

**Twinning BA/12/IB/AG 01 “Further strengthening of capacities of phytosanitary sector in the fields of plant protection products, plant health and seeds and seedlings, including phytosanitary laboratories and phytosanitary inspections”**

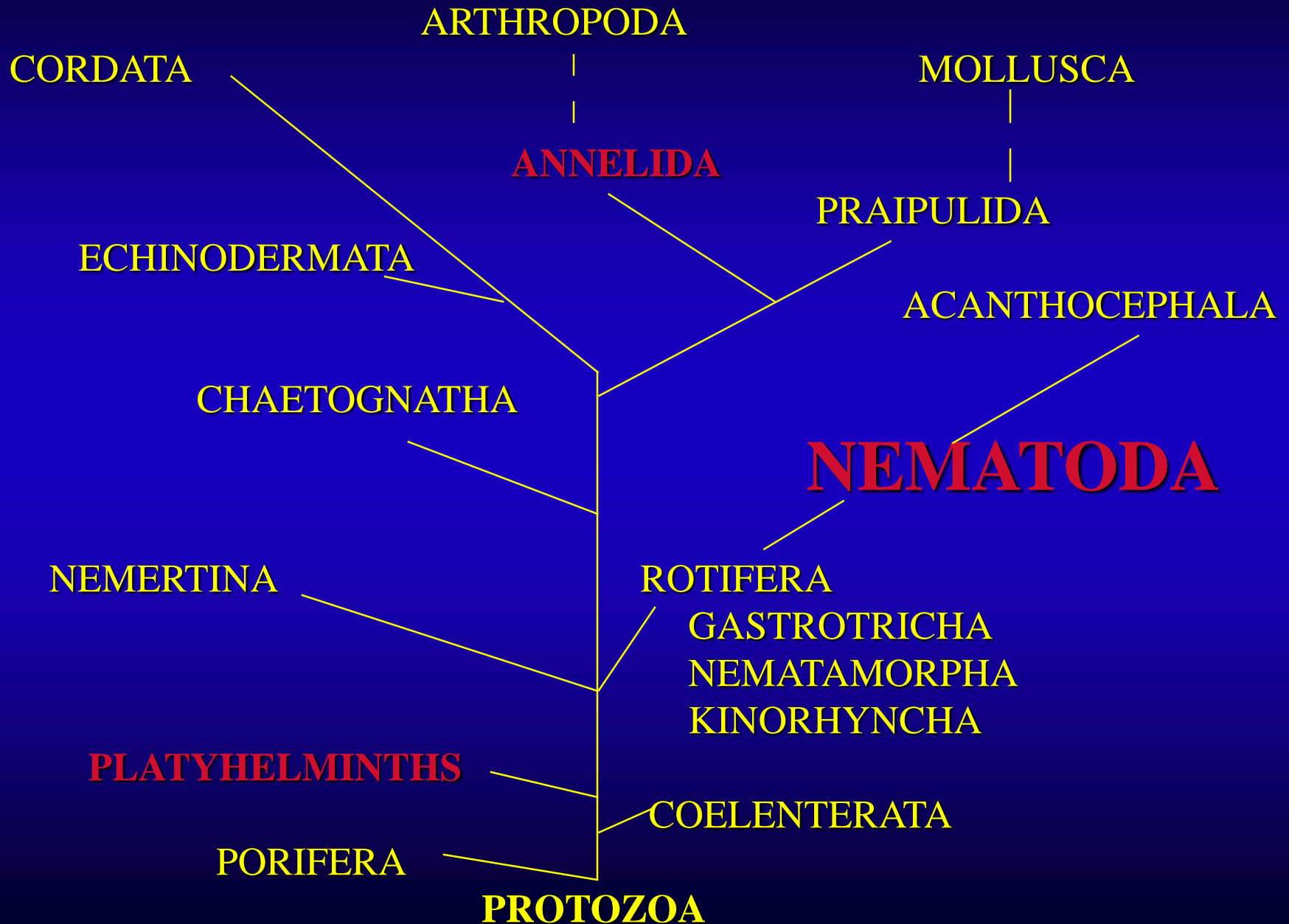
**Training course on agricultural nematology**

Mostar, March 7-11, 2016

*PLANT  
PARASITIC  
NEMATODES*

*General Introduction*

# *Systematic position of NEMATODA*



# *Pseudocoelomates*

**Phylum:-** Rotifera

Gastrotricha

Kinorhyncha

Loricifera

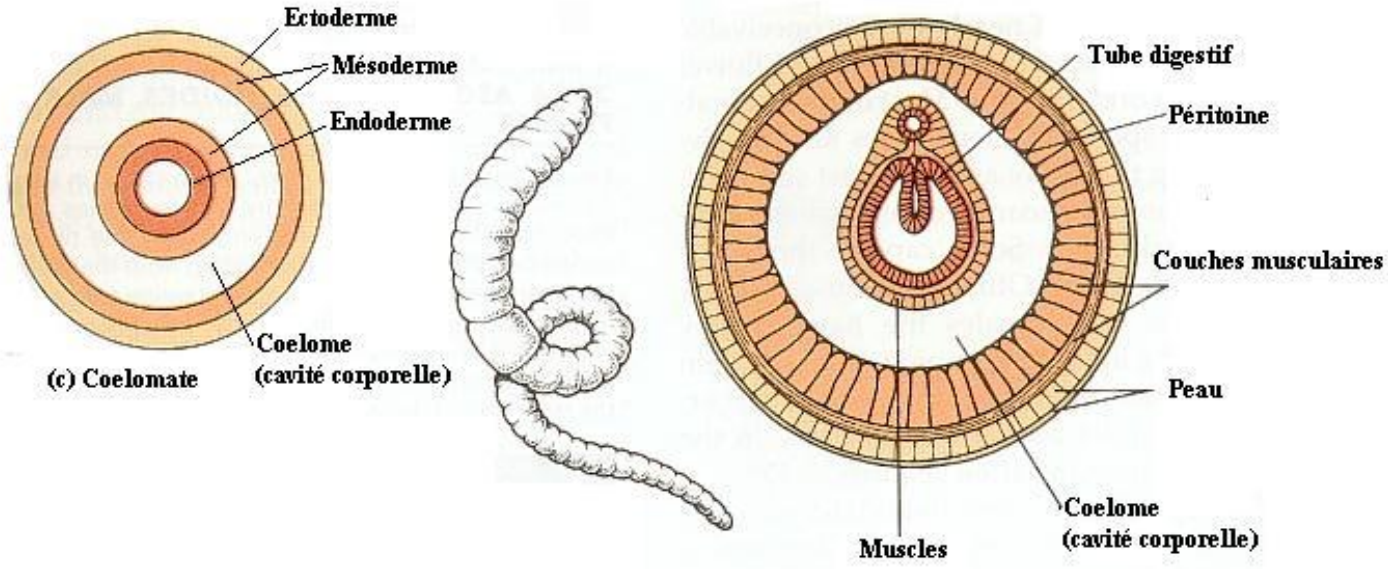
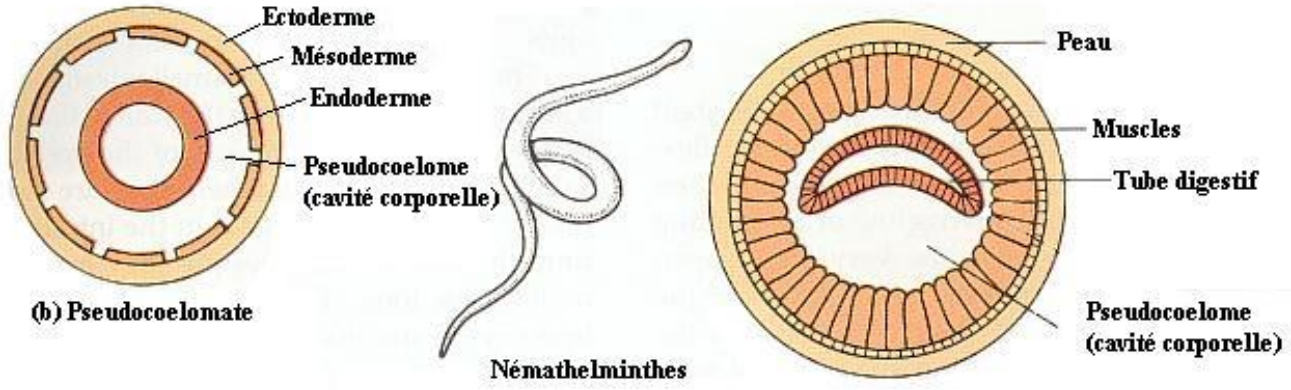
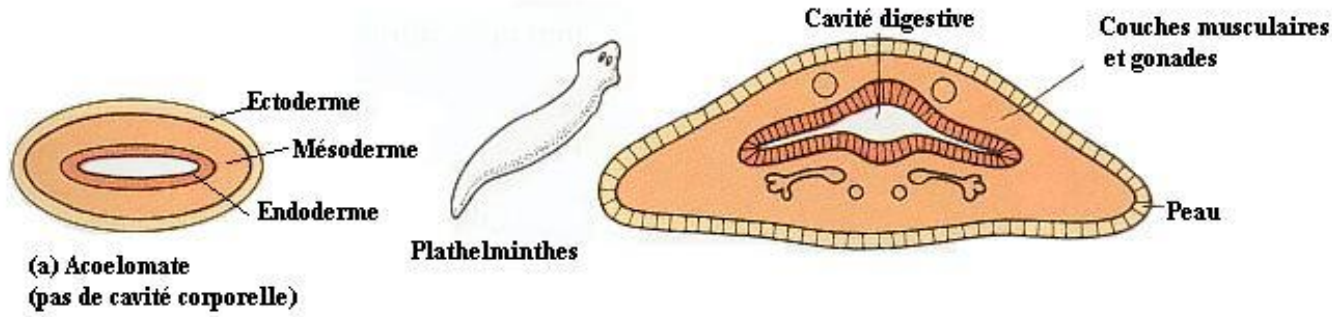
Priapulida

