

## Endotokia matricida in a *Xiphinema* sp.

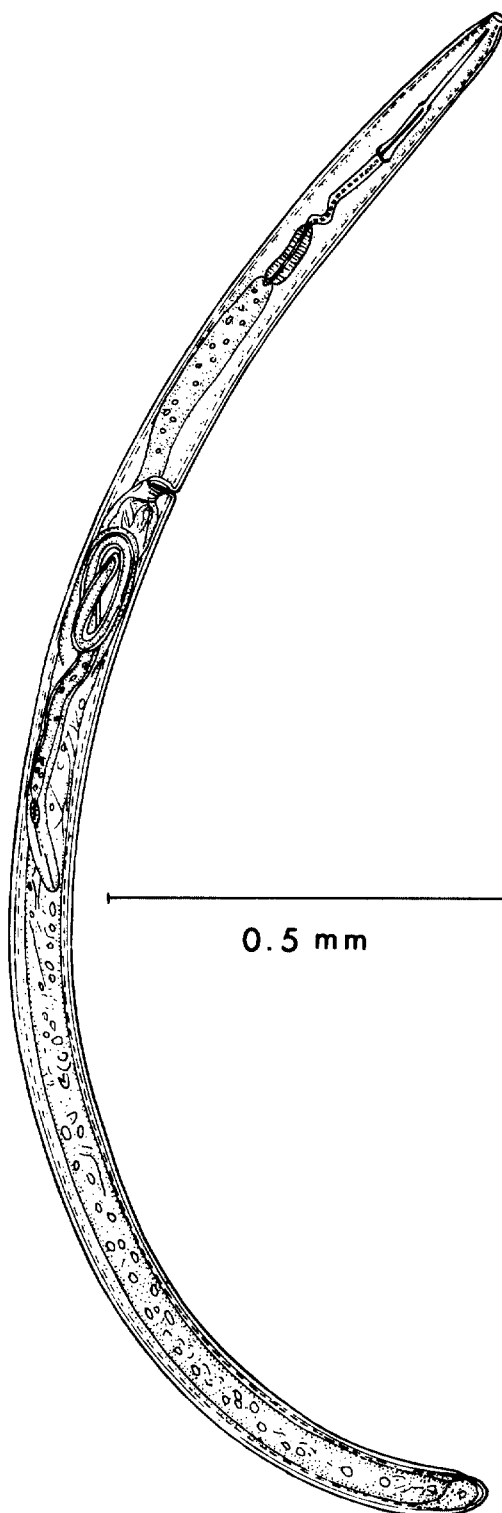
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*Endotokia matricida* or intra-uterine birth, according to Maupas (8), is widespread in all *Rhabditis* species (Rhabditida) and has been reported in the Tylenchida (1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11,12,13). Paetzold (9) reported that larvae normally succeed in leaving the female body and continue normal development and reproduction. My paper reports on endotokia matricida in an undescribed species of *Xiphinema*. This is the first report of this phenomenon in Longidoridae.

Soil samples collected by Ing. C. Ochoa from a potato field near Limbani (Department of Puno, Province of Sandia, 14° 18'00" S, 69° 25'30" W), Peru, were brought to the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru. In one of the samples a female of an undescribed species of *Xiphinema* was moving peculiarly. Closer examination revealed that an egg had embryonated within the female body and the larva had partially escaped from it (Fig. 1). Movement by both showed that both were alive. Loos (7) attributed the intra-uterine development of *Radopholus similis* (Cobb, 1893) Thorne, 1949, to disturbance, change of environment, or damage to the female. The female *Xiphinema* sp. showed no apparent damage to the cuticle or internally except for that caused by the escaping larva.

This *Xiphinema* sp. is monodelphic, opisthodelphic, and closely related to *X. ensiculiferum* (Cobb, 1893) Thorne, 1937, except for the shorter stylet length and other similar differences. Taxonomic studies are in progress.

Fig. 1. Drawing showing endotokia matricida (a larva which developed and hatched within the female) in *Xiphinema* sp.



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