# The Genus *Prochromadora* with a Redescription of *P. orleji* from a Marine Saltern in the People's Republic of China<sup>1</sup>

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Abstract: The genus Prochromadora Filipjev, 1922 comprising nine species is reviewed and a key is presented. Salient diagnostic characters of the genus are a single, large, solid dorsal tooth and a cuticle showing transverse rows of homogenous punctations that extend around the body without intervening lateral differentiation. A redescription and drawings of P. orleji from a solar saltworks in Qingdao, Shandong, the People's Republic of China, are presented.

Key words: marine nematode, marine saltern, nematode, morphology, People's Republic of China, Prochromadora, P. argentinensis, P. asupplementa, P. bulbosa, P. exigua, P. magna, P. megodonta, P. orleji, P. spitzbergensis, P. trisupplementa.

Although knowledge of nematodes from marine and brackish waters is well documented from many locations (13), nematodes from hypersaline habitats have received little attention. The few hypersaline habitats studied include inland salt lakes (5,25), the salinity of which may reach 123 ppt (7,19,22), and the ponds of seaside salterns (solar saltworks) in which seawater is evaporated to produce sodium chloride. In the salterns, nematodes have been reported from saltworks on the coast of the Black Sea (3,11) and the Bahamas (4). In several ecological studies concerned with solar saltworks, only the occurrence of nematodes, not their identity, was acknowledged (1,2).

In this paper, in addition to reviewing the genus, we report on the morphology and taxonomy of *Prochromadora orleji* (de Man, 1880) Filipjev, 1922 collected from the uppermost 5–50-mm bottom sediments among the bases and roots of the seagrass *Ruppia* sp. in ponds of a solar saltworks whose salinity measured 70 ppt, a value representing twice that of the total dissolved solids of seawater.

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#### SYSTEMATICS

Chromadoridae Filipjev, 1917 Chromadorinae Filipjev, 1917 *Prochromadora* Filipjev, 1922

The genus Prochromadora was established in 1922 by Filipjev (8) with the type species P. megodonta from the Black Sea. The genus was characterized by distinctive ornamentation of the annules, which were indistinguishable on the lateral sides, and by the massive, sclerotized, solid dorsal tooth. In 1930, Filipjev (9) revised the genus and transferred three species from the genus Chromadora to Prochromadora, namely P. orleji (de Man, 1880), P. erythrophthalma (Schneider, 1906), and P. minor (Cobb, 1894). The last two species later were placed in the genus Chromadorina by Wieser (24) who also included in the genus Prochromadora P. exigua (syn. Chromadora exigua Ditlevsen, 1928) and P. magna (syn. Chromadorita magna Schulz, 1935). Subsequently, P. asupplementa was described by Hopper (14), P. trisupplementa by Murphy (20), P. spitzbergensis by Gerlach (12), P. bulbosa by Galtsova (10), and P. argentinensis by Pastor de Ward (21). Currently, we recognize nine species in the genus.

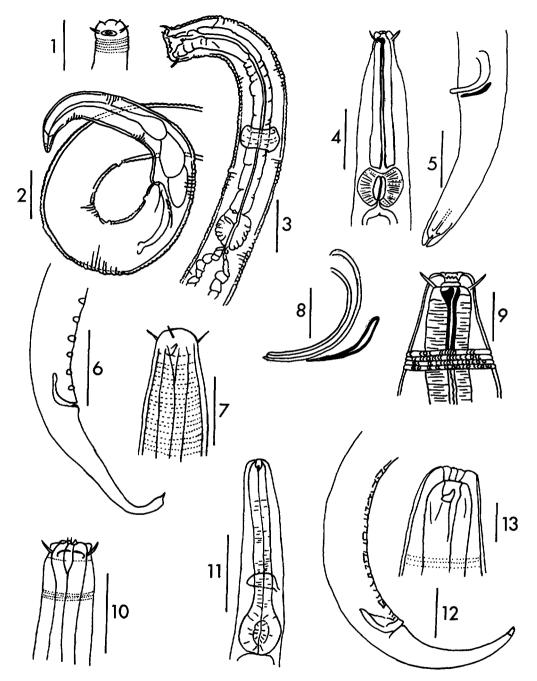
# Diagnosis

Body medium sized, attenuated at ends. Amphids usually indistinct, buccal cavity with one large solid dorsal tooth, cuticle with homogenous ornamentation that extends around the body, lateral longitudinal