**Nematoda**

Nematomorpha

Acanthocephala

Entoprocta



***Acoelomate,  
Pseudocoelomate &  
Eucoelomate body  
plan***

# *Pseudocoelomates*

(common characteristics)

All have:-

- *a body wall of epidermis*
- *a dermis*
- *muscles surrounding the pseudocoel*
- *complete digestive tract*
- *an epidermis may secrete a non-living cuticle with specialisations e.g. bristles, spines etc.*

# *Phylum:- NEMATODA*

## General characteristics:-

- cylindrical shape
- flexible, non-living cuticle
- lack of motile cells
- muscles run longitudinally only (4 bands)
- psuedocoel as hydrostatic organ highly developed
- generally small (<5cm)

# *General facts and figures:-*

1. **7 out of 10** multicellular animals are nematodes
2. They currently number over **40,000** species
3. An acre of good farm soil contains several **100 million to billion** terrestrial nematodes...
4. .... Of which **30%** are likely to be plant feeders
5. Nematodes cause, worldwide, about **10%** loss of agricultural crops
6. They are **small** (average 1mm) and **transparent**
7. All are **aquatic** for part of their life-cycle



# *General facts and figures:-*

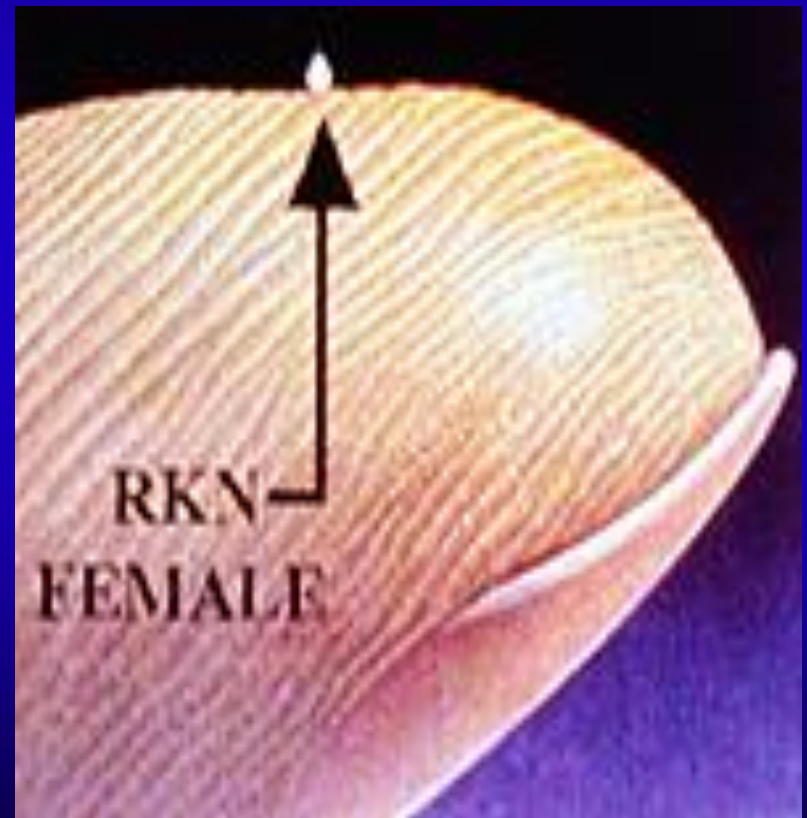
8. They exist in all types of habitats  
(*i.e. temperatures [below freezing - 50 C],  
wide range of pH*)
9. No overlap of fresh-water and marine faunas
10. Nematode evolution  
*Marine* ↻ *Terrestrial* ↻ *Freshwater*

They range in size (from 7.8 m, *Placentonema gigantissima*, whale parasite to 112μ, *Sahaeronema minutissimum*, in citrus plants)

