

Redescription of *Theristus pannonicus* Andrassy, 1985 from the Ukraine (Nematoda, Monhysterida)

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Theristus pannonicus Andrassy, 1985 is redescribed from mature females and males collected in the Ukrainian Carpathians. The species is compared with the closely related *T. ruffoi* Andrassy, 1959, from which it differs in the shorter body and tail, longer labial setae, wider amphidial fovea and shorter gubernaculum.

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Theristus pannonicus Andrassy, 1985 was described from Hungary on the basis of a single male and a preadult female (Andrassy, 1985). Several specimens of the species collected in the Ukrainian Carpathians are described here. This is the first record of the species since its original description. Nematodes were extracted by modified Baermann funnel method, relaxed by gentle heat, fixed in cold TAF, processed to pure glycerin by slow evaporation method and mounted on permanent slides in glycerin with paraffin as a support for coverslip.

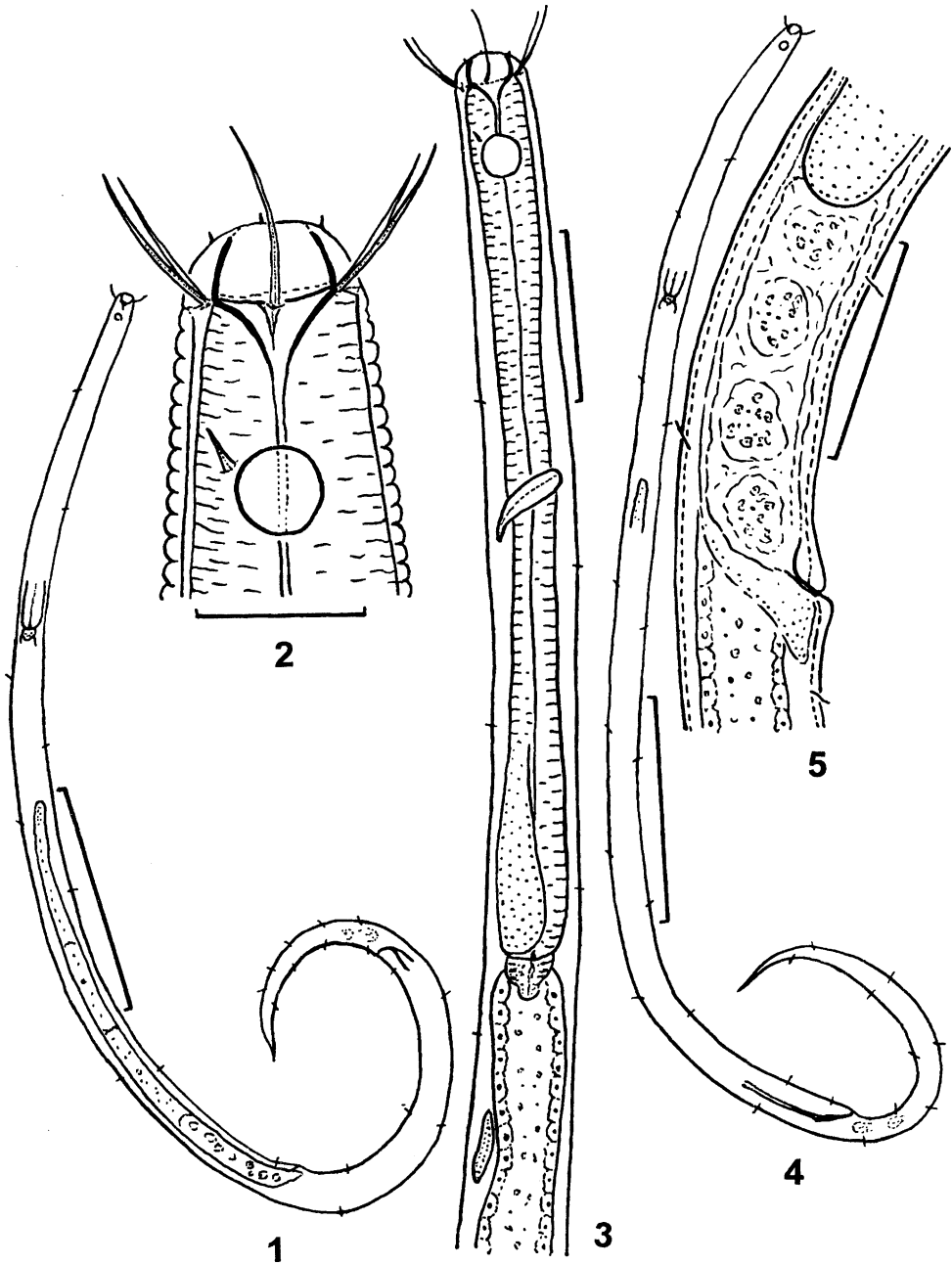
***Theristus pannonicus* Andrassy, 1985** (Figs 1-9)

