

Istituto di Nematologia Agraria, C.N.R. - 70126 Bari, Italy

A BIVULVAL *LONGIDORUS LAEVICAPITATUS* FROM SÃO TOMÉ

by

F. LAMBERTI, A. AGOSTINELLI and E.S.S. NETO

During a plant parasitic nematode survey conducted in 1984 at São Tomé and Príncipe a bivulval specimen was found within a population of *Longidorus laevicapitatus* Williams collected from a plantation of *Coffea arabica* L. at Montecafé, São Tomé.

The morphometrics of the female killed by hot 5% formalin and mounted in anhydrous glycerin by the slow method are: L=3.2 mm; a=56; b=12.1; c=78; c'=1.1; V₁=46; V₂=47.5; odontostyle=68 µm; odontophore=35 µm; distance of guiding ring to anterior extremity=25 µm; tail length=41 µm. They generally fit the original description (Williams, 1959) and other African populations (Jacobs and Heyns, 1982) with the exception that the São Tomé population has a slightly longer odontostyle.

The two vulvae are 33 µm apart with the vaginae interconnected and the adjacent uteri fused (Fig. 1a). The distal gonads are normally and almost equally developed (Fig. 1b), measuring 187 µm for the anterior and 208 µm for the posterior; they both appear functional.

Bivulval specimens within Longidoridae have been reported for *Xiphinema diversicaudatum* (Arias, 1978; Brown and Coiro, 1984), *X. vuittenezi* (Coiro and Lamberti, 1980) and *Longidorus* sp. (Jairajpuri and Ahmad, 1969).

This is the first record for *L. laevicapitatus* from São Tomé.

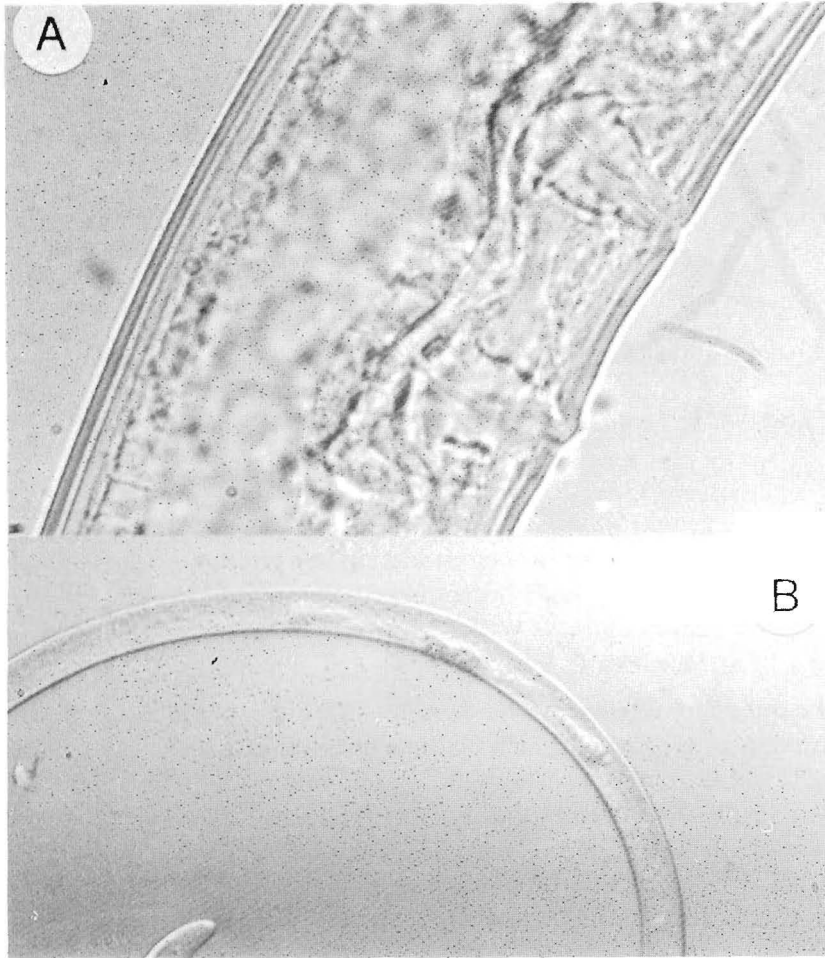


Fig. 1 - *Longidorus laevicapitatus* with two vulvae: a, the adjacent uteri are fused; b, the distal gonads are almost equally developed.

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