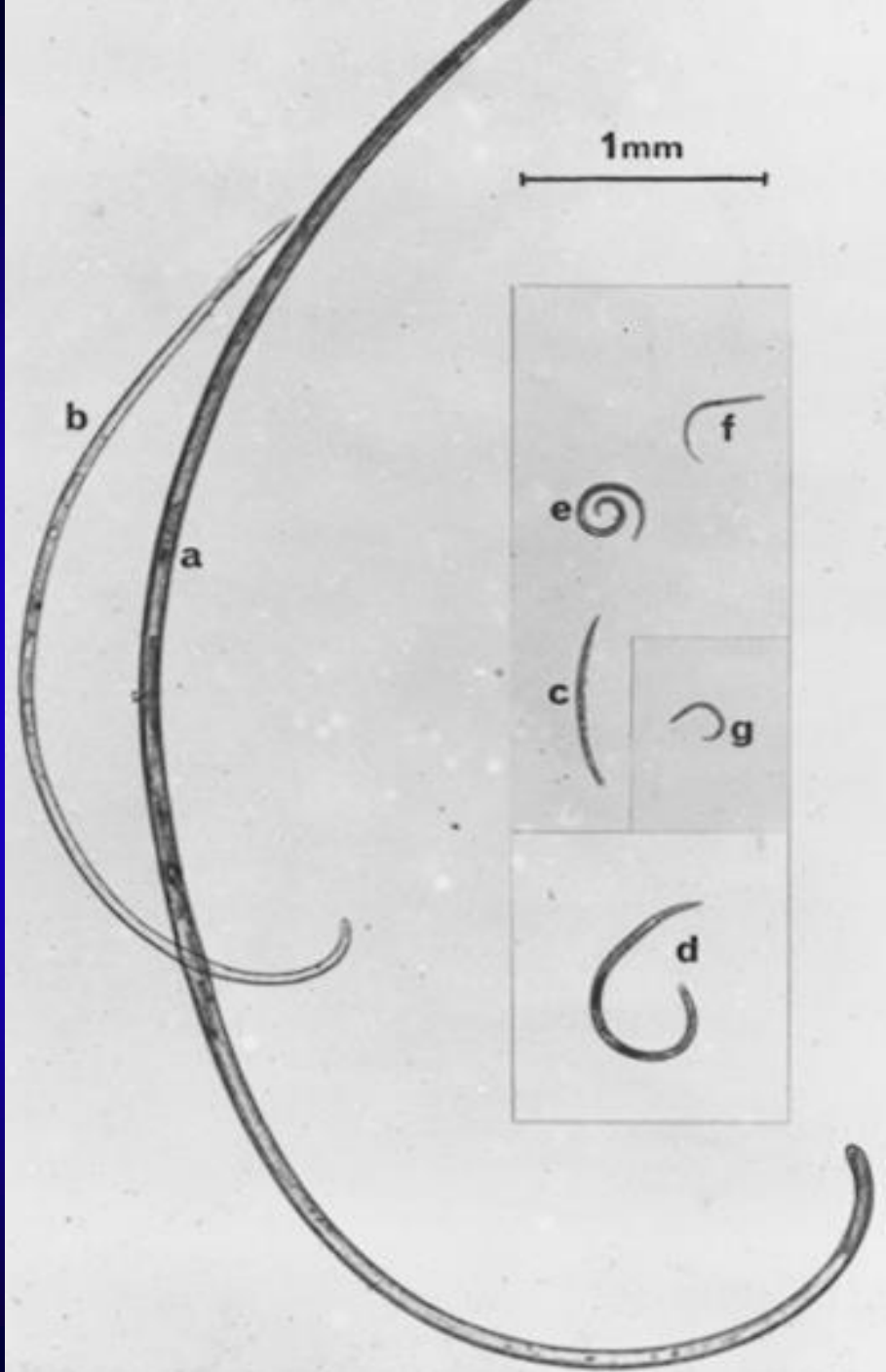


Isolated specimens of *Placentonema gigantissima* (left) and *Ascaris lumbricoides* (right) (source unknown)

Most plant nematodes are small (up to 1 mm in length) and transparent (source unknown)



*Size range  
of plant  
parasitic  
nematodes*



# *Types (trophic groups) of nematodes*

## GROUP                      Role in soil, crop & animal health

- **Animal parasites** .. Many diseases in animals & man
- **Plant parasites** .... Primary parasite & secondary as vector, crop yield losses 5-20%
- **Bacterial feeders** .. Contribute to nutrient cycling in soil
- **Fungal feeders** ... Nutrient cycling, damage in mushroom crops
- **Predators** ..... Feed on plant-parasitic nematodes (role in bio-control)
- **Insect parasites** ... Bio-control of some insects