Material examined. **Ukraine**, Chernivtsi Prov., Vyzhnytsia Distr., Vyzhnytsia vill., Luzhky reserve, soil, 5.VI.1992, leg. A. Susulovsky.

Description. Measurements: see Table.

Female. Body after fixation strongly curved ventrad, more so in posterior part, tapering on both ends; maximum body width at the vulva region. Cuticle about 1.0 μm thick at midbody, annulated; annules 1.0-1.2 μm at midbody. Somatic setae variable in length (6-9 μm), those located between pharynx and vulva longer (> 7 μm) than setae on the rest of the body, 5 pairs dorsally and 3-4 pairs ventrally. Crystalline bodies absent. Front edge of labial region convex, not flattened. Labial region more or less continuous with the rest of the body, 11 μm wide and 8.5 μm high. Lips rounded, comparatively high. Inner labial papillae small, setiform. A second ring of six outer labial (11-12 μm long) and four shorter cephalic setae at the base of lip re-

gion. A ring of perioral platelets surrounds the 5.5-6.0 μm wide mouth opening. Cheilostom wider than long, with prominently refractive lining. Remainder of stoma funnel-shaped. Amphidial fovea 5.0-5.5 μm in diameter (40-45% of corresponding body width), circular; its anterior margin at 1.0-1.2 lip region widths from anterior body end; fusus amphidialis unclear. Spur-shaped setae about 3.0 μm long situated near anterior margin of amphidial fovea. Pharynx muscular, more or less cylindrical anteriorly, with a weakly developed terminal expansion, gland nuclei unclear. Nerve ring situated at 48-52% of pharyngeal length. Cardia mushroom-shaped, consisting of two parts: anterior one larger, muscular, posterior small, more granular, projecting into intestinal lumen. Ventral gland cell body hyaline, sack-like, situated on ventral side at base of pharynx; canal and ampulla not seen. Elongate-oval coelomocyte situated ventrally, slightly posterior to cardia. Intestinal lumen of variable width, usually narrower anteriorly, wider posteriorly. Rectum as long as or slightly longer than anal body diameter. Rectal glands small, but visible. Reproductive system monodelphic, prodelphic, situated on the left side of intestine. Germinal zone of oogonia arranged in one or two rows; growth zone with a single row of continuously enlarging oocytes. Oviduct short and inconspicuous. Uterus usually filled with mass of spermatozoa. Vagina oblique, with strongly cuticularised lumen walls, shorter than corresponding body diameter. Vulva posterior to midbody, crescent-shaped. Lips of vulva slightly protruded. Postvulval gland cell absent. Tail slender, gradu-



Figs 1-5. *Theristus pannonicus* Andrassy, 1985. 1, habitus, female; 2, female head; 3, anterior body end, female; 4, habitus, male; 5, vulva region. Scale bars: 1, 4 – 100 μm ; 3, 5 – 30 μm ; 2 – 10 μm .

Table. Measurements of *Theristus pannonicus* Andr ssy, 1985 (all measurements in μm , except L in mm).

