

NOTES ON THE MORPHOLOGY OF CAPILLARIA CATOSTOMI PEARSE, 1924

Nematodes belonging to the species *Capillaria catostomi* Pearse, 1924 were frequently found in the intestines of white sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*) during examinations of some fish of Lake Huron (Manitoulin Isl.) in Canada, carried out by the present author in June 1979. This species was originally described only from females collected from *C. commersoni* by Pearse (Trans. Wisconsin Acad. Sci., Arts and Lett. 21: 147—160, 1924). The description of male and redescription of female, based on specimens

from the type host from Lake Huron, have been provided only recently by Bell and Beverley-Burton (Systematic Parasitology, in press, 1980); however, the species description as given by the latter authors is inaccurate in some features and, therefore, some additional data are worth publishing.

Description of the present material (Fig. 1): Body length of male 3.7—5.4 mm, of female 5.2—9.4 mm (gravid female 8.4—9.4 mm). Two wide (0.021—0.039 mm) lateral bacillary bands

of rough structure extending practically along the whole body length. Stichosome consisting of a row of about 30 stichocytes; the latter are ill-observable due to overlapping by bacillary bands. Length of entire oesophagus 1.63 to 2.65 mm in male and 1.74—3.00 mm in female. Tail of male rounded, with two large, round ventrolateral papillae. Spicule smooth, well sclerotized; its anterior end slightly extended, posterior end rounded. Length of spicule 0.324 to 0.399 mm, width 0.008—0.012 mm. Spicular sheath slightly striated, not spinose. Vulva of female not elevating, situated a short distance (0.024—0.036 mm) below junction of oesophagus and intestine. Mature eggs (0.060—0.063 \times 0.030—0.033 mm) with very fine superfi-

cial sculpture, their polar plugs not protruding. Anal opening of female subterminal, length of tail 0.006—0.015 mm.

By its morphology, particularly the structure of the posterior end of male, *C. catostomi* is very close to the Palaearctic species *C. brevispicula* (Linstow, 1873) — a parasite of cyprinids. The morphological similarity of these two species of parasites reflects apparently the phylogenetic affinities of their fish hosts (i.e. Catostomidae and Cyprinidae).

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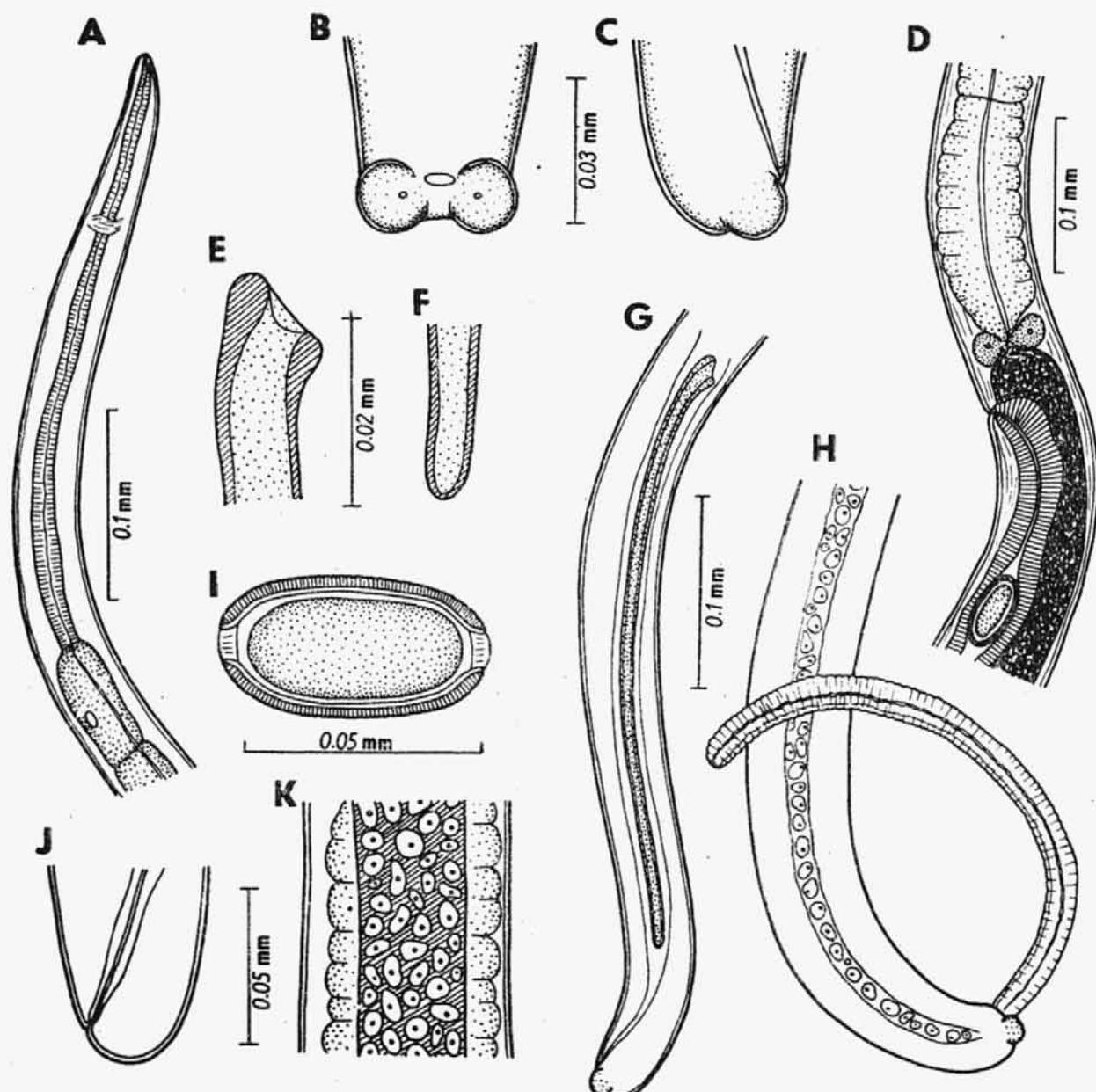


Fig. 1. *Capillaria catostomi* Pearse, 1924. A — anterior end of body; B, C — tail of male (ventral and lateral view); D — vulva region of female body; G, H — posterior end of male; I — egg; J — tail of female; K — bacillary band in stichosome region.