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Figs. 1-13. Prochromadora argentinensis (Figs. 1-3). 1) Male head. 2) Male tail, spicules, and supplements. 3) Anterior part of male, after Pastor de Ward (21). Bars 1-3 = 20 µm. Prochromadora asupplementa (Figs. 4, 5, 8, 9). 4) Female esophageal region. 5) Male tail. 8) Male spicules and gubernaculum. 9) Female head, after Hopper (14). Bars 4, 5 = 30 µm, bars 8, 9 = 10 µm. Prochromadora exigua (Figs. 6, 7). 6) Male posterior region. 7) Male head, after Ditlevsen (8). Bar 6 = 50 µm, bar 7 = 25 µm. 10) Prochromadora magna. Female anterior end, after Schulz (23). Bar 10 = 100 μm. Prochromadora megadonta (Figs. 11-13). 11) Male anterior end. 12) Male posterior end. 13) Male head, after Filipjev (8). Bar  $1\overline{1} = 50 \mu m$ , bar  $12 = 25 \mu m$ , bar  $13 = 10 \mu m$ .

rows absent. Esophagus terminating in a conspicuous bulb.

#### Relationships

According to Hopper (15), Prochromadora has a single tooth and an homogenous cuticle and thus is most closely related to Punctodora. However, the punctations in the cuticle of Punctodora are larger, coarser, and spaced farther apart laterally than elsewhere on the body, whereas in Prochromadora the lateral punctations are similar to those elsewhere on the body. Wieser (24) lists Prochromadora as being similar to Chromadorina in general appearance, but the latter genus has three solid teeth as compared to the single tooth of Prochromadora. Chromadora Bastian, 1865 likewise appears close to Prochromadora but differs in having four longitudinal lateral rows of markings and three solid teeth.

> Prochromadora argentinensis Pastor de Ward, 1984 (Figs. 1-3)

# Diagnosis

The male possesses five supplements which makes it unique among males of other species in this genus. The species is closest to *P. asupplementa* Hopper, 1961 but differs by the presence of supplements, in the shape of gubernaculum, and the absence of cervical papillae.

Male (n = 3): L = 750 (720-800)  $\mu$ m; a = 28.3 (21.2-32.3); b = 6.6 (6.3-6.7); c = 8.4 (7.6-9.0); spicule length = 34 (34-35)  $\mu$ m.

Female (n = 3): L = 807 (700-920)  $\mu$ m; a = 32.6 (28.6-35.0); b = 6.5 (6.1-6.9); c = 7.7 (6.7-8.4); V = 47.6 (46.7-48.6).

Prochromadora asupplementa Hopper, 1961 (Figs. 4, 5, 8, 9)

#### Diagnosis

The male, as the specific epithet implies, lacks supplementary organs. One other species, *P. bulbosa* Galtsova, 1976 also does not have precloacal male supplements. The gubernaculum in the male of *P. bulbosa* dif-

fers radically from that of *P. asupplementa* in having a ventrally directed projection which is absent in *P. asupplementa*. Prochromadora asupplementa has a blunter tail and shorter cephalic setae than *P. bulbosa*.

Male (n = 1): L = 642  $\mu$ m; a = 23.3; b = 6.9; c = 7.6; spicule length = 38  $\mu$ m. Female (n = 1): L = 657  $\mu$ m; a = 20.2; b

= 7.5; c = 7.3; V = 45.