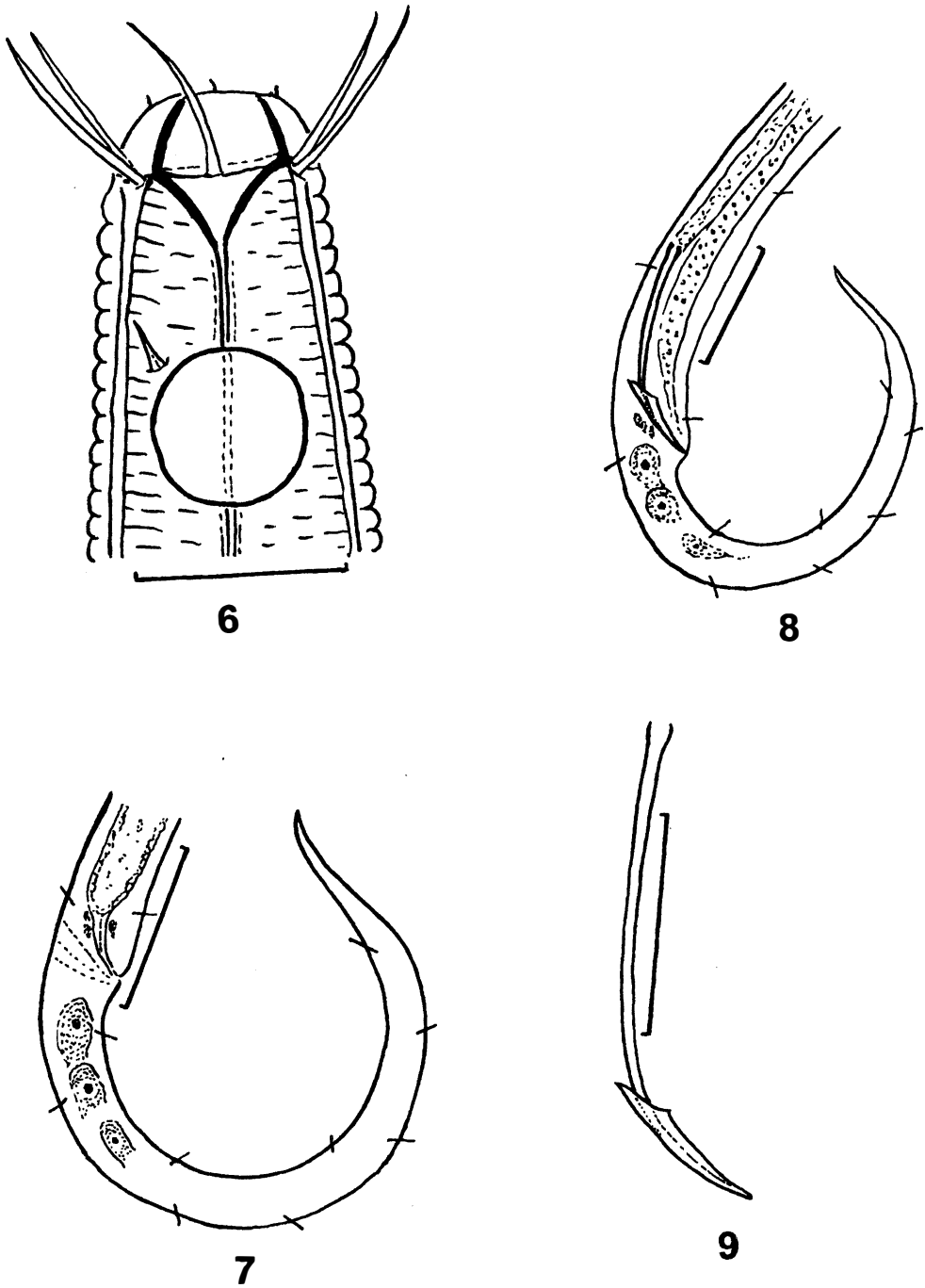
Characteristic	Females (n = 3)	Males (n = 2)
L	0.70 (0.65-0.71)	0.83-0.85
A	35 (34-36)	49-50
B	4.6 (4.4-4.8)	5.3-5.5
C	7.9 (7.5-8.4)	6.2-6.4
c'	6.6 (6.2-7.0)	8.2-8.5
V	63.4 (62.9-63.9)	
Labial region width	11	10
Outer labial setae length	12 (11-12)	11
Outer labial setae length / labial region width (%)	1.0 (1.0-1.1)	1.1
Amphid diameter / corresponding body width (%)	40 (40-41)	51-53
Anterior body end – amphid fovea / labial region width	1.3 (1.2-1.3)	1.1-1.2
Pharynx length	153 (147-165)	154-158
Posterior pharynx end – vulva	292 (262-308)	
Vulva – anus	167 (157-182)	
Posterior pharynx end – cloaca		543-560
Tail length	89 (84-95)	130-137
Vulva – anus / tail length	1.9 (1.7-2.1)	
Spicules length		43
Spicules length / anal body length		2.6-2.8
Gubernaculum length		14-15