# Variety of form in nematodes

a. *Tetrameres*

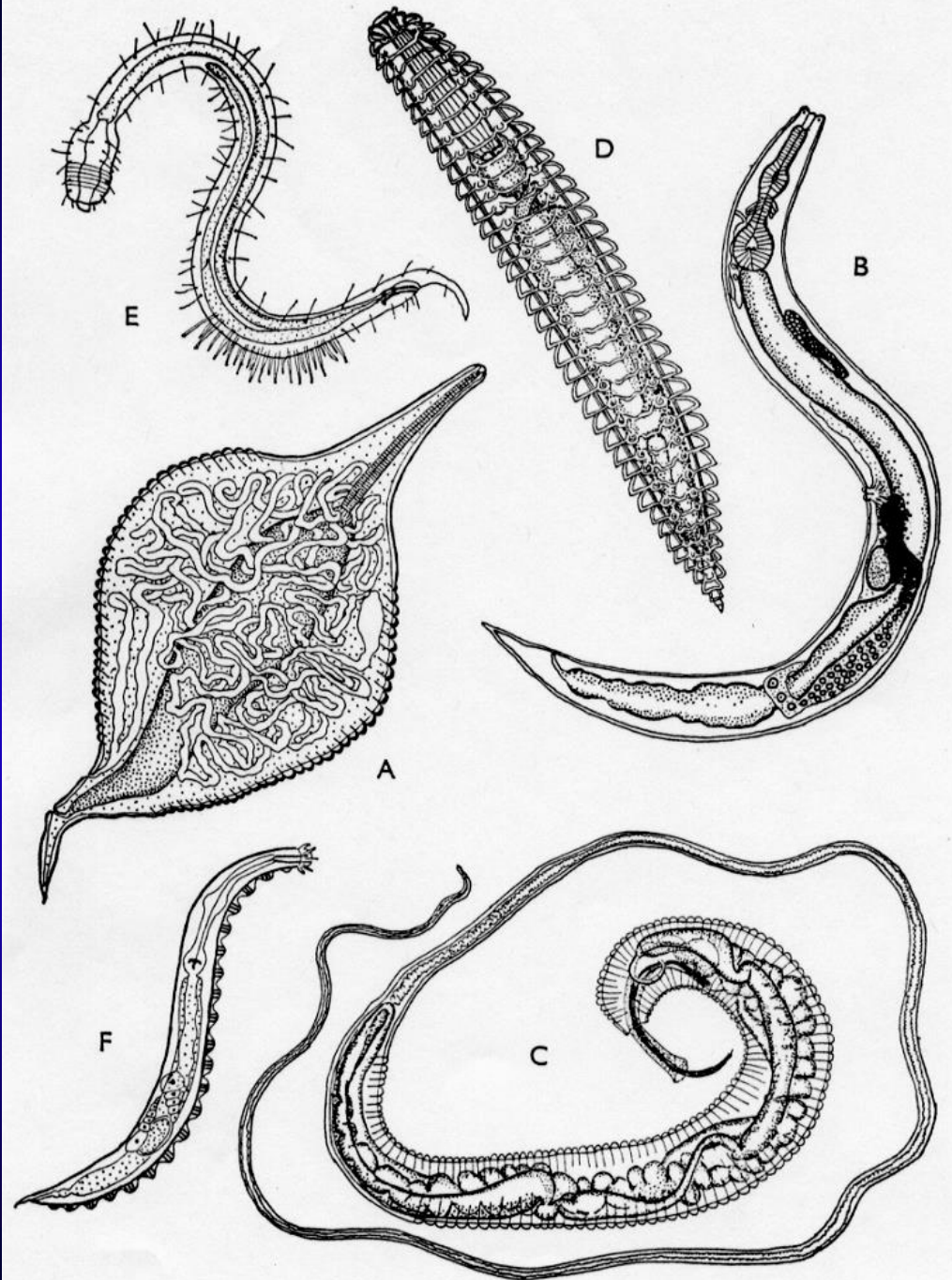
b. *Rhabditis*

c. *Trichuris*

d. *Criconema*

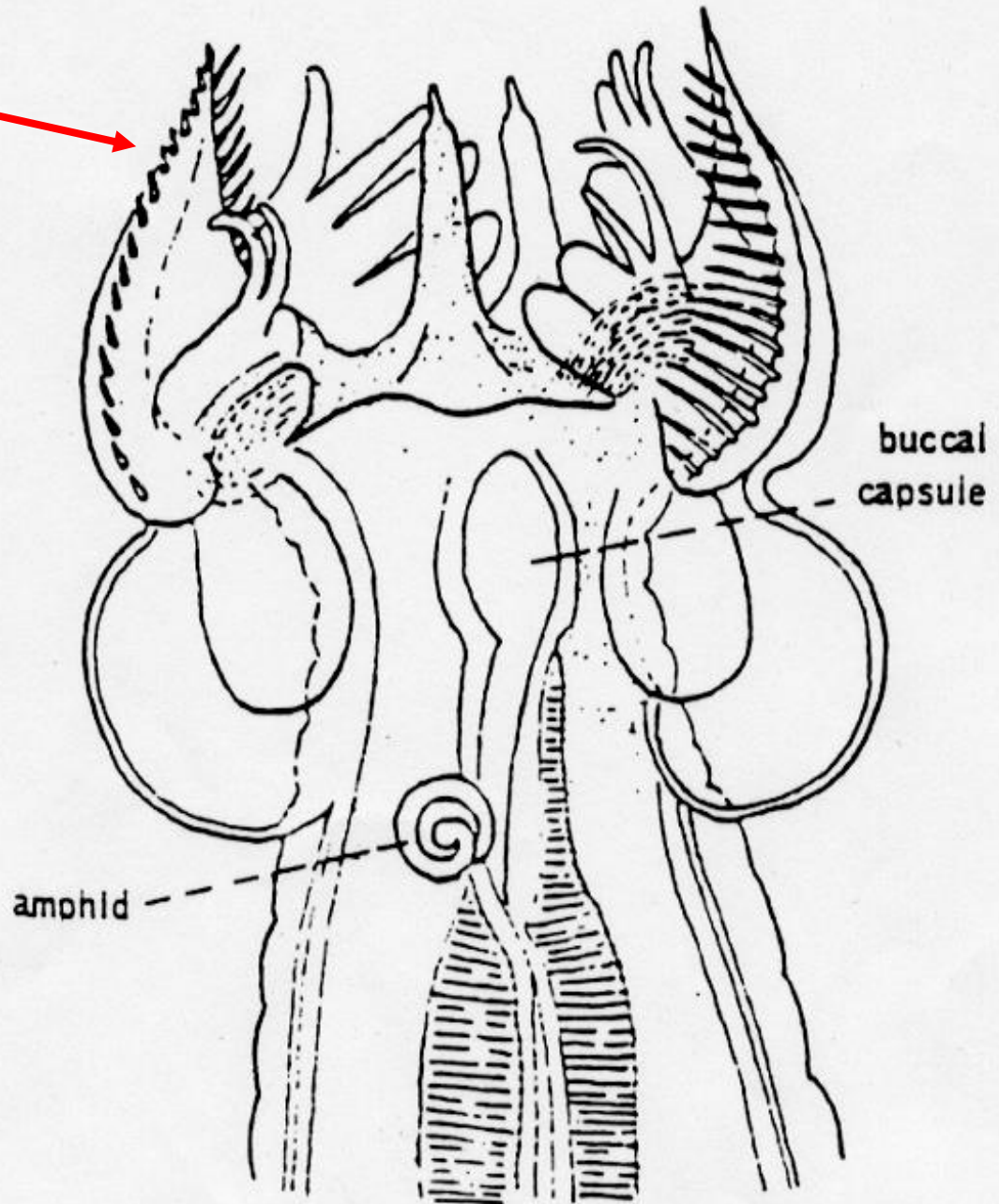
e. *Chaetosoma*

f. *Bunonema*



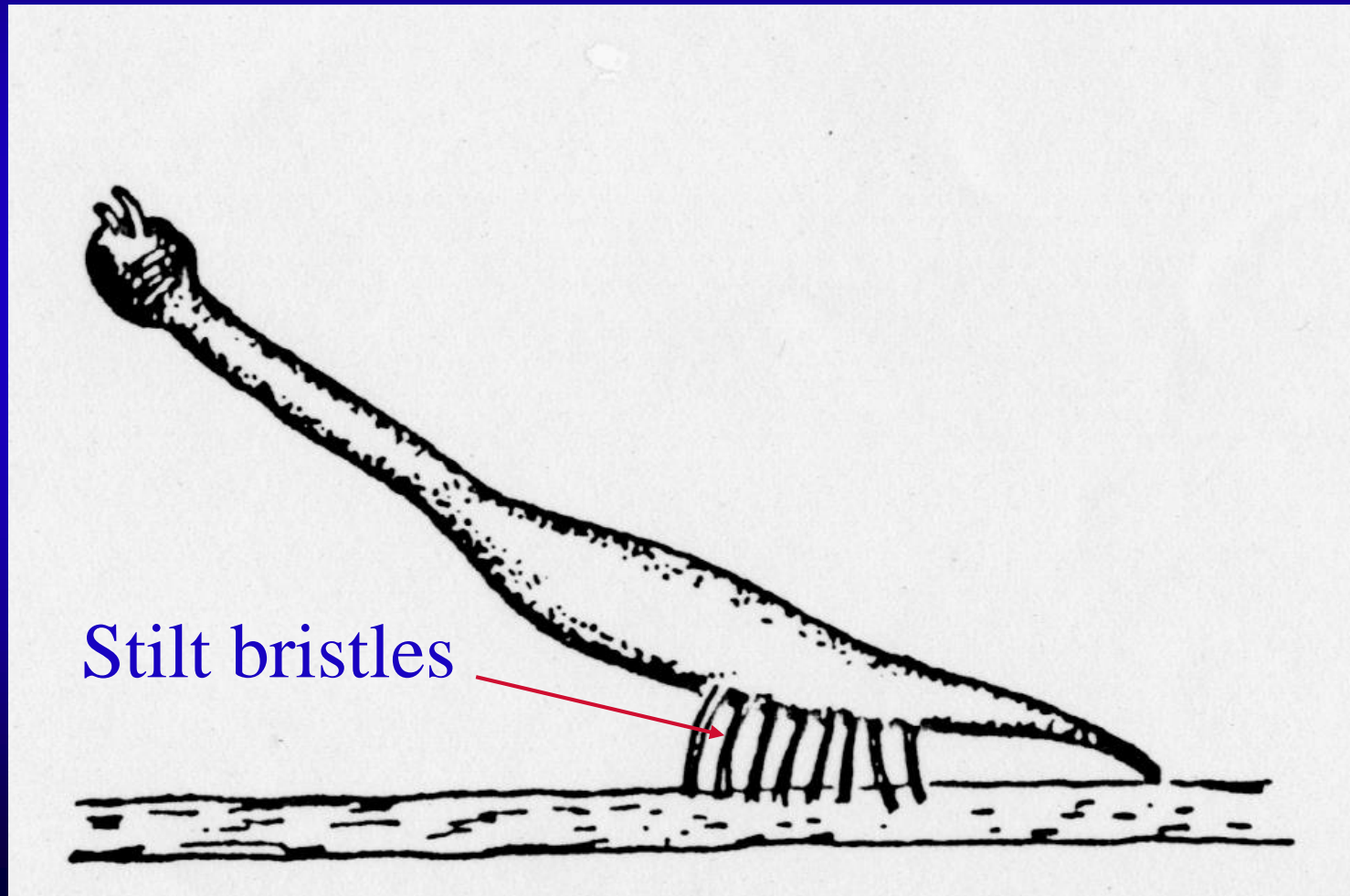
*Cuticular  
projections  
of head  
region*

[*Wilsonema*  
with ornate  
projections  
on lips]



# *Cuticular projections - stilt bristles*

[*Draconematidae*, marine nematode]

