

New Data for Leptonchus transvaalensis from Nigeria, and Key to Leptonchus¹

C. G. GOSECO and V. R. FERRIS²

In our published key to *Leptonchus* (1) the short prerectum was used as the character to separate *L. transvaalensis* Heyns, 1963, from the other *Leptonchus* species. In the original description, based on specimens from South Africa, the prerectum was said to occupy 31–36% of the body length, with the intestine-prerectum junction located posterior to the vulva. Although we examined Heyns' specimens, we were unable to confirm or refute the data on the prerectum.

We have since examined specimens of *L. transvaalensis* from Nigeria and find that they possess a long prerectum, similar to that of other species of *Leptonchus*. In these specimens the prerectum occupies 44–52% of the body length, and the cellular intestine-prerectum junction is located 2.5–4.0 body widths anterior to the vulva in the female (Fig. 1). The prerectum in our male specimens is obscure, but is probably similar in length to that of the female; the intestine-prerectum junction is not distinct. Otherwise, the Nigerian specimens are similar (Fig. 1, Table 1) to those described by Heyns (2). We therefore include the long prerectum as an additional diagnostic feature of the genus *Leptonchus*. This

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²Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907.

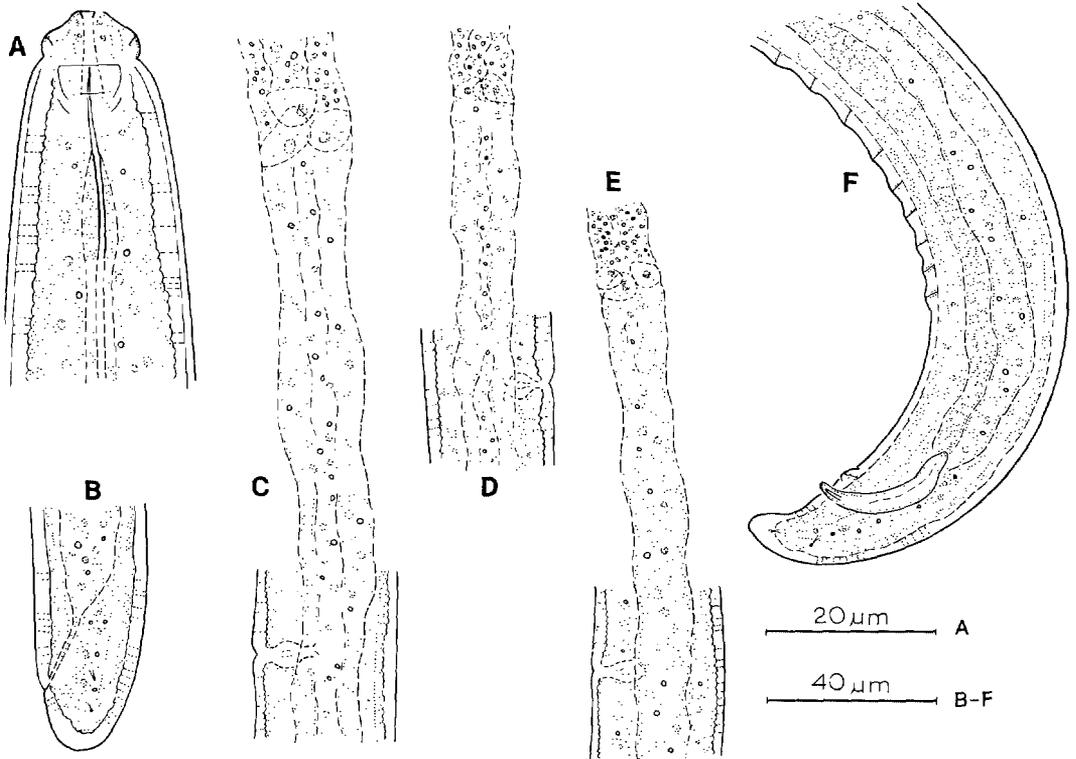


FIG. 1. *Leptonchus transvaalensis*. A, head; B, female tail; C-E, intestine-prerectum junction; F, male posterior portion.

TABLE 1. Morphological measurements for *Leptonchus transvaalensis* from Nigeria.

	Females (N = 7)		Males (N = 3)	
	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
L (mm)	0.87	(0.84-1.01)	1.0	(0.89-1.0)
a	28.5	(26.8-30)	33.6	(31.5-36)
b	4.6	(4.2-5.1)	5.8	(5.5-6)
c	58.4	(53.7-62.5)	43.4	(39-47)
V or T (%)	59.6	(57.6-61)	50.3	(48-56)
G ₁ (%)	10.8	(8-14)	—	—
G ₂ (%)	12.0	(9-15)	—	—
Lip region width (μm)	10.2	(9.6-10.4)	11.2	(11.2-11.2)
Amphid width (μm)	6.4	(6.4-6.4)	6.6	(6.4-7.2)
Spear length (μm)	11.6	(11.2-14.4)	11.4	(11.2-12)
Spear Extension (μm)	12.4	(11.2-14.4)	11.2	(11.2-11.2)
Esophagus length (μm)	190.2	(174-198)	172.6	(150-192)
Esophageal bulb length (μm)	40.9	(38-43)	41.1	(38.4-45)
Esophageal bulb/esophagus (%)	20.8	(20-22)	23.6	(23-25)
Prerectum length (μm)	431.6	(400-429)	—	—
Prerectum/body length (%)	47.5	(44-52)	—	—
Prerectum/anal body width	21.7	(18-27.2)	—	—
Number of ventromedian supplements	—	—	—	(9-10)
Spicule length (μm)	—	—	34	(32-35)
Tail length (μm)	15.2	(14.4-16)	22.9	(22.4-24.0)
Tail/anal body width	0.76	(0.75-0.8)	1.13	(1.1-1.2)

discovery necessitates a modification of our key to *Leptonchus* species, which is given below.

Key to Species of Leptonchus

1. Spear robust, lumen wide
..... *patulihastus* Goseco, Ferris and Ferris, 1974
Spear slender, lumen narrow 2
2. Tail longer (c = 38.6–62.5); ventromedian supplements closely spaced
..... *transvaalensis* Heyns, 1963
Tail shorter (c = 72–106); ventromedian supplements widely spaced 3
3. Prerectum 562–775 μm ; cuticle loose; spicules

- 37 μm long *granulosus* Cobb, 1920
Prerectum 449–450 μm long; cuticle not loose;
spicules 28 μm long *baccatus* Siddiqi, 1970

LITERATURE CITED

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