ally narrowing, strongly curved ventrad. Caudal glands inconspicuous, arranged in tandem; spinneret oblique.

Male. Similar to female in general morphology, but slenderer and longer. Body after fixation strongly curved ventrad, more so in posterior part, tapering on both ends. Cuticle about $1.0 \mu\text{m}$ thick, annulated. Somatic setae 6-9 μm long, 5 pairs dorsally and 3-4 pairs ventrally. Crystalloid bodies absent. Labial region continuous with the rest of the body. First ring of six setiform papillae ($1.0 \mu\text{m}$ or slightly less), second ring of six outer labial ($11.0 \mu\text{m}$ long) and four shorter cephalic setae at the base of lip region. Cheilostom wider than long, with prominently refractive lining. Remainder of stoma funnel-shaped. Amphidial fovea $5.5\text{-}6.0 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter (51-53% of corresponding body width), circular; its anterior margin at 1.1-1.2 lip region widths from anterior body end. Spur-shaped setae $3.5 \mu\text{m}$ long situated near anterior margin of

amphidial fovea. Reproductive system monorchic, proorchic, with outstretched testis, situated on the left side of intestine. Spermatozoa of variable shape, mostly spherical. Vas deferens long, isolated with distinct lumen. Spicules long, thin, their distal ends strongly curved ventrad. Capitulum symmetrical, optically bracket-shaped; velum unclear. Gubernaculum well developed, in form of thin groove, approximately 3 times shorter than spicules. Genital setae absent. Tail long, gradually tapering, strongly curved ventrad. Caudal gland arranged in tandem; spinneret oblique.

Discussion. Our specimens are identical to *T. pannonicus* Andr ssy, 1985 in most respects, they differ, however, from the type specimens in the relatively shorter tail and longer gubernaculum. The specimens are close to *T. ruffoi* Andr ssy, 1959 in the construction of the spiculus apparatus, but they can be separated from this species by the shorter body (σ^{\prime} L = $0.83\text{-}0.85 \mu\text{m}$, φ



Figs 6-9. *Theristus pannonicus* Andr ssy, 1985. 6, male head; 7, female tail; 8, male tail; 9, spicule and gubernaculum. Scale bars: 6 - 10 μm ; 7, 8 - 30 μm ; 9 - 20 μm .

L = 0.65-0.71 μm vs σ L = 1.066-1.094 μm , φ L = 1.080-1.164 μm in *T. ruffoi*), relatively shorter tail (σ c = 6.2-6.4, φ c = 7.5-8.4 vs σ c = 7.4-7.7, φ c = 7.5-10.2 in *T. ruffoi*), relatively longer labial setae (100-110% vs 73-86% of labial region width), wider amphidial fovea (0.40-0.53 vs 0.25 corresponding body width), shorter gubernaculum (14-15 μm vs 20 μm in *T. ruffoi*), absence of constriction of pharynx below amphidial fovea and of specific formation ("lingula") on the distal end of the intestine lumen (Andrássy, 1959, 1981).

References

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