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A FEMALE OF *XIPHINEMA VUITTENEZI* WITH TWO VULVAE

by

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In a population of *Xiphinema vuittenezi* Luc, Lima, Weischer *et* Flegg collected from the rhizosphere of grapevine at Trambileno, in the province of Trento, North-East of Italy, a female specimen with two vulvae (Fig. 1) was found. To the best of our knowledge, such a case has never been reported and therefore the phenomenon is described briefly.

The morphometric characters of the normal female specimens do not differ from those of the type (Luc *et al.*, 1964) and of other Italian populations (Martelli and Lamberti, 1967) of the nematode:

3 ♀ ♀: L=3.5 (3.4-3.8) mm; a=65 (62-68); b=7.6 (7.1-8.1); c=90 (85-97); c'=1 (0.9-1.1); V=50 (49-50); odontostyle=134 (132-138)  $\mu$ m; odontophore=78 (75-80)  $\mu$ m; oral aperture to guiding ring=125 (122-128); tail=39 (35-43)  $\mu$ m.

Conversely, the bivulva female is a little smaller in size and has a posterior vulva compared to the mode for this species:

L=3.1 mm; a=62; b=6.1; c=79; V<sub>1</sub>=53; V<sub>2</sub>=63; c'=1; odontostyle=131  $\mu$ m; odontophore=75  $\mu$ m; oral aperture to guiding ring=118  $\mu$ m; tail=39  $\mu$ m.

The first vagina, slightly oblique and backward oriented, is preceded by the anterior gonad normally developed and functioning; there are oocytes in the ovary. The posterior gonad is missing and only a short uterine sac is present.

The second vagina, 300  $\mu\text{m}$  posteriad to the first one, is also oblique but forward oriented. Its anterior gonad is rudimentary, having uterus, spermatheca, oviduct and an aborted small ovary with no oocytes differentiated. The posterior gonad consists only of the uterus.

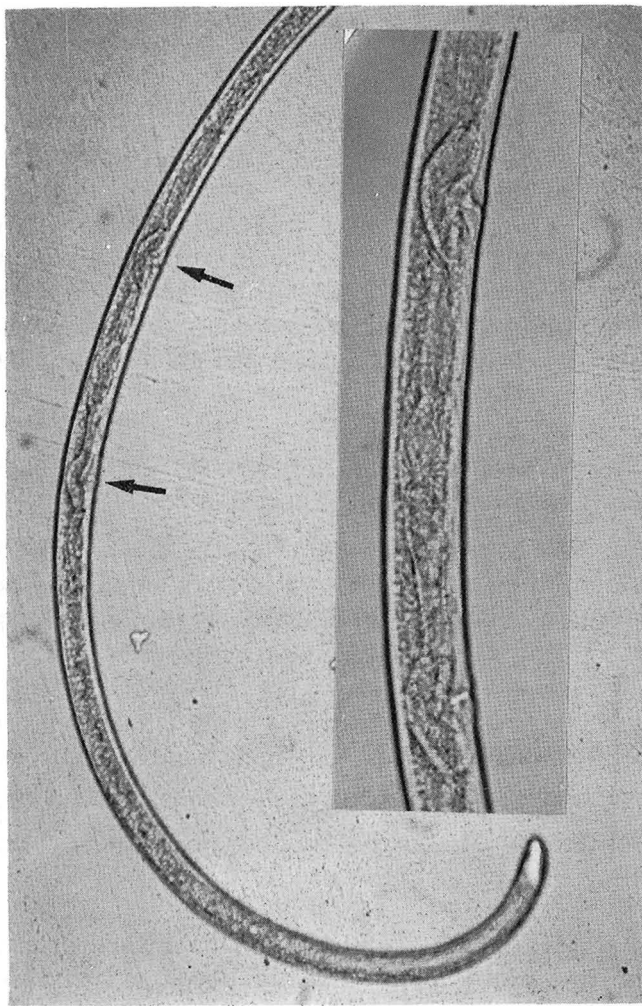


Fig. 1 - A female specimen of *Xiphinema vuittenezi* with two vulvae.

## L I T E R A T U R E   C I T E D

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