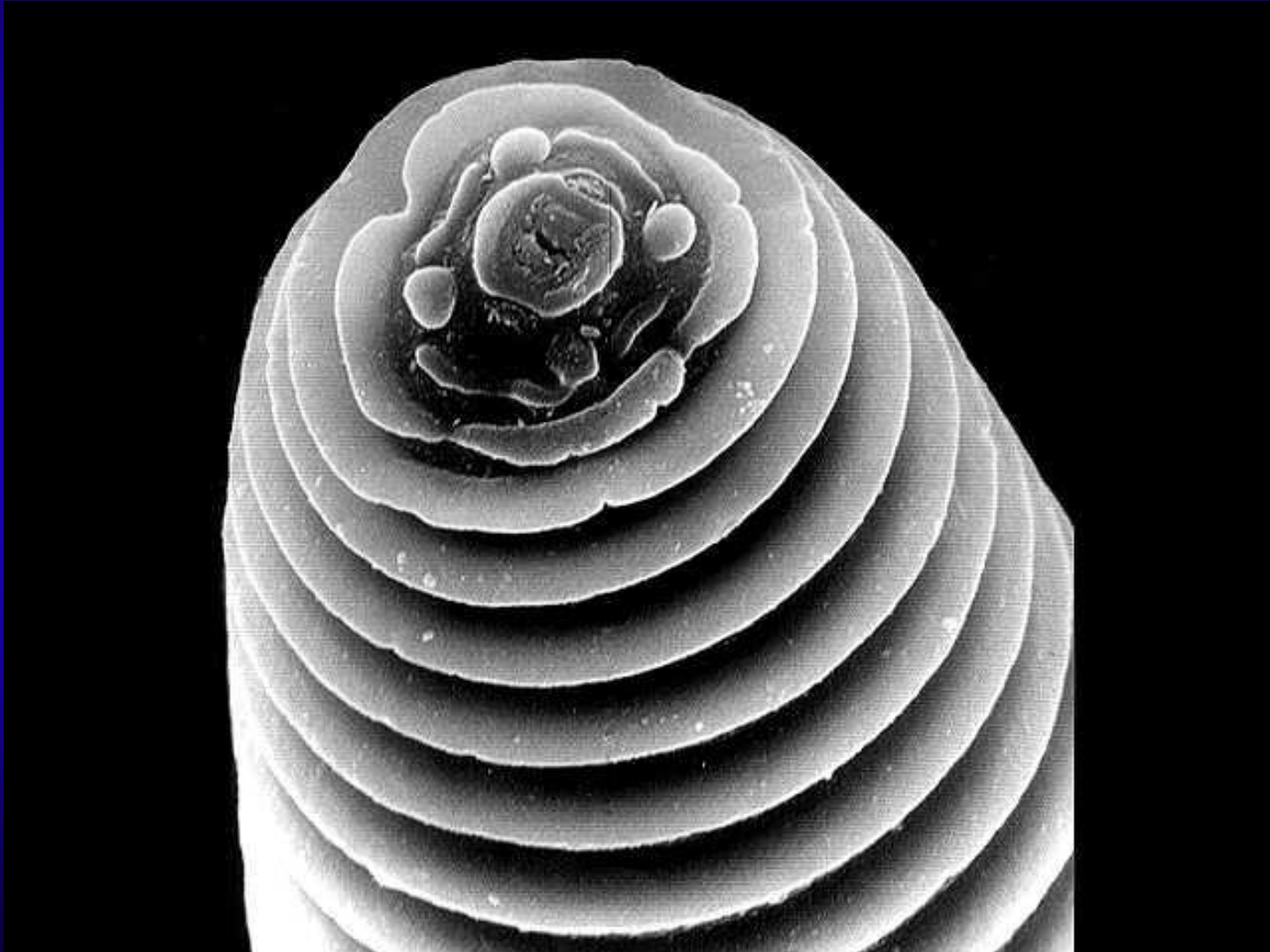




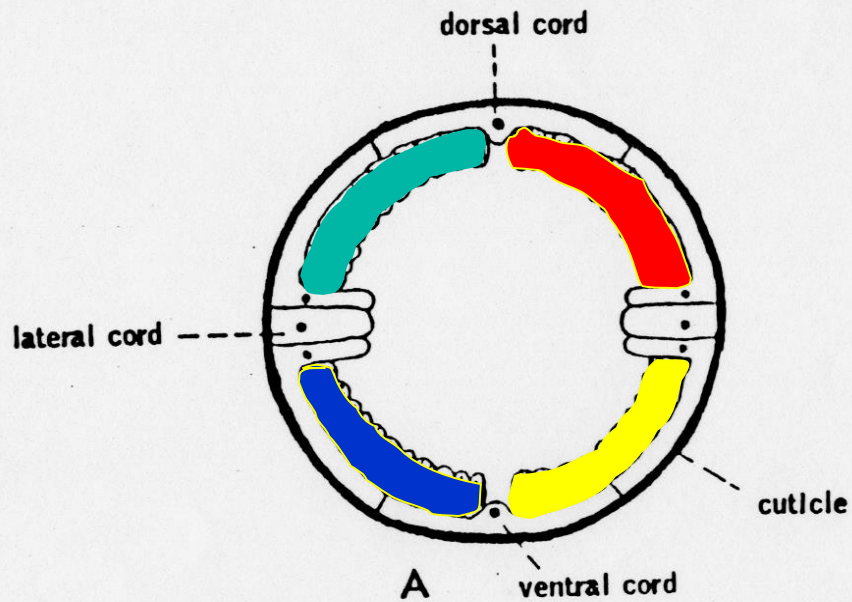
# *Criconemoides* (source unknown)



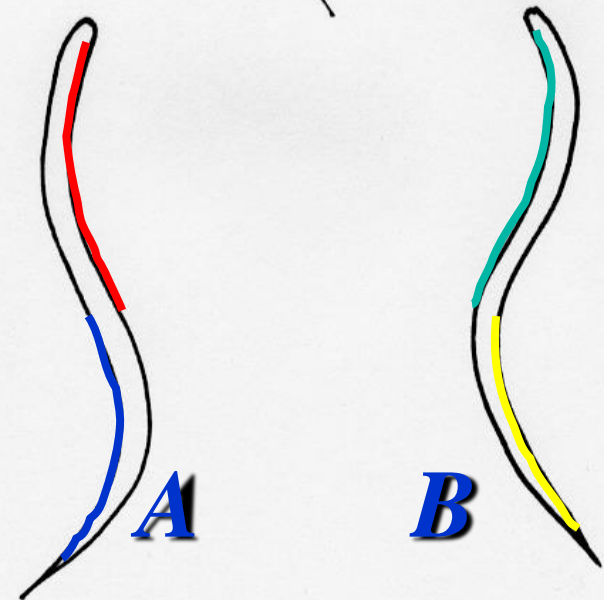
*Criconemoides* (head region)  
(source unknown)



# *Nematode movement*



*Shape  
at rest*



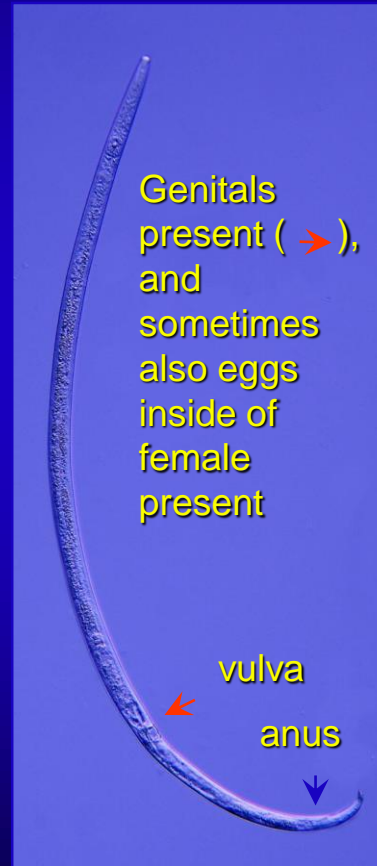
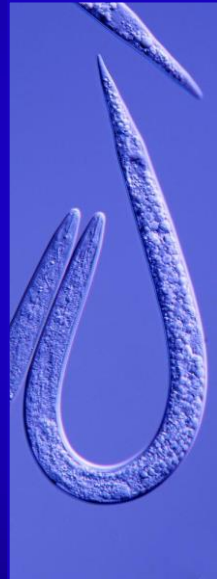
# Distinguishing juveniles from adult nematodes

(morphological identification is possible on adults, only, mainly females)

(slide prepared by prof. Marek Tomalak, Institute of Plant Protection – Governmental Research Institute, Poznań, Poland)



