Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. (Nematoda: Enoplea: Oncholaimida), a New Species of Free-living Marine Nematode from Langhovde, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica

Daisuke Shimada^{1,5}, Atsushi C. Suzuki¹, Megumu Tsujimoto², Satoshi Imura^{2,3}, and Keiichi Kakui⁴

¹Department of Biology, Keio University, 4-1-1 Hiyoshi, Yokohama, Kanagawa 223-8521, Japan

E-mail: dsk-shimada@keio.jp

² National Institute of Polar Research, 10-3 Midori-cho, Tachikawa, Tokyo 190-8518, Japan

³ Department of Polar Science, SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies),

10-3 Midori-cho, Tachikawa, Tokyo 190-8518, Japan

⁴ Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, N10 W8, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-0810, Japan ⁵ Corresponding author

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A new species of free-living marine nematode, *Oncholaimus langhovdensis* sp. nov., is described from the intertidal zone of Langhovde (near Syowa Station), Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica. It closely resembles 11 congeners in the conico-cylindrical tail shape present in males and amphid and excretory pore positions, short spicules, and Demanian system structure present in females. However, it mainly differs from these congeners in body size, de Man's ratios, tail length and shape, and Demanian system structure present in females. *Oncholaimus langhovdensis* sp. nov. also resembles four congeners known only by females, but it can be distinguished from them based on the tail length and uvette position. In addition to *O. langhovdensis* sp. nov., two undescribed species (Tripyloididae gen. sp. and Axonolaimidae gen. sp.) and four unidentified species (*Sphaerolaimus* sp., Oncholaimidae gen. sp., Comesomatidae gen. sp., and Chromadorida fam. gen. sp.) were found from the same locality.

Key Words: oncholaimid, Oncholaimidae, meiofauna, benthos, taxonomy, Syowa Station.

Introduction

During a faunal survey of intertidal meiobenthic animals in the vicinity of Syowa Station during the 56th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE 56), an undescribed species of free-living marine nematode belonging to Oncholaimus Dujardin, 1845 was collected from coastal sand at Langhovde, East Antarctica. The genus Oncholaimus sensu lato (including Oncholaimium Cobb, 1930 and Pseudoncholaimus Kreis, 1932) contains more than 100 species (Gerlach and Riemann 1974; Gagarin and Nguyen 2011; Gagarin and Gusakov 2012; Pastor de Ward et al. 2013; Chen and Guo 2014; Smol et al. 2014; Gao and Huang 2016), most of which occur in marine or brackish environments (Smol and Coomans 2006), with 17 species described from the Antarctic region (Allgén 1932; Wieser 1953; Mawson 1956, 1958; Allgén 1959; Gerlach and Riemann 1974; Ingels et al. 2014). Nearly all described species were found in sub-Antarctic regions, and only O. longissimus Allgén, 1959 was reported from the coast of East Antarctica (Allgén 1959). Although seven species of free-living terrestrial nematodes were known around Syowa Station (Kito et al. 1991, 1996;

Kito 2009), we present the first taxonomic report on marine nematodes in this region.

Materials and Methods

Specimens were collected by ACS on 31 January 2015 from the coast of Langhovde (69°14'24.3"S, 39°42'55.8"E), Lützow-Holm Bay, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica. Intertidal sandy sediments were sampled with a shovel and washed in fresh water; the supernatant was then filtered through a 32 µm mesh, and the extract was fixed in 10% formalin or 99% ethanol. Nematodes were sorted under a stereomicroscope, mounted individually in anhydrous glycerin on glass slides supported by a paraffin wax ring (Hooper 1986a) for differential interference contrast microscope observation, and dried in a critical-point dryer and sputtercoated with gold (Au) for scanning electron microscope (SEM) observation. All examined specimens were deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of Hokkaido University Museum, Sapporo, Japan and catalogued with the acronym ICHUM (formerly named as ZIHU, the Zoological Institute, Hokkaido University).

Although DNA was extracted from ethanol-fixed specimens and their sequences were attempted to be determined following the protocol described by Shimada and Kajihara (2014), no data were obtained probably due to damage to the specimen.

