

FIRST RECORD OF THE NEMATODE *SPINITECTUS INERMIS* (ZEDER, 1800) FROM EELS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Three juvenile specimens (obviously fourth-stage larvae) of the nematode *Spinitectus inermis* (Zeder, 1800) were found in the intestine of one eel, *Anguilla anguilla* (L.) caught during the studies of fish parasites in the brook Břehyně between the pond Břehyně and Mácha Lake (North Bohemia—the Elbe River drainage system) in November 1975. In other twelve eels from this locality, examined in 1967 and 1976, this parasite was not recorded.

Description: Small whitish nematodes, anterior end of body blunt, posterior end conical. Body length 1.20—1.36 mm, width 0.069—0.102 mm. Body surface covered with minute cuticular spines arranged in circles, starting just below level of lips and present throughout length of body. Spines diminishing in size towards posterior end of body; largest spines (length 0.006 mm) in the first five circles lying close together. Total number of spines in one circle about 30 (12—13 spines visible in lateral view). Total number of circles 53 in two specimens and 49 in one specimen; two incomplete circles on tail (anterior at level of anus, posterior at about midlength of tail). Mouth consisting of two small lateral lips bearing 2 mouth papillae each. Vestibule very short (0.024—0.027 mm).

Muscular oesophagus 0.120 mm long, glandular oesophagus 0.390—0.426 mm long. Large nerve ring surrounding oesophagus 0.057—0.060 mm from anterior end. Tail conical, 0.063—0.069 mm long, with sharp cuticular point at tip.

The species *S. inermis* is a relatively rare, specific parasite of European eel (*A. anguilla*) which may cause inflammation of the digestive tract of the host (Schäperlaus W., Fischkrankheiten, Berlin, 643 pp., 1954). It was occasionally reported also from other fishes (Chubb J. C., Aspects of Fish Parasitology 8: 119—144, 1970). This nematode occurs in the rivers and lakes of the North and Baltic Seas (England, Germany, Poland, France), as reported by Chubb J. C. (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 141: 609 to 621, 1963), Markowski S. (Arch. hydrobiol. i rybactwa 7: 1—58, 1933), Nevon-Lemaire M. (Bull. Soc. zool. Paris 52: 87—92, 1927) and other authors. The life-cycle of this parasite has not been studied and the morphology of adult specimens is known only insufficiently. This is the first record of a representative of the genus *Spinitectus* in Czechoslovakia.

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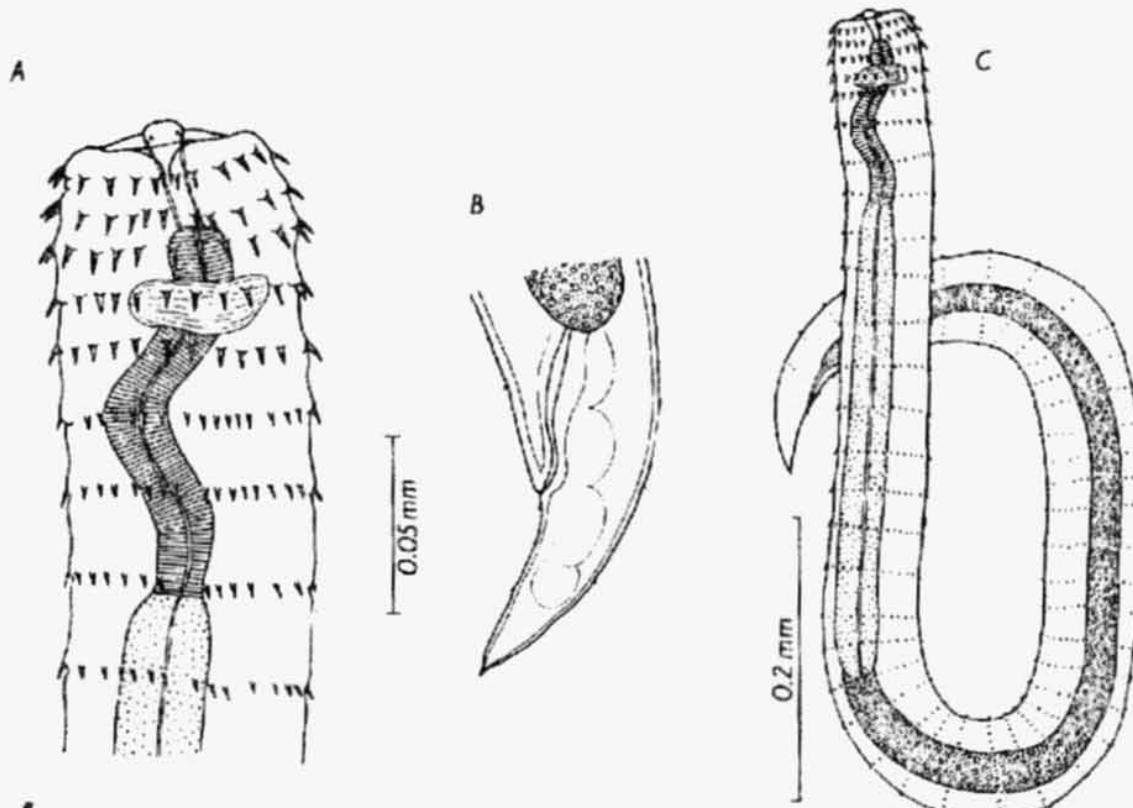


Fig. 1. *Spinitectus inermis* (Zeder, 1800)—juvenile specimen. A — anterior end of body; B — tail; C — total view.