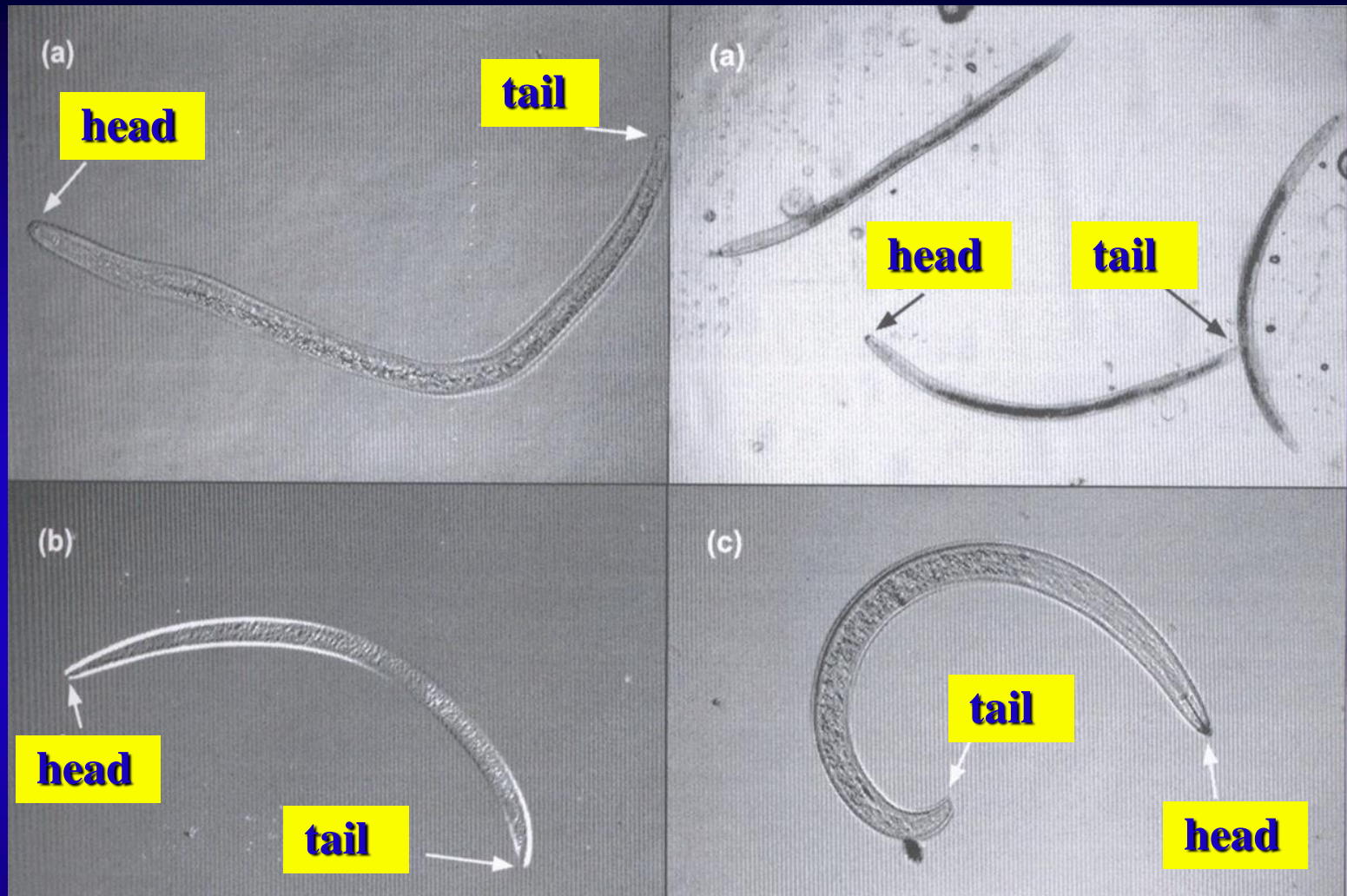
JUVENILE



FEMALE



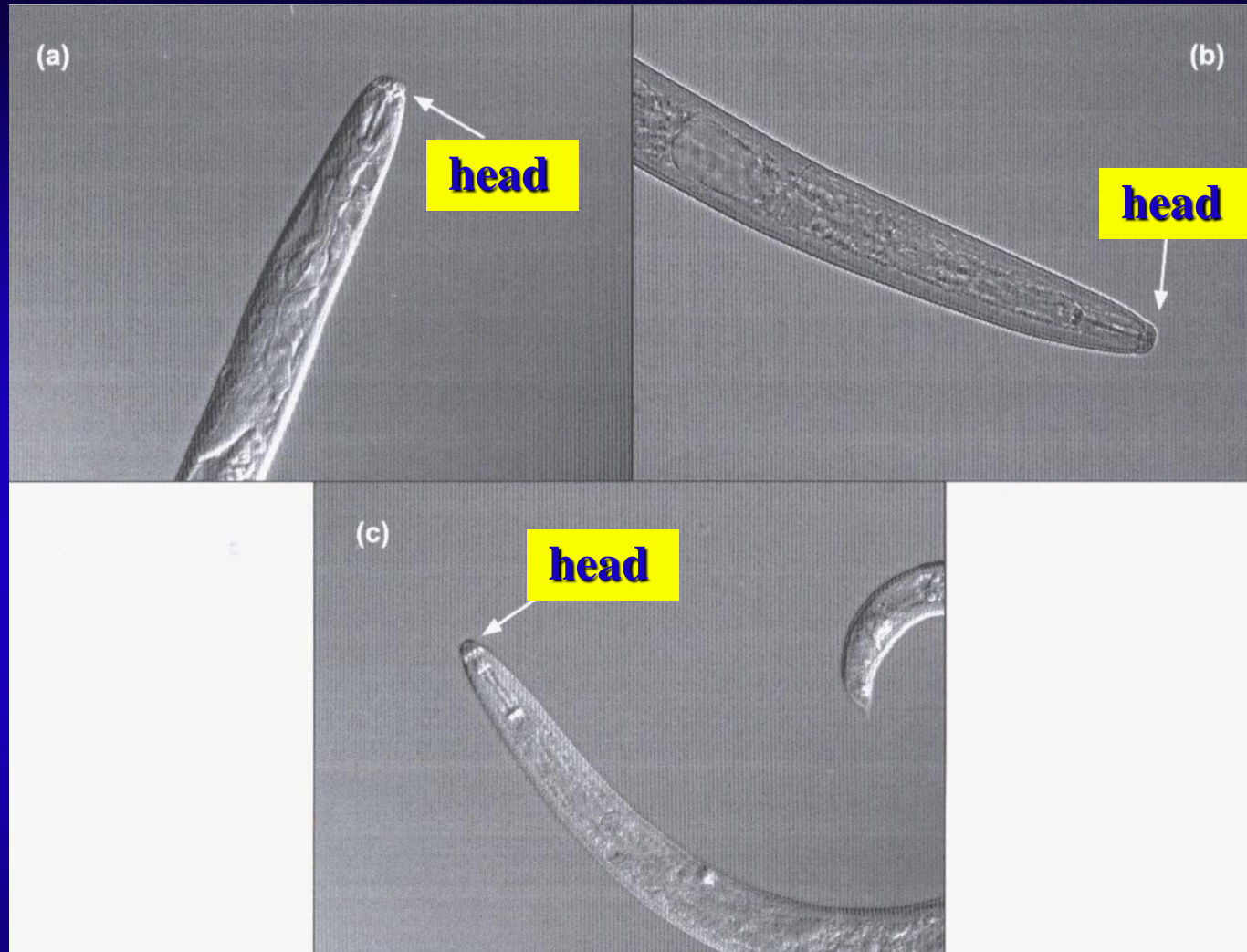
MALE



Plant-parasitic nematode juveniles (Tylenchida)

(a) *Pratylenchus*, (b) *Belonolaimidae*, (c) *Hoplolaimidae*

(phot. Renata Dobosz, Institute of Plant Protection, Poznań, Poland)



Head of plant-parasitic nematode juveniles (Tylenchida)

(a) *Pratylenchus*, (b) *Belonolaimidae*, (c) *Hoplolaimidae*

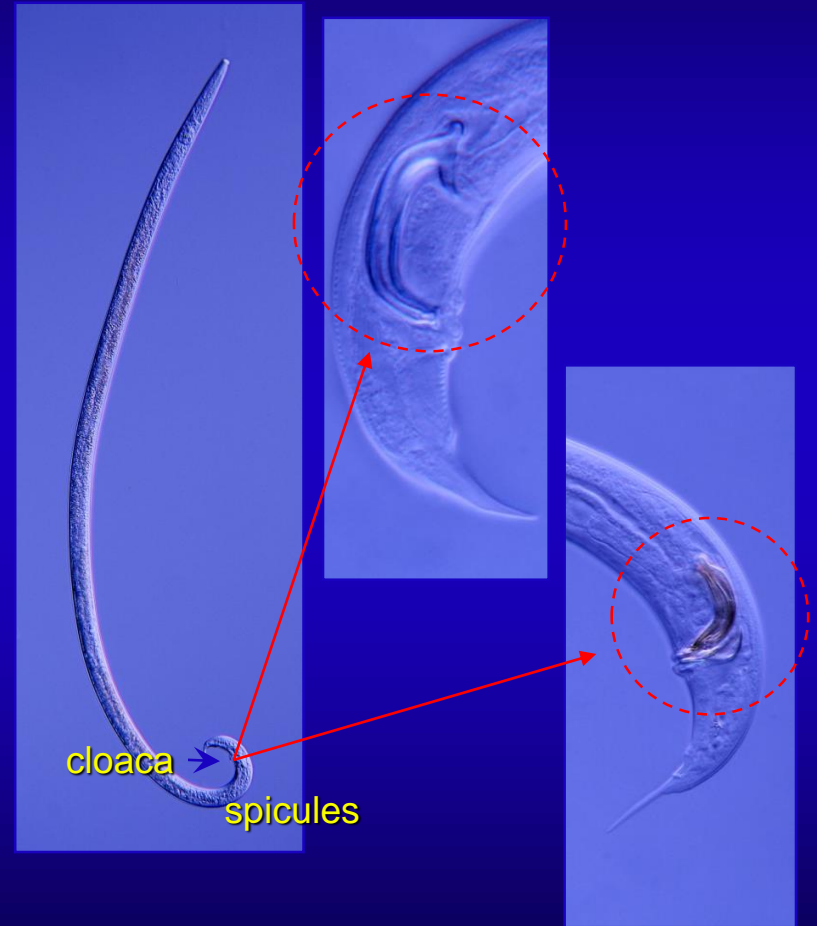
(phot. Renata Dobosz, Institute of Plant Protection, Poznań, Poland)