Abbreviations: abd, body diameter at the anus (female) or cloaca (male); mbd, maximum body diameter; vbd, body diameter at the vulva. De Man's ratios (following Hooper 1986b): a, ratio of the body length to the maximum body diameter; b, ratio of the body length to the pharynx length; c, ratio of the body length to the tail length; V, position of the vulva from the anterior body end, expressed as a percentage of the body length.

Results

At least seven species (134 individuals) of free-living marine nematodes were collected from Langhovde (Table 1). In this paper, a new species, *Oncholaimus langhovdensis* sp. nov., is described along with appropriate illustrations.

> Family **Oncholaimidae** Filipjev, 1916 Subfamily **Oncholaiminae** Filipjev, 1916 Genus **Oncholaimus** Dujardin, 1845

Oncholaimium Cobb, 1930: 227. *Pseudoncholaimus* Kreis, 1932: 57.

Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. (Figs 1–3)

Material examined. *Holotype.* Male (ICHUM 5311), whole mount. *Paratypes.* Four males (ICHUM 5312–5315), four females (ICHUM 5316, 5317, 5319, and 5320), whole mounts. *Non-type.* An immature female (ICHUM 5318), whole mount; a male and a female (ICHUM 5321 and 5322, respectively), Au-coated SEM specimens.

Table 1. Specimens collected from Langhovde. F, female; J, juve-nile; M, male.

	Number of individuals					
Species Formalin-fixed		fixed	Ethanol-fixed			
	М	F	J	М	F	J
Oncholaimida						
Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov.	7	5	1	2		
Oncholaimidae gen. sp.	1	29	12	2	15	14
Enoplida						
Tripyloididae gen. sp.	5	1	2	1		
Axonolaimida						
Axonolaimidae gen. sp.	1	1			1	1
Comesomatidae gen. sp.		2	2	3	1	
Monhysterida						
Sphaerolaimus sp.	1	11	3	3	2	3
Chromadorida						
Chromadorida fam. gen. sp.		1		1		

Type locality and habitat. Intertidal sandy sediment, Langhovde (69°14′24.3″S, 39°42′55.8″E), Lützow-Holm Bay, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica.

Diagnosis. Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. is characterised by slender body (a=75-91 in males, 56-70 in females), amphids located at posterior half of buccal cavity (59–82% of buccal cavity length), excretory pore located posterior to buccal cavity (2.2–2.8 times buccal cavity length from anterior body end), long conico-cylindrical tail without caudal papilla in both sexes (3.1–3.7 times abd in males, 2.6–3.1 times abd in females), short spicules (1.1–1.3 times abd and 33–38% of tail length), presence of Demanian system, short ductus uterinus (170–240 µm, 2.2–3.9 times vbd), and absence of terminal pores of main duct.

Measurements. See Table 2.

Description. Body (Fig. 1A, B) long, almost cylindrical, gradually tapering toward both ends. Cuticle thin and smooth. Head (Figs 1C, D, 3A, B) rounded, diameter at the level of cephalic setae 52-62% of mbd in males, 41-47% of mbd in females. Six lips each with an inner labial papilla (Fig. 3A). Six outer labial and four cephalic setae equal in length, arranged in a single circle. Amphids located at level of posterior half of buccal cavity (63-82% from anterior body end in males and 59-67% in females), width 19-32% of corresponding body diameter, consisting of a slit-like aperture and oval fovea. Buccal cavity large, barrel-shaped, length/width=2.1-2.3. Three well-developed teeth in buccal cavity, left subventral one largest and right subventral and dorsal ones equal in size. Cervical region (Fig. 1E) with sparse setae, tapering anteriorly, and almost cylindrical in posterior half. Ventral excretory pore at 2.2-2.8 times buccal cavity length from anterior body end (12-19% of pharynx length). Nerve ring at 41-54% of pharynx length. Ventral gland single, width 51-70% of corresponding body diameter, posterior end at 1.3-1.5 times pharynx length from anterior body end. Tail (Figs 1F-I, 3C, D) sexually dimorphic. Rectum 1.2-1.5 times abd and 33-42% of tail length in males and 0.7-0.8 times abd and 26-30% of tail length in females. Three caudal glands (Fig. 2A) situated at 10-24 times abd anterior to cloaca in males and 6-13 times abd anterior to anus in females.

