

THE FAUNA OF BRACKISH PONDS AT
PORT CANNING, LOWER BENGAL.

PART II.—A NEW NEMATODE OF THE GENUS *Oncholaimus*.

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The Nematode here described was found among filamentous algæ in a pool of brackish water at Port Canning, which is situated on the Matla estuary in Lower Bengal.

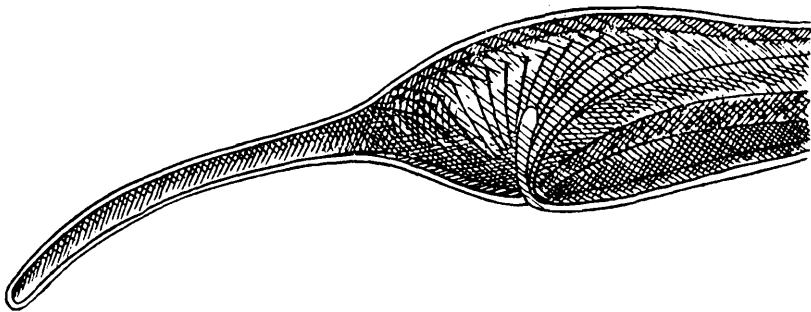


FIG. 1.—Posterior extremity of the male, from the right.

Oncholaimus indicus, sp. nov.

Cuticle smooth, without annular rings. At the anterior extremity there is a large oral cavity measuring 0·036 mm. in length and 0·014 mm. in transverse diameter; in front of this on the ventral surface there is a conical tooth. The caudal end is thickened and narrows abruptly a short distance behind the anus into a caudal appendage, which measures 0·075 mm. in length and 0·0078 mm. in breadth, and is curved inwards slightly towards the belly and rounded posteriorly. This form of tail is identical in the two sexes. Both in the male and in the female the œsophagus measures one-sixth of the total length of the body.

The male is 2·71 mm. long and 0·053 mm. broad, the caudal end occupying $\frac{1}{25\cdot6}$ of the length of the whole animal. The spicula are equal, being strongly curved; they measure 0·034 mm. in length. Dorsal to them lies a very short supporting structure.

The female is 2·71 mm. long and 0·057 mm. broad, and in this sex the caudal end measures one twenty-eighth of the total length. The vulva is situated somewhat posterior to the middle of the body and divides the length anterior to it and that posterior in the

proportion of 31 to 29. One branch of the uterus stretches forwards, the other backwards. Two eggs are produced, each measuring 0.78 mm. in length and 0.047 mm. in transverse diameter.

The thirty-three known species of *Oncholaimus* live in the sea.

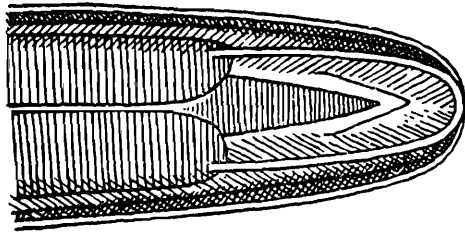


FIG. 2.—Anterior extremity, dorsal view.

[*Oncholaimus indicus* was found in large numbers in the habitat indicated during December, January and March. In the first of these months the water of the pool in which it occurred contained 1.23 per cent. of soluble solids; in January the salinity had increased considerably owing to evaporation; while in March the percentage of soluble solids was 2.022.—N. ANNANDALE.]

