Figs. 63, 64) *Minolaimus* Vitiello, 1970
- b(a). Cuticle with eight longitudinal rows of punctations (Figs. 46-48) *Kraspedonema* Gerlach, 1954
- b'. Cuticle without eight longitudinal rows of punctations c
- c(b). Buccal cavity with large dorsal tooth and two subventral teeth; denticles may also be present; esophageal bulb absent (Figs. 91, 92) *Pomponema* Cobb, 1917
- c'. Buccal cavity with dorsal and subventral teeth reduced; denticles absent; esophageal bulb present (Figs. 65-66) . . . *Nannolaimoides* Ott, 1972

Acknowledgments

We express our sincere appreciation to Drs. K. B. Nguyen, R. P. Esser, and especially G. C. Smart, Jr., for their review of this manuscript and suggestions for its improvement.

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Table 1. Alphabetical List of Genera and Illustration Sources.

Figure No.	Genus	Illustration Source
1-2	<i>Aconthonchus</i>	Wieser 1955, p. 66, Figs. a, b
3-4	<i>Actarjania</i>	Hopper 1967, p. 141, Figs. 5, 7
5-6	<i>Biarmifer</i>	Wieser 1954, p. 11, Figs. c, e
7-8	<i>Cervonema</i>	Gourbault 1980, p. 739, Figs. 1c, d
9-10	<i>Cheironchus</i>	Gerlach 1964a, p. 46, Figs. a, b
11-12	<i>Choanolaimus</i>	Riemann 1966, p. 133, Figs. 34a, c
13-14	<i>Choniolaimus</i>	Riemann 1966, p. 110, Figs. b, d
15-16	<i>Cobbionema</i>	Furstenberg & Heyns 1987, p. 81, Figs. 1, 4
17-18	<i>Comesoma</i>	Wieser 1954a, p. 137, Figs. 177b, d
19-20	<i>Comesomoides</i>	Gourbault 1980, p. 747, Figs. 4a, c
21-22	<i>Cyatholaimus</i>	Wieser 1959, Pl. XV, Fig. 37a; Pl. XVI, Fig. 37b
23-25	<i>Demonema</i>	Gerlach 1958, Taf. 40, Figs. 1b, c, d
26-27	<i>Dorylaimopsis</i>	Schuurmans Stekhoven 1950, p. 147, Figs. 88A, I
28-29	<i>Ethmolaimus</i>	Jensen 1979, p. 165, Figs. 57, 58
30-31	<i>Filitonchoides</i>	Jensen 1986, p. 253, Figs. 6B, E
32-33	<i>Filitonchus</i>	Platt 1982, p. 248, Figs. 36b, d
34	<i>Gomphonchus</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1966, p. 527, Figs. 20, 21
35	<i>Gomphonchus</i>	Platt 1982, p. 217, Figs. 14a, b
36-37	<i>Gomphonema</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1966, p. 530, Figs. 31, 32
38-39	<i>Gammanema</i>	Murphy 1964, p. 195, Fig. 3a; p. 196, Fig. 4
40-41	<i>Halichoanolaimus</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 324, Figs. 34A, 35B
42-43	<i>Hopperia</i>	Vitiello 1969, p. 486, Fig. 1b; p. 488, Fig. 2a
44-45	<i>Kosswigonema</i>	Gerlach 1964a, p. 45, Figs. 15a, e
46-48	<i>Kraspedonema</i>	Gerlach 1954, p. 100, Figs. 2b, c, d
49-50	<i>Laimella</i>	Hopper 1967, p. 144, Figs. 2, 3
51-52	<i>Latronema</i>	Wieser 1954, p. 31, Figs. 109a, d
53-54	<i>Longicyatholaimus</i>	Vitiello 1970, p. 476, Figs. 18A, D
55-56	<i>Marilynia</i>	Hopper 1972, p. 75, Figs. 14, 15
57-58	<i>Metacomesoma</i>	Wieser 1954, p. 137, Figs. 176a, c
59-60	<i>Metacyatholaimus</i>	Gerlach 1964b, p. 73, Figs. 2b, d
61-62	<i>Metasabatieria</i>	Timm 1961, p. 51, Figs. 35a, b
63-64	<i>Minolaimus</i>	Vitiello 1970, p. 486, Figs. 25b, f
65-66	<i>Nannolaimoides</i>	Ott 1972, p. 464, Figs. 4, 7
67-68	<i>Nannolaimus</i>	Platt 1982, p. 242, Figs. 32b, d
69-70	<i>Neotonchoides</i>	Platt 1982, p. 238, Fig. 29c
71-72	<i>Neotonchus</i>	Platt 1982, p. 220, Figs. 16a, b
73	<i>Paracanthonchus</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 323, Fig. 31a
74	<i>Paracanthonchus</i>	Inglis 1970, p. 7, Fig. 13
75-76	<i>Paracanthonchus</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 323, Figs. 31b, c
77-78	<i>Paracomesoma</i>	Jensen & Gerlach, 1977, p. 61, Figs. 1a, c
79-80	<i>Paracyatholaimus</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 323, Figs. 32a, b
81-82	<i>Paracyatholaimoides</i>	Boucher 1976, p. 48, Figs. 7c, f
83-84	<i>Paralongicyatholaimus</i>	Warwick 1971, p. 101, Figs. 3a, d
85-86	<i>Paramesonchium</i>	Jensen 1976, p. 245, Figs. 30, 36

Figure No.	Genus	Illustration Source
87-88	<i>Phyllolaimus</i>	Murphy 1963, p. 76, Figs. 2A, C
89-90	<i>Pierrichia</i>	Vitiello 1970, p. 455, Figs. 3A, D
91-92	<i>Pomponema</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 321, Figs. 28a, c
93-95	<i>Praecanthonchus</i>	Pastor de Ward 1979, p. 35, Figs. 5b,g, e
96-97	<i>Richtersia</i>	Soetaert & Vincx 1986, p. 129, Fig. 3b
98-99	<i>Sabatieria</i>	Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 335, Figs. 59a, c
100-101	<i>Scholpaniella</i>	Sergeeva 1972, p. 1293, Figs. 5, 6
102-103	<i>Setosabatieria</i>	Platt 1985, p. 43, Fig. 9
104-105	<i>Synonchiella</i>	Riemann 1966, p. 135, Figs. 36a, d
106-107	<i>Synonchium</i>	Gerlach 1953, p. 556, Figs. 18a, c
108-109	<i>Trichethmolaimus</i>	Gerlach 1956, Taf. 31, Figs. a, b
110-111	<i>Vasostoma</i>	Wieser 1954a, p. 137, Figs. 175a, b
112-113	<i>Xenocyatholaimus</i>	Gerlach 1953, p. 74, Figs. 1a, c
114-115	<i>Zyzzors</i>	Inglis 1963, p. 545, Fig. 25
		Wieser & Hopper 1967, p. 322, Fig. 29