Male. Reproductive system (Fig. 2A) diorchic. Testes opposed, situated on right or left side of intestine, anterior one outstretched and beginning at 23-31% of body length, and posterior one reflexed backward and ending at 65-82% of body length. Long glandular caecum along anterior testis reported in some Oncholaimus species (cf. Coomans and Heyns 1983) not observed. Spicules (Figs 1F-H, 2B) paired, equal in shape and size, almost cylindrical, distally acute and proximally expanded; 1.1-1.3 times abd and 33-38% of tail length (equal to or slightly shorter than rectum). Gubernaculum absent. Cloacal region (Figs 1F-H, 3C, E) swollen, with a very small pre-cloacal papilla (Figs 1G, 3E) immediately anterior to cloaca. Six to eight circum-cloacal setae on each ventrolateral side, three to five of them pre-cloacal and the others post-cloacal (in holotype, five pre-cloacal and three post-cloacal). Tail (Figs 1F-H, 3C) long, conicocylindrical, anterior 52-63% conical, ventrally bent in coni-

Table 2. Measurements of *Oncholaimus langhovdensis* sp. nov. All measurements in μ m, and are in the form: mean \pm s.d. (range). Abbreviations: abe, anterior body end; peb, posterior end of buccal cavity.

Character		Male	Female	
Character	Holotype	Paratypes	Paratypes	
n	_	4	4	
L (mm)	4.1	4.9±0.4 (4.4-5.2)	5.0±0.3 (4.6-5.4)	
a	75.4	85.3±5.3 (80.1-90.6)	62.7±6.0 (56.0-69.8)	
b	7.1	7.2±0.2 (7.0-7.5)	7.8±0.2 (7.7-8.1)	
c	38.0	41.5±4.0 (37.0-46.1)	31.5±4.5 (25.9-36.5)	
V (%)	_	_	79.9±6.2 (70.8-84.3)	
Head diameter at cephalic setae	33	33±1.5 (31-34)	37±1.0 (36-38)	
Outer labial and cephalic setae length	6.7-8.0	7.4±0.6 (6.6-8.7)	7.7±0.8 (6.2-8.7)	
Buccal cavity length	39	39±0.6 (38-39)	42±1.2 (41-43)	
Buccal cavity diameter	18	18±0.6 (17–18)	19±0.6 (19-20)	
Largest tooth tip from peb	31	31±1.7 (29-33)	33±1.5 (32-35)	
Other teeth tips from peb	23	23±1.2 (22-25)	25±1.0 (23-26)	
Amphids from abe	28-30	27±2.9 (24-31)	26±2.1 (24-29)	
Amphid width	8.5-9.3	8.9±1.9 (7.5-11)	no data	
Excretory pore from abe	109	90±4.7 (86-95)	103±5.2 (97-106)	
Nerve ring from abe	288	312±17 (297-330)	324±9 (310-331)	
Posterior end of pharynx from abe	581	676±40 (633-716)	636±31 (604-666)	
Posterior end of ventral gland from abe	769	891±74 (805-956)	882±45 (823-932)	
Ventral gland diameter	29	30±1.4 (28-31)	35±8.5 (28-46)	
mbd	55	58±2.1 (55-60)	80±9.0 (68-90)	
abd	32	34±3.9 (30-38)	57±4.9 (52-63)	
Rectum length	44	45±2.2 (43-48)	43±2.1 (41-45)	
Tail length	109	119±10 (106-130)	159±17 (138–179)	
Tail diameter at cylindrical part	8.0	8±1.2 (7-9)	11±1.7 (8-12)	
Caudal glands to cloaca/anus	381-627	560±152 (360-767)	535±157 (287-770)	
Spicules length	41	41±2.4 (37-45)	_	
Anterior testis from abe (mm)	1.2	$1.3 \pm 0.1 (1.2 - 1.5)$	_	
Total length of testes (mm)	1.6	2.4±0.3 (2.1-2.7)	_	
Ovary from abe (mm)	—	—	2.8±0.5 (2.3-3.3)	
Ovary length	—	—	619±117 (463-741)	
Uterus length	—	—	451±76 (366–548)	
Vulva from abe (mm)	_	—	4.0±0.5 (3.3-4.5)	
vbd	_	—	68±8.1 (61-79)	
Egg length	_	—	209±65 (152-318)	
Egg diameter	_	_	58±16 (39-76)	
Osmosium from vulva	_	_	108±36 (83-149)	
Uvette from vulva	—	—	215±36 (174-239)	

cal part and nearly straight in cylindrical part (diameter 22–25% of abd). Ventral papilla in caudal region absent. A pair of short setae located at junction of conical and cylindrical parts of tail. Several pairs of extra caudal setae on cylindrical part. Two rows consisting of several setae on dorsal side of cloacal and caudal regions. Tip of tail slightly expanded, with a spinneret and two or three stout terminal setae.