Prochromadora bulbosa Galtsova, 1976 (Figs. 14-16)

## Diagnosis

Ocelli not observed. Supplements not present. Distinctive gubernaculum with a median, ventrally directed projection overlapping the spicule.

Holotype male: L = 413  $\mu$ m; a = 15.3; b = 4.6; c = 5.1.

Paratype male (n = 3): L = 470-524  $\mu$ m; a = 17.4-18.2; b = 5.4-8.3; c = 5.5-6.2; spicule length = 34  $\mu$ m.

Prochromadora exigua (Ditlevsen, 1928)
Wieser, 1954
syn. Chromadora exigua Ditlevsen, 1928

syn. Chromadora exiqua Ditlevsen, 1928 (Figs. 6, 7)

## Diagnosis

Male supplements number 12 (6). Row of supplements equal to 1.5 tail lengths, no pharyngeal bulb, tail slender (24).

Male (n = 1): L = 970  $\mu$ m; a = 31.7; b = 6.1; c = 9.4; spicule length = 31  $\mu$ m; measured from illustration in Ditlevsen (6).

Male (n = 1): L = 881  $\mu$ m; a = 20.8; b = 6.8; c = 8.7; spicule length = 31  $\mu$ m; gubernaculum length = 23  $\mu$ m.

Female (n = 1): L = 849  $\mu$ m; a = 20.1; b = 7.2; c = 7.4; V = 47; measurements from Kreis (16).

Prochromadora magna (Schulz, 1935) Wieser, 1954 syn. Chromadorita magna Schulz, 1935

(Fig. 10)

## Diagnosis

Female (n = 3): L = 2,000-2,500  $\mu$ m; a = 19.1; b = 5.0; c = 8.8-9.6; V = 53. Male: Unknown.

#### Remarks

Membership of this species in *Prochromadora* is questionable. The females are extraordinarily larger than those of other species. Nevertheless, the simple massive dorsal tooth and undifferentiated cuticular ornamentation seem to justify its present position.

Prochromadora megodonta Filipjev, 1922 (Figs. 11-13)

## Description

Body medium sized, attenuated toward both ends. Cuticle with series of round punctations, appearing situated between annules and becoming elongated ovals posteriorly. Head truncated, cephalic setae not observed. Vestibule with sclerotized striae 3  $\mu$ m long. Esophagus not enlarged anteriorly, terminal esophageal bulb 20% the length of the esophagus. Spicule 30  $\mu$ m long, curved, with strong velum. Gubernaculum probably absent.

Male (n = 1?): L = 640  $\mu$ m; a = 23; b = 6.5; c = 6.

Female: Unknown.

Prochromadora orleji (De Man, 1880) Filipjev, 1922

#### Description

From de Man (17,18); Figs. 17–23 after de Man (18): Body relatively robust, narrowing toward both ends. Cuticle finely annulated without lateral ornamentation, bearing transverse lines of punctations. Setae few on the anterior part of the body. Head not set off, blunt, with four short setae. Stoma with dorsal tooth. Esophagus with two pink-red ocelli at anterior end and terminating in a large round bulb. Tail terminates with a conical spinneret. Vulva at middle of body. Ovaries paired, symmetrical. Male with 13–15 supplements. Spicules slender, slightly curved, gubernaculum present.

Male and female (n = ?): L = 740  $\mu$ m; a = 22-25; b = 6.0-6.5; c = 8.5-9 for males, 7.5-8.5 for females.

From Filipjev (9); Figs. 39–42 after Filipjev (9): Body fusiform. Tail with pro-

nounced spinneret. Cuticle with rows of oval punctations, undifferentiated on the lateral sides. Cephalic setae situated posteriorly at about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the width of the head. Amphid stretched transversely. Buccal cavity thin walled. Dorsal tooth large and massive, appearing to be followed by one or two smaller, equal sized subventral teeth. Cervical pore (excretory pore?) at level of nerve ring. Spicules  $35 \, \mu \text{m}$  long, with membrane. Gubernaculum  $15 \, \mu \text{m}$  long. Preanal supplements 15, occupying a distance 2.1 times as long as the tail.

