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## OBSERVATIONS ON THE MALE OF *XIPHINEMA ITALIAE*

by

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Males of *Xiphinema italiae* Meyl have been reported from France and Israel (Martelli *et al.*, 1966) and Sardinia, Italy (Prota *et al.*, 1971), but never from the Italian peninsula where this species is widespread in the southern regions (Martelli and Lamberti, 1967; Roca and Lamberti, 1978).

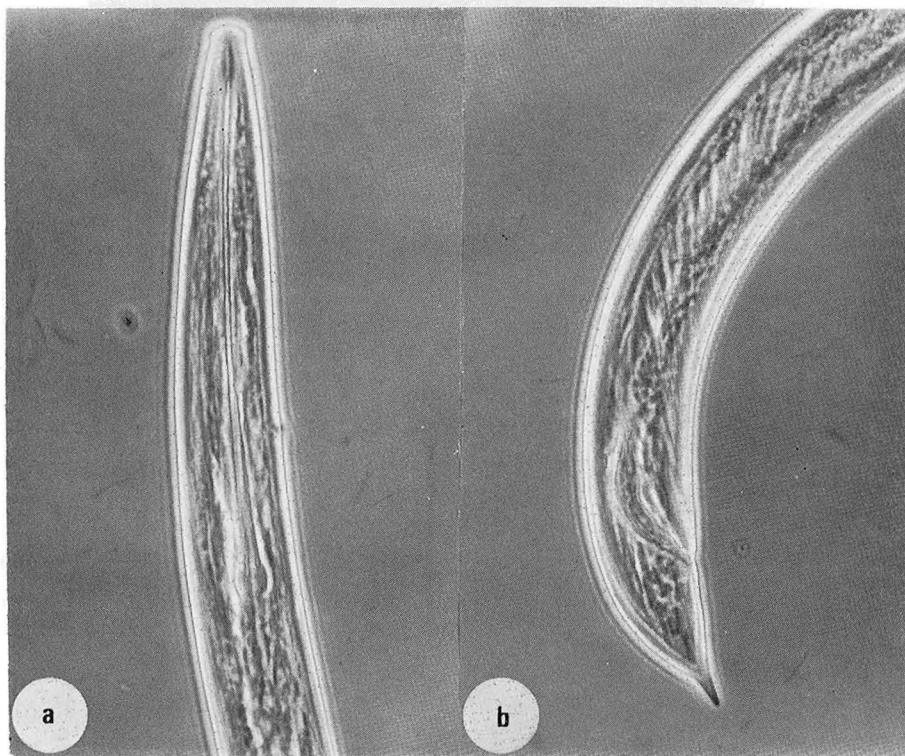


Fig. 1 - Anterior (a) and posterior (b) regions of the male of *Xiphinema italiae* found at Portici, Naples.

Table I - *Morphometric characters of Xiphinema italiae.*

C h a r a c t e r s	L o c a l i t y						
	(Naples)		Avellino		France	Israel	Sardinia
	♀ ♀	♂	♀ ♀	♂	(Martelli <i>et. al.</i> , 1966) ♂	<i>et. al.</i> , 1966) ♂ ♂	(Prota <i>et. al.</i> , 1971) ♂ ♂
n	3	1	3	1	1	3	2
L mm	3(2.9-3.1)	2.9	2.9(2.7-3.1)	2.6	2.4	3.3(3.2-3.4)	2.8-3.2
a	88(86-91)	77	81(76-88)	80	86	87(79-101)	84-116
b	7.5(6.8-8.3)	8.3	7.5(7.2-7.7)	7.5	6.4	8.4(7.9-9.2)	7.2-8.7
c	38(37-40)	60	37(34-40)	52	50	48(47-50)	67-72
c'	3.5(3.3-3.7)	1.6	3.4(3.0-3.7)	1.9	2	2.3(2.1-2.5)	1.6
V	45(43-48)	—	46 45 47)	—	—	—	—
Odontostyle µm	97(93-100)	96	95(92-98)	92	93	104(102-108)	99-103
Odontophore µm	60(59-62)	62	59 56-60)	57	56	64(63-65)	58-66
Oral aperture to guiding ring µm	93(89-96)	95	86(83-89)	84	76	98(95-102)	91-97
Tail µm	78(78-79)	49	79 67-87)	51	—	—	—
Spicules µm	—	52	—	43	48	48(46-50)	42-48
Number of ventromedian supplements in addition to the adanal pair	—	3	—	4	2	1	5

A male specimen of the nematode was recently found in each of two populations of *X. italiae* collected respectively at Portici (Naples), from the rhizosphere of mulberry (*Morus alba* L.) trees on which it seems to reproduce actively (Fig. 1), and at Avellino, in the rhizosphere of grapevine.

The morphometric characters of female specimens belonging to these two populations do not differ from those of other Italian populations (Martelli and Lamberti, 1967) (Tab. I), but having noticed some differences between males, it has been thought useful to report them (Tab. I), to contribute to the knowledge of the variability of this species.

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