Female. Reproductive system (Fig. 2C) monodelphic, posterior ovary absent. Anterior ovary 9–15% of whole body length, beginning at 49–62% from anterior body end. Uterus single, 8–12% of whole body length, beginning at 63–76% from anterior body end. Eggs elongated, length/width=2.5–6.1, one to three in uterus. Vulva (Fig. 3F) slit-like, with swelling of body surface, situated at 71–84% from anterior body end. Demanian system (Fig. 2C–E) present. Ductus uterinus posterior to uterus, connecting to right

side of main duct through uvette at 2.2–3.9 times vbd posterior to vulva. Ductus entericus anterior to uvette, connecting to dorsal side of intestine through osmosium at 1.1–2.4 times vbd posterior to vulva (1.2–2.1 times vbd anterior to uvette). Main duct inconspicuous in posterior body region, unbranched. Terminal pore indistinct on body surface. Tail (Figs 1I, 3D) 2.6–3.1 times abd long, conico-cylindrical but different in shape compared with that in males, anterior 69–77% conical and diameter of cylindrical part 15–21% of abd. Tip of tail not expanded. Several circumanal and caudal setae present.

Etymology. The specific name, *langhovdensis*, is an adjective derived from the type locality Langhovde.

Remarks. According to previous studies (Filipjev 1918; Steiner 1921; Ditlevsen 1928; Cobb 1930; Kreis 1932, 1934; Allgén 1935; Gerlach 1958; Allgén 1959; Wieser 1959; Chit-



Fig. 1. *Oncholaimus langhovdensis* sp. nov. Males ICHUM 5311 (*holotype*; A, C, E, F), 5312 (D), 5313 (G), 5314 (H), and a female ICHUM 5316 (B, I). A, male body; B, female body; C, head, ventral view; D, head, lateral view; E, anterior region; F, male tail, lateral view; G, male tail, lateral view; H, male tail, ventral view; I, female tail, lateral view. Abbreviations: a.t., anterior testis; e.p., excretory pore; i., intestine; n.r., nerve ring; ov., ovary; p., papilla; p.t., posterior testis; ut., uterus; v.d., vas deferens; v.g., ventral gland. Scale bars: A, B, 1 mm; C, D, 20 μm; E, 100 μm; F–I, 50 μm.

wood 1960; Filipjev 1968; Vitiello 1970; Belogurov *et al.* 1975a, b; Coles 1977; Belogurov and Belogurova 1978; Tsalolikhin 1979; Belogurov and Fadeeva 1980a, b; Belogurov *et al.* 1980; Smolyanko and Belogurov 1987; Pavlyuk 1991; Smolyanko and Belogurov 1991; Pastor de Ward 1993; Platonova and Kulangieva 1995; Huang and Zhang 2006; Leduc 2008; Shimada *et al.* 2009; Chen and Guo 2014), males of 35 species of the genus *Oncholaimus sensu lato* have conico-cylindrical tails (see taxonomic key below). Five species, *i.e.*, *Oncholaimus chiltoni* Ditlevsen, 1930, *O. gladius* Ger-



Fig. 2. Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. Male ICHUM 5311 (holotype; A, B), females ICHUM 5316 (C, D) and 5317 (E). A, testes; B, left spicule, lateral view; C, female posterior region; D, uvette and osmosium, right lateral view; E, uvette and osmosium, ventral view. Abbreviations: a.t., anterior testis; d.e., ductus entericus; d.u., ductus uterinus; e., egg; i., intestine; os., osmosium; ov., ovary; p.t., posterior testis; ut., uterus; uv., uvette; v., vulva; v.d., vas deferens. Scale bars: A, C, 500 μm; B, 10 μm; D, E, 50 μm.