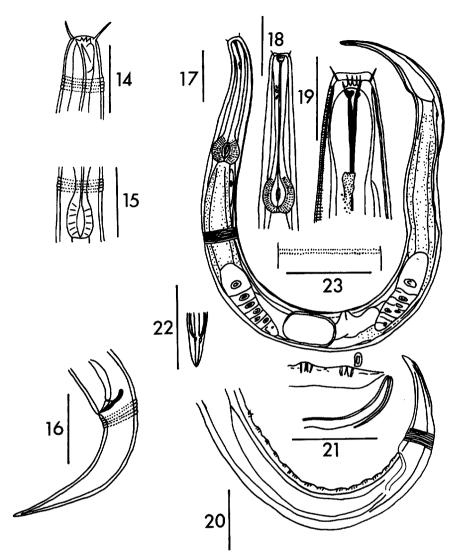
Male (n = 1): L = 1,040  $\mu$ m; a = 26; b = 7.7; c = 11.6.

From Gerlach (11); Figs. 34–38 after Gerlach (11): Body plump. Cuticle finely annulated, with rows of round punctations on the annules. Large sublateral setae present. Four head setae, 6  $\mu$ m long. Amphid appearing to be a spiral. Red-brown ocelli are situated 1.5 head widths from the anterior end. Buccal cavity with massive dorsal tooth. Posterior esophagus with a large spherical bulb. Spicules 31–37  $\mu$ m long; gubernaculum weakly developed. Preanal supplements numbering 16 (16–18). Male tail three anal-body widths long; female tail four anal-body widths long.

Male (n = ?): L = 580  $\mu$ m; a = 18; b = 6.9; c = 9.7.

Female (n = ?):  $L = 567 \mu m$ ; a = 16; b = 6.4; c = 7; V = 44.

Emended, based on specimens from Qingdao, China; Figs. 24-33: Body plump (Fig. 28). Cuticle finely annulated and showing characteristic ornamentation, particularly prominent in cervical area (Fig. 29). Head truncated with four sublateral cephalic setae (Figs. 24, 30). Amphid not observed. Excretory pore indistinct, in posterior cervical region when observed. Ocelli appear as clumped granules of chromatin about 2.5 head widths below oral opening, close to esophageal lumen. The granules usually continue as a string posteriorly from the main grouping (Figs. 24, 27). Esophago-intestinal valve (cardia) thin, flattened, almost imperceptibly discoid. Female amphidelphic, gonads reflexed; vulva protruding on mature females (Fig. 25).



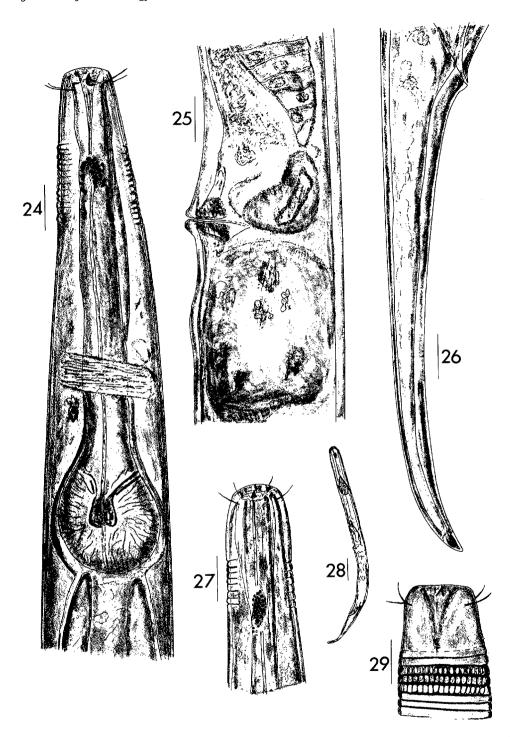
Figs. 14–23. Prochromadora bulbosa (Figs. 14–16). 14) Male head. 15) Posterior part of male esophagus. 16) Male posterior region, after Galtsova (10). Bars  $14-16=20~\mu m$ . Chromadora orleji, after De Man (18) (Figs. 17–23). 17) Female. 18) Anterior end. 19) Head end in lateral view. 20) Male posterior end. 21) Spicules with two preanal papillae; above, ventral view of a papilla. 22) Tail terminus. 23) Two annular rings greatly enlarged. Bars 17, 18,  $20=50~\mu m$ ; bars 19,  $21-23=25~\mu m$ .