# Distinguishing females from males

slide prepared by prof. Marek Tomalak, Institute of Plant Protection – Governmental Research Institute, Poznań, Poland

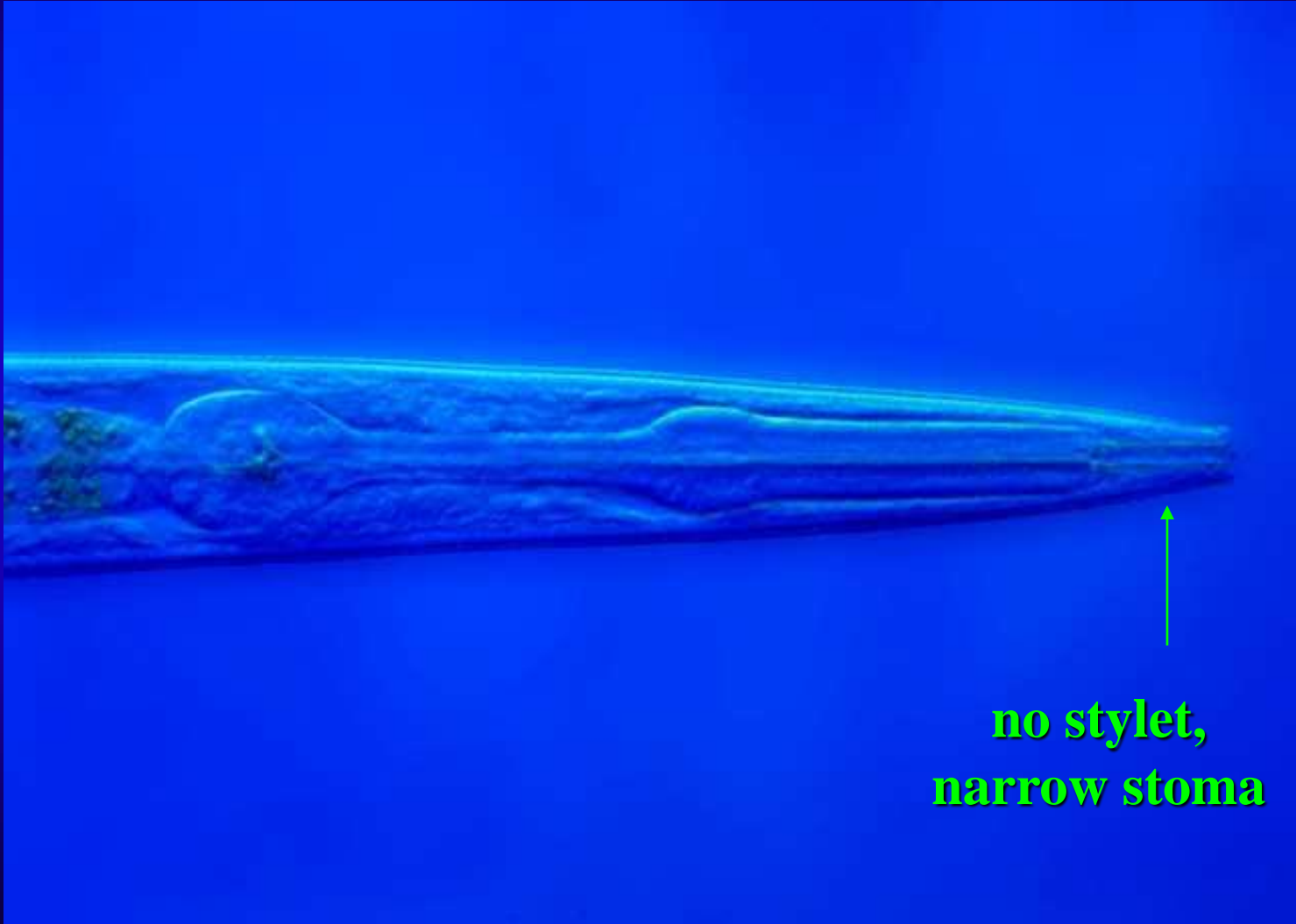


FEMALE – vulva is present



MALE – spicules are present

# Bacteria feeder (*Rhabditida*) (source unknown)

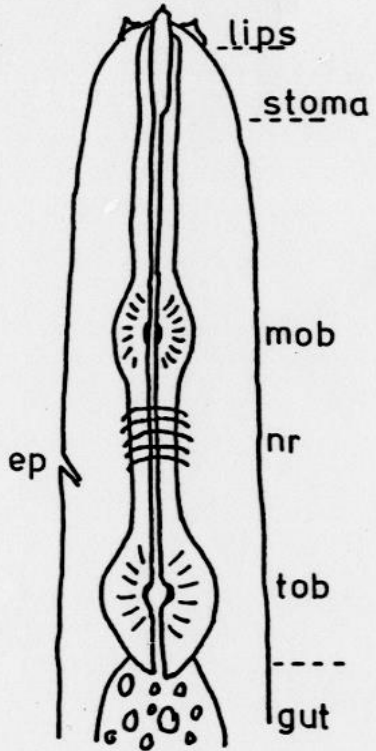


no stylet,  
narrow stoma



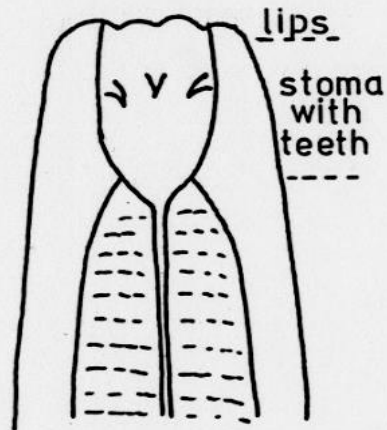
# Oesophageal regions

## MICROBIVEROUS



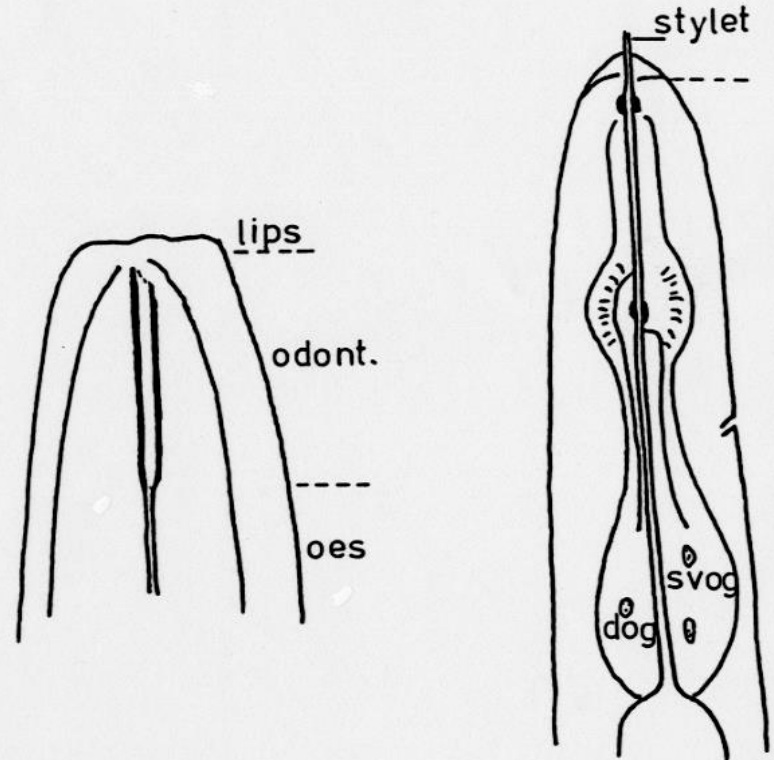
e.g. Rhabditis

## PREDACEOUS



e.g. Mononchus

## HERBIVOROUS



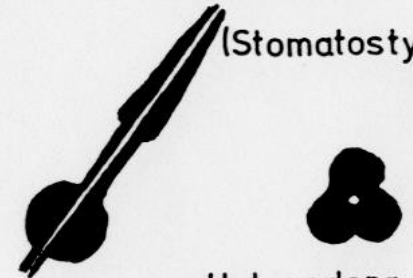
DORYLAIMIDA

(Odontostylet)