Fig. 3. Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov., SEM images. A female ICHUM 5322 (A, B, D, F) and a male ICHUM 5321 (C, E). A, head, anterior view; B, head, lateral view; C, male tail, lateral view; D, female tail, lateral view; E, male cloacal region, ventral view; F, vulva, ventro-lateral view. Scale bars: A, B, E, F, 10 µm; C, D, 50 µm.

lach, 1956, *O. longissimus* Allgén, 1959, *O. manilius* Gerlach, 1957, and *O. steineri* Ditlevsen, 1928, are not included in spite of their conico-cylindrical tails, because *O. chiltoni* should be transferred to *Viscosia* de Man, 1890 based on its larger right subventral tooth than left one (Ditlevsen 1930), and the other four species should be transferred to *Metoncholaimus* Filipjev, 1918 based on the presence of gubernacula (Ditlevsen 1928; Gerlach 1956, 1957; Allgén 1959)

Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. closely resembles 11 of them based on the conico-cylindrical tails present in males and amphid (posterior half of buccal cavity) and excretory pore positions (2-3 times the buccal cavity length from the anterior body end), the short spicules (1.1-1.3 times abd and 30-40% of the tail length), and Demanian system present in females. Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. is easily distinguished from three anomalous species: O. nigrocephalatus Cobb, 1930 (with three masses of pigment granules at the base of the buccal cavity) (Cobb 1930; Timm 1952); O. lanceolatus Vitiello, 1970 (greatly elongated tail with a filiform posterior part) (Vitiello 1970); and O. paropisthonchus Belogurov and Belogurova, 1978 (three teeth almost equal in size) (Belogurov and Belogurova 1978). It also differs from O. apostematus Wieser, 1959, O. olium (Belogurov et al., 1975), and O. tchesunovi (Platonova and Kulangieva, 1995) in the main duct of the Demanian system (single, unbranched duct without determinable pore in O. langhovdensis sp. nov. vs. branched duct with several pores in the three species) (Wieser 1959; Belogurov et al. 1975a, b; Zhang and Platt 1983; Platonova and Kulangieva 1995), from O. malgassus Gerlach, 1958 and O. sheri (Chitwood, 1960) in the female tail shape (anterior part tapering just posterior to the anus and diameter of the cylindrical part less than 1/4 of abd vs. anterior part tapering from the preanal region in O. sheri, and cylindrical part approximately 1/2 wide of abd in O. malgassus) (Gerlach 1958; Chitwood 1960), from O. opisthonchus Filipjev, 1927 and O. ushakovi Filipjev, 1927 in the more slender body shape (mbd=55-60 µm, a=75.4-90.6 in males vs. mbd=140 µm, a=37.1 and mbd=95-130 µm, a=43-59, respectively) (Filipjev 1927), and from O. paracampylocercoides (Smolyanko and Belogurov, 1991) in the smaller body size and longer pharynx (4.4-5.4 mm, b=7.0-8.1 vs. 6.2-7.2 mm, b=9.4-11.8) (Smolyanko and Belogurov 1991).

Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. resembles 13 congeners known only by females. Oncholaimus langhovdensis sp. nov. most closely resembles four of them in the conicocylindrical tail, amphid and excretory pore positions, and the Demanian system with a single main duct. However, it can be distinguished from *O. marinus* Schulz, 1932 and *O. unicus* (Belogurov and Belogurova, 1978) in the tail length (2.6–3.1 times abd vs. 6.5 times abd and 1.4–1.5 times abd, respectively) (Schulz 1932; Kreis 1934; Timm 1954; Belogurov and Belogurova 1978) and from *O. vanderlandi* Loof, 1973 and *O. jessicae* Coomans and Heyns, 1986 in the position of the uvette (174–239 μ m= 2.2–3.9 times vbd posterior to vulva vs. 390 μ m= 8 times vbd, and 596–856 μ m= 13–20 times vbd, respectively) (Loof 1973; Coomans and Heyns 1986).

