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***Lanzavecchia mangrovi* sp. n. (Nematoda, Dorylaimida) from mangroves of Red River Estuary, Vietnam.**

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Abstract

A new nematode species found in the Red River Estuary of Vietnam is described. *Lanzavecchia mangrovi* sp. n. is morphologically close to *L. coomansi* Nicholas, Stewart, 1984, but differs in its longer body ($L = 2.71\text{--}3.76\ \mu\text{m}$ versus $L = 2.2\text{--}2.9\ \mu\text{m}$), shorter spicules ($63\text{--}65\ \mu\text{m}$ versus $72\text{--}88$), longer preectum ($500\text{--}675\ \mu\text{m}$ versus $262\text{--}310\ \mu\text{m}$) and shorter distal portion of tail in relation to the proximal portion ($0.6\text{--}0.8$ versus $0.9\text{--}2.3$).

Key words: description, free-living fresh-water nematodes: *Lanzavecchia mangrovi* sp. n., mangroves, new species, taxonomy, Vietnam

Introduction

The present communication is one of a series of the papers on free-living nematodes of mangrove habitats in Xuan Thuy National Park, Nam Dinh Province, Vietnam. The mangrove biotopes there are disappearing rapidly and the small remaining mangrove sites show various levels of degradation. Our prospective goal is to understand the diversity and communities of free-living nematodes under various conditions of normal, vanishing and restored mangroves.

Material and methods

Samples of sediments were collected using a 10 cm² cylinder at a depth of 5 cm and fixed with 4% formalin diluted in seawater *in situ*. Meiofauna, stained by bengal rose, were isolated by decantation and subsequent filtration through a series of sieves: 250, 100, and 40 μm mesh size. The nematodes were extracted and put into a watch glass with Seinhorst's solution (a 29:1:70 alcohol-glycerin-water mixture), and processed to glycerin by means of slow evaporation. Specimens were mounted in permanent glycerin slides with a paraffin ring, glass bead separators and Glyceel sealant. These slides were then studied with NBA-1A and Nikon Eclipse 80i light microscopes.

Abbreviations:

- a—body length divided by maximum body diameter;
- a.d.—anal or cloacal body diameter, in μm ;
- b—body length divided by pharyngeal length;
- bul.l.—pharynx bulb length, in μm ;
- c—body length divided by tail length;
- c'—tail length in anal or cloacal body diameter;
- diam.c.s.—body diameter at the level of lips, in μm ;
- diam.midb.—mid-body diameter, in μm ;
- dis.ph.cl.—distance from the pharynx base to the cloaca, in μm ;

Lanzavecchia mangrovi sp. n. is similar to *L. coomansi*, found in mangroves in Australia (Nicholas & Stewart, 1984), but differs in the longer body (L = 2.71–3.76 mm versus L = 2.2–2.9 mm in *L. coomansi*), shorter spicules (63–65 µm versus 72–88 µm in *L. coomansi*), longer prerectum (500–675 µm versus 262–310 µm in *L. coomansi*) and shorter distal portion of tail in relation to its proximal portion (0.6–0.8 versus 0.9–2.3 in *L. coomansi*) (Nicholas, Stewart, 1984).

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