Testis single. Supplements in ventral view shaped like rectangular ring (Fig. 32). Spicule ends showing oval openings, appearing to be divided into two chambers (Fig. 33). Spicular velum prominent, situated immediately anterior to, and in the curve of, the spicules (Fig. 31). Gubernaculum simple, slightly bent, rod-like in structure, showing two horn-like projections in ventral view (Fig. 32). Caudal glands present,

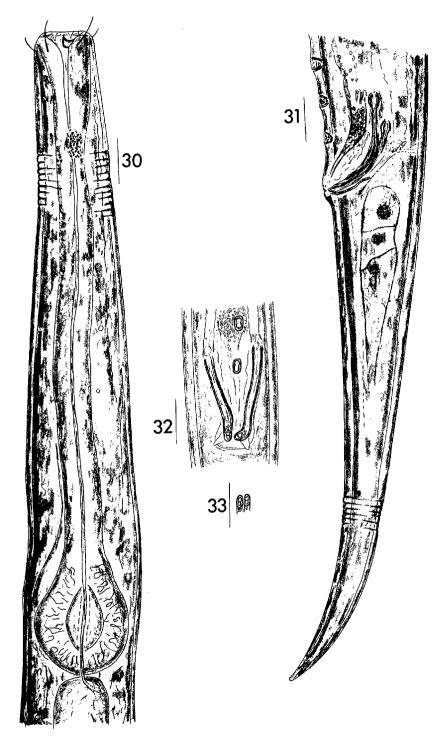
indistinct (Fig. 31). Sensillae not observed on tail.

Male (n = 7): L = 680 (570-817)  $\mu$ m; a = 20.2 (13.7-26.7); b = 6.0 (5.4-7.0); c = 8.0 (7.0-10.1); arc of spicules = 25  $\mu$ m (23-28); gubernaculum length = 15 (13-16)  $\mu$ m; supplements (n = 24) = 14 (10-17).

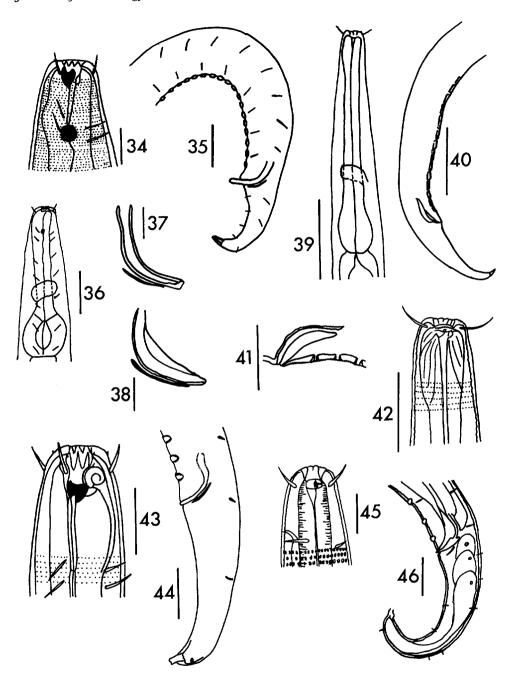
Female (n = 7): L = 724 (648-839)  $\mu$ m; a = 20.0 (15.5-31.3); b = 6.0 (5.1-7.2); c = 7.1 (6.0-10.0); V = 48 (47-50).