Key to Oncholaimus Species Having Conico-cylindrical Male Tail

1.	Demanian system absent2
_	Demanian system present or female unknown7
2.	Subventral setae in cloacal and caudal regions ar-
	ranged in two rows
	O. <i>multisetosus</i> Huang and Zhang, 2006
—	Subventral setae in cloacal and caudal regions ar-
	ranged in a row
3.	Spicules slightly shorter than tail length
	O. mediocaudatus (Pavlyuk, 1991)
_	Spicules shorter than a half of tail length4
4.	Body shorter than 4 mm5
_	Body longer than 5 mm6
5.	Subcephalic setae present
_	Subcephalic setae absentO. <i>electus</i> Rachor, 1969
6.	Amphids located in anterior half of buccal cavity
_	Amphids located in posterior half of buccal cavity
7	Chine her send to a staticus (Belogurov et al., 1980)
/.	Spicules equal to or longer than tail
	Spicules 1.5 times toil length
0.	
	Spicules almost equal to tail length
9	Conical part 1/2 of tail length
).	<i>O appendiculatus</i> (Cobb 1930)
_	Conical part 1/5 of tail length
10.	Spicules equal to or longer than 2.0 abd
	Spicules shorter than 2.0 abd
11.	Body shorter than 3 mm <i>O. moanae</i> Leduc, 2008
_	Body longer than 7 mm12
12.	Spicules 3.0 abdO. onchouris Ditlevsen, 1928
_	Spicules 2.0 abd O. scanicus (Allgén, 1935)
13.	Excretory pore located at posterior end of buccal
	cavity14
—	Excretory pore located posterior to buccal cavity 17
14.	Body longer than 7 mm
	O. <i>ramosus</i> (Smolyanko and Belogurov, 1987)
—	Body shorter than 4 mm15
15.	Tail longer than 4.0 abdO. aegypticus Steiner, 1921
—	Tail shorter than 3.0 abd.16
16.	Spicules almost half of tail length
	O. martini Wieser, 1959
—	Spicules slightly shorter than tail
. –	
17.	Amphids located in anterior half or at middle of
	Amphida located in posterior holf of head with a 25
10	Ampnius located in posterior half of buccal cavity25
1ð.	O puolizer utali o inim
	Body shorter than 4 mm
10	De Man's $c < 20$ 20
1 <i>)</i> .	De Maris $c > 20$
	Le mailo (~ 20

20.	Outer labial setae present O. rapax Kreis, 1932
	Outer labial setae absentO. viridis Bastian, 1865
21.	De Man's $a=30$
	$\dots \dots $
	De Mans a >40
	Body 3–4 mm long 24
23.	Spicules 1/2 of tail length
_	Spicules 1/4 of tail length
	O. salobrus Pastor de Ward, 1993
24.	De Man's a=40–50, c $<$ 40
	O. secundicollis Shimada et al., 2009
_	De Man's $a=70$, $c=50$
	O. campylocercoides de Connick and Schuurmans
25	Pigment granules present at anterior end of pharyny
25.	<i>O</i> nigrocephalatus Cobb 1930
	Pigment granules absent
26.	Tail longer than 6 abd, conical part 1/5 of tail length
	O. lanceolatus Vitiello, 1970
_	Tail shorter than 6 abd, conical part longer than 1/4
	of tail length27
27.	Left subventral tooth just a little longer than other
	teeth
	O. <i>paropisthonchus</i> Belogurov and Belogurova, 1978
_	Left subventral tooth greatly longer than other teeth
28.	Main duct of Demanian system branching with mul-
	tiple terminal pores
_	Main duct not branching, without terminal pore, or
	female unknown
29.	Conical part 1/4 of tail length
	O. apostematus Wieser, 1959
20	Conical part 1/2 of tail length
30.	O alium (Belogurov et al. 1975)
_	Body 5–6 mm long
	O. tchesunovi (Platonova and Kulangieva, 1995)
31.	Female tail clavate O. malgassus Gerlach, 1958
_	Female tail conico-cylindrical
32.	Pre-anal region tapering to posterior body end
	Pre-anal region not tapering
33.	Conical part 3/4 of tail
_	Conical part almost 1/2 of tail
34.	De Man's c \approx 30 O. ushakovi Filipiev. 1927
_	De Man's c>35
35.	De Man's b=9-12
	O. paracampylocercoides
	(Smolyanko and Belogurov, 1991)
—	De Man's b \approx 7 O. langhovdensis sp. nov.

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