

Scutellonema bradys (Steiner & Leheuw) with Two Vulvae and a Malformed Gonoduct

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Yam nematodes, *Scutellonema bradys* (Steiner & Leheuw) were recovered from soil from which white yam, *Dioscorea rotundata* Poir, had just been harvested in farm Block B of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. One specimen possessed two vulvae and a malformed gonoduct.

Specimen measurements were: L = 0.905 mm; a = 30.2; b = 9.3; b' = 6.4; c = 51.1; V₁ = 58.7%; V₂ = 60.1%; distance between vulvae = 33.2 μ; spear = 28.2 μ; O = 19.6. All values fall within the ranges given by Sher for *S. bradys* (5).

The two vulvae and vaginae appeared to be equally developed. Both vulvae were in a normal ventral position opening externally via transverse slits (Fig. 1A). The vaginae were directed posteriad at an angle of 35° (Fig. 1B) whereas a normal vagina is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis. The vaginae shared a common uterus and both may be functional since spermatozoa were seen in the single spermatheca (Fig. 1C). The gonoduct was malformed in that it was monodelphic and prodelphic.

To my knowledge this is the first report of the bivulvate condition in the Tylenchida. Bivulvate specimens have been reported from Dorylaimida (2, 3, 4), Monhysterida (2), and Enoplida (1).

The specimen is deposited with the Department of Nematology, University of California, Riverside, California 92502.

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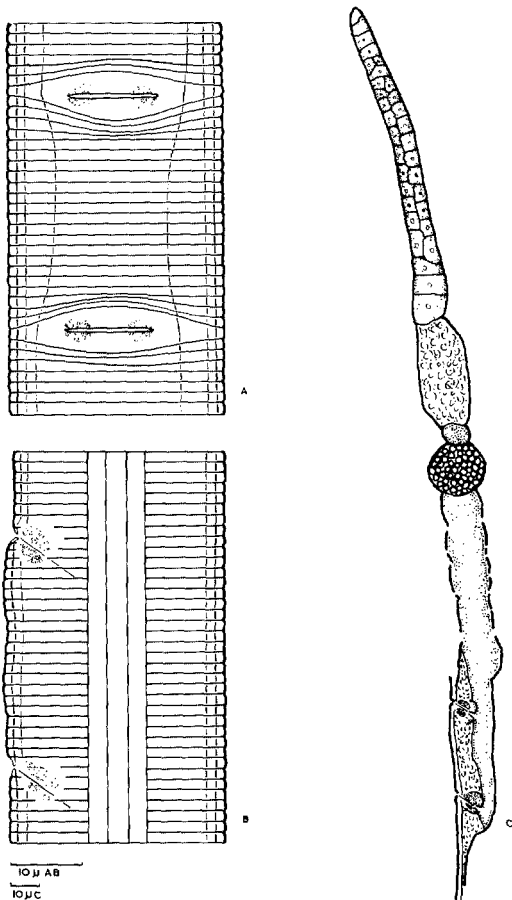


FIG. 1. *Scutellonema bradys*. A. Vulvae, ventral view; B. Vulvae, lateral view; C. Malformed gonoduct.

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