Figs. 24–29. Prochromadora orleji, specimens from China. 24) Female esophageal region. 25) Vulval region. 26) Female tail (extended). 27) Anterior region of young female. 28) Mature female. 29) Cuticular pattern on adult female from cervical area directly above chromatin granules. Three interpretations of cuticular ornamentation are shown, depending on the focus. Bars 24–27,  $29 = 10 \mu m$ , bar  $28 = 50 \mu m$ .



Figs. 30–33. Prochromadora orleji, specimens from China. 30) Male esophageal region. 31) Male tail (extended). 32) Ventral view of spicules showing the underlying gubernaculum with two horn-like projections and two anteriorly situated oval supplements. 33) Ventral view of the ends of the spicules showing oval openings that appear divided into two equal chambers. Bars  $30-33=10~\mu m$ .



Figs. 34–46. Prochromadora orleji, after Gerlach (11) (Figs. 34–38). 34) Male head. 35) Male tail, spicules and supplements. 36) Male anterior end. 37, 38) Spicules and gubernaculum. Bars 34, 37, 38 = 10  $\mu$ m, bars 35, 36 = 30  $\mu$ m. Prochromadora orleji, after Filipjev (9) (Figs. 39–42). 39) Male anterior end. 40) Male tail, spicules, and supplements. 41) Spicular area. 42) Male head. Prochromadora spitzbergensis (Figs. 43, 44). 43) Head. 44) Male posterior end, after Gerlach (12). Bar 43 = 10  $\mu$ m, bar 44 = 20  $\mu$ m. Prochromadora trisupplementa (Figs. 45, 46). 45) Female head, 46) Male tail with three typical supplements, from Murphy (20).

## Prochromadora spitzbergensis Gerlach, 1965 (Figs. 43, 44)

Diagnosis

Amphids appearing as subcircular spirals with two windings. Spicules 27 µm long with 20 conspicuous preanal supplements on male tail.

Male (n = 1): L = 995  $\mu$ m; a = 32; b = 6.6; c = 10; spicule length = 27  $\mu$ m; gubernaculum length =  $18 \mu m$ .

Female (n = 1): L = 1,170  $\mu$ m; a = 29; b = 8.1; c = 9.3; V = 48.

> Prochromadora trisupplementa Murphy, 1963 (Figs. 45, 46)

Diagnosis

Amphids oval, positioned opposite dorsal tooth. Males with three large, cupshaped preanal supplements. Spicules narrow, sharply bent. Two apexes may be present on the dorsal tooth.

Male (n = 1): L = 570  $\mu$ m; a = 23; b = 5; c = 6; spicule length = 23  $\mu$ m. Female (n = 2): L = 790-820  $\mu$ m; a = 23-24; b = 6-7; c = 7-8; V = 46-48.

#### DISCUSSION

Filipjev (8) presented a key that characterized Prochromadora orleji as having the esophagus anteriorly swollen, and with 14 preanal supplements that extend twice the length of the tail. He identified P. megodonta and other species included in the new genus as not having an anteriorly swollen esophagus. Figures 17, 18, and 19 redrawn after de Man (18) indicate the anteriorly swollen esophagus resembling a pharyngeal bulb to which Filipjev apparently referred. In our opinion, such a character, especially when used as a major distinction between species, lacks sufficient importance, especially because the number of specimens upon which de Man's description was based is unknown, and because Filipjev's description dealt with only a single male.

Variation in marine nematodes has not

been studied adequately. Various environmental factors such as food source, competition, and even salinity of the water, might influence morphology. In addition, although de Man's 1884 illustrations do show an anteriorly swollen esophagus for P. orleji (cf. Figs. 17-19), the anterior ends of the esophagi also are depicted as being markedly swollen for two of the other three species illustrated on that page in de Man (18) and even slightly swollen for the third species. Hence, we disregard this character as being diagnostically important for P. orleji. Prochromadora megodonta, similar to P. orleji, also was described as having 14 supplements.

