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A BIVULVAL FEMALE OF *XIPHINEMA INDEX* (NEMATODA, DORYLAIMIDA)by
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A female of *Xiphinema index* Thorne *et* Allen with two vulvae was found in a population collected from fig (*Ficus carica* L.) near Bari (Italy) and then cultured for 4 months on GFLV-infected *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Prosecco. The nematode was killed and fixed in 5 % hot formalin and processed/fixed by the slow method before mounting on a glass slide.

The morphometrics of the female are: L = 2.9 mm; a = 57; b = 6.3; c = 85; c' = 0.8; V = 34.6%; second V = 38.6%; odontostyle = 122 μ m; odonthophore = 74 μ m; oral aperture to guide ring = 97 μ m; tail = 36 μ m; body diameter at guide ring = 35.3 μ m; body diameter at base of odonthophore = 46 μ m; body diameter at V₁ = 49 μ m; body diameter at V₂ = 51 μ m; body diameter at anus = 35 μ m.

It is morphologically similar to other adult females of the same population except for the presence of the two vulvae, 115 μ m apart (Fig. 1). Two adjacent but ill-defined uteri separate the two vaginae; the distal gonads are normally developed and both seem to be functional.

There are several reports of the existence of bivulval specimens of other nematode genera (Geraert, 1963; Azizova, 1969; Coiro *et al.*, 1988).

Among the Longidoridae, bivulval specimens are known to occur in *X. diversicaudatum* (Brown and Coiro, 1984), *X. vuittenezi* (Coiro and Lamberti, 1980); *L. laevicapitatus* (Lamberti *et al.*, 1987) and *Longidorus* sp. (Jairajpuri and Ahmad, 1969). This is the first record of a bivulval *X. index*.

Literature cited

- AZIZOVA E.P., 1969 — On the bivulval character of the potato nematode. *Uzbek. biol. Zh.*, 3: 67-68.
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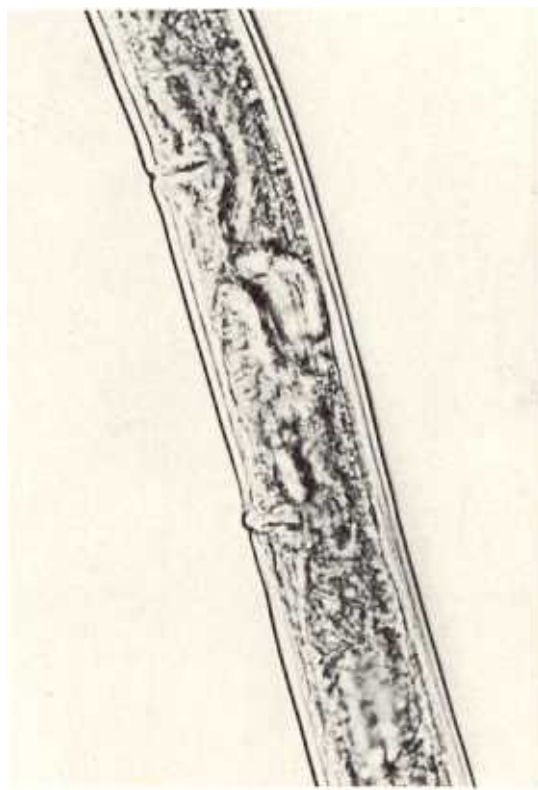


Fig. 1 — A bivulval female of *Xiphinema index*.

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