One of two points of possible distinction between the two species is the "c" ratio of 6 as compared to 8.5-9.0 for P. orleji. We use the given value of 30 µm for spicule length and, using Filipjev's drawings 17c and 17d, calculated the tail to measure 66 or 77  $\mu$ m. The "c" value then would be either 8.3 or 9.7, but not 6.0 as given. Another point of variance presented in his key was that the length of the row of male supplements was twice as long as the tail for P. orleji but equal to the tail length for P. megodonta. We have found that the number of supplements counted on 24 specimens from Qingdao, China, may be 10-17, a variation of 70%. We conclude that the value of this diagnostic character for P. megodonta lacks credibility. The only creditable diagnostic feature separating the two species appears to be the presence of ocelli in P. orleji. The apparent absence of these eyespots in P. megodonta mandate that it be regarded as a valid species and the type species for the genus.

Filipjev (9) found a single male specimen of Prochromadora, which he identified as "P. oerleyi (de Man, 1881)." He described the ocelli as violet-red, the buccal cavity with a cuticular bulge on the ventral side, setae questionably absent between the posterior papillae and the anus, and the distal part of the gubernaculum as being very strong. The only component of the above description given by de Man, 1881 for P. orleji was the color of the ocelli. The demanian formula given by Filipjev (9); i.e.,  $L = 1040 \mu m$ , a = 26, b = 7.7, c = 11.6; differs from that presented by de Man, 1881; namely, length 740  $\mu$ m, a = 22-25, b = 6-6.5, c = 8.5-9. Along with these discrepancies, another important point of variance is Filipjev's observation that the massive dorsal tooth seemed to have below it one or two smaller subventral teeth which were equal in size. Gerlach (11) concluded that Prochromadora oerleyi (sic) of Filipjev (9) was a synonym of Chromadora erythrophthalma G. Schneider, 1906. Wieser (24) recognized the synonymy but redesignated the senior synonym as Chromadorina erythrophthalma (G. Schneider, 1906) Wieser, 1954.

W. D. Hope (pers. comm.) has proposed the possibility that *P. orleji* may not be a valid *Prochromadora* because it does possess ocelli, whereas none of the other species in the genus have these eyespots. The proposal of a new genus to accomodate single species is not warranted at this time.

## KEY TO SPECIES OF THE GENUS PROCHROMADORA

Female body length 2,000–2,500 μm  ————— P. magna (Schulz, 1935) Wiese 1954	r,
Female body length less than 1,200	9
	4
Male tail terminus bluntly rounded,	
gubernaculum without a ventrally di-	
	31
Male tail terminus acute to subacute, gubernaculum with a ventrally di-	
	76
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	3
Supplements 5, male body length	
about 780 μm	
	P. magna (Schulz, 1935) Wiese  1954 Female body length less than 1,200  µm Supplements absent Supplements present Male tail terminus bluntly rounded, gubernaculum without a ventrally directed process  P. asupplementa Hopper, 196 Male tail terminus acute to subacute, gubernaculum with a ventrally directed process  P. bulbosa Galtsova, 197 Supplements 5 or fewer Supplements 12 or more Supplements 3, male body length about 570 µm  P. trisupplementa Murphy, 196 Supplements 5, male body length

P. argentinensis Pastor de Ward, 1984

6.	Male body length 740 $\mu$ m or less 7 Male body length 880 $\mu$ m or more 8
7.	Ocelli present
••	P. orleji (De Man, 1880) Filipjev, 1922
	Ocelli absent
	P. megodonta Filipjev, 1922
8.	Preanal supplements 20
	P. spitzbergensis Gerlach, 1965
	Preanal supplements 12
	P. exigua (Ditlevsen, 1928) Wieser,
	1954

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