e.g. Longidorus

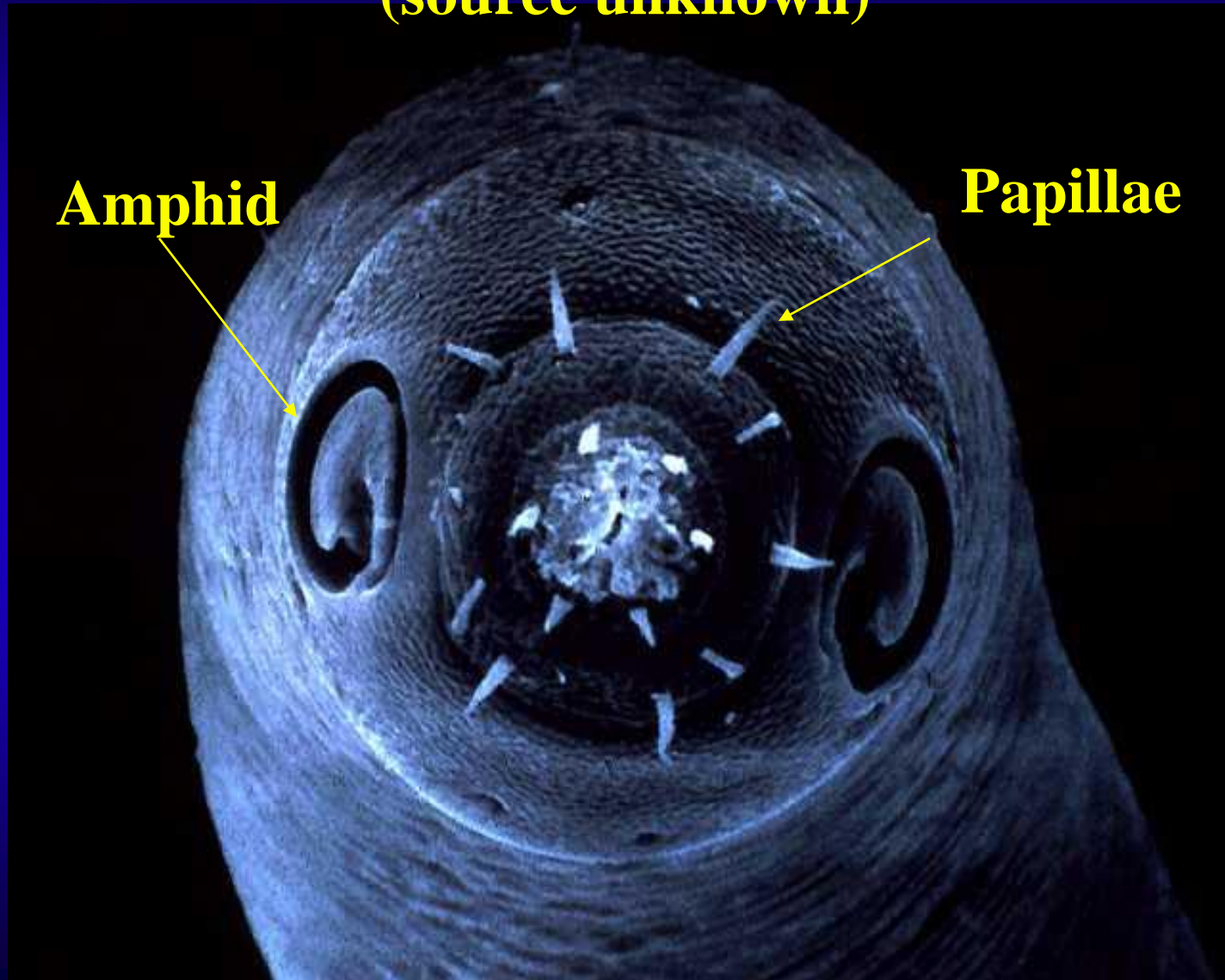
TYLENCHIDA

(Stomatostylet)

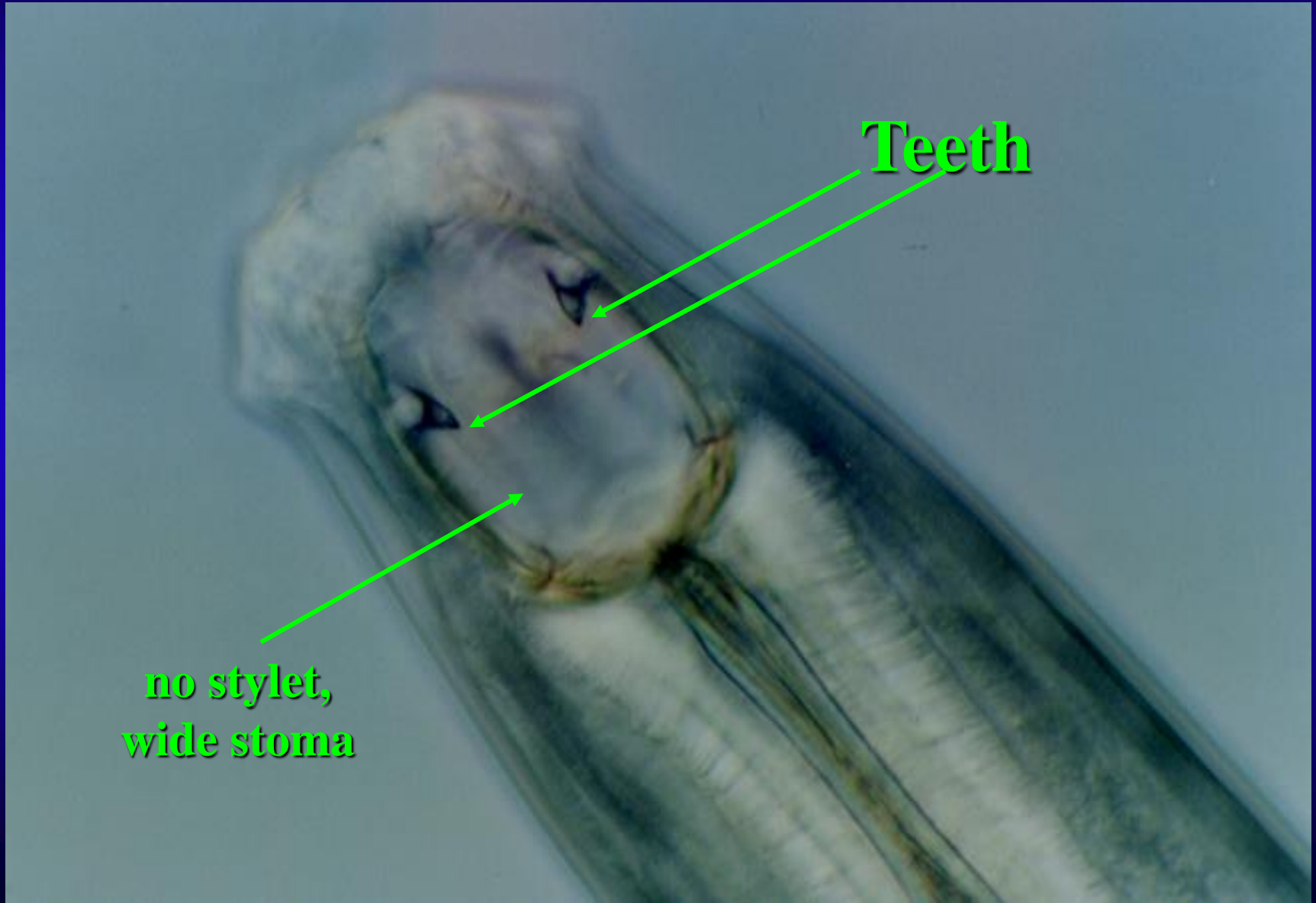


e.g. Heterodera

**Amphids & Papillae (*Desmodora pilosa*)**  
**(source unknown)**



**Predaceous nematode (*Mononchus*)  
(source unknown)**



**Teeth**

**no stylet,  
wide stoma**

**Predaceous nematode (*Mylenchulus*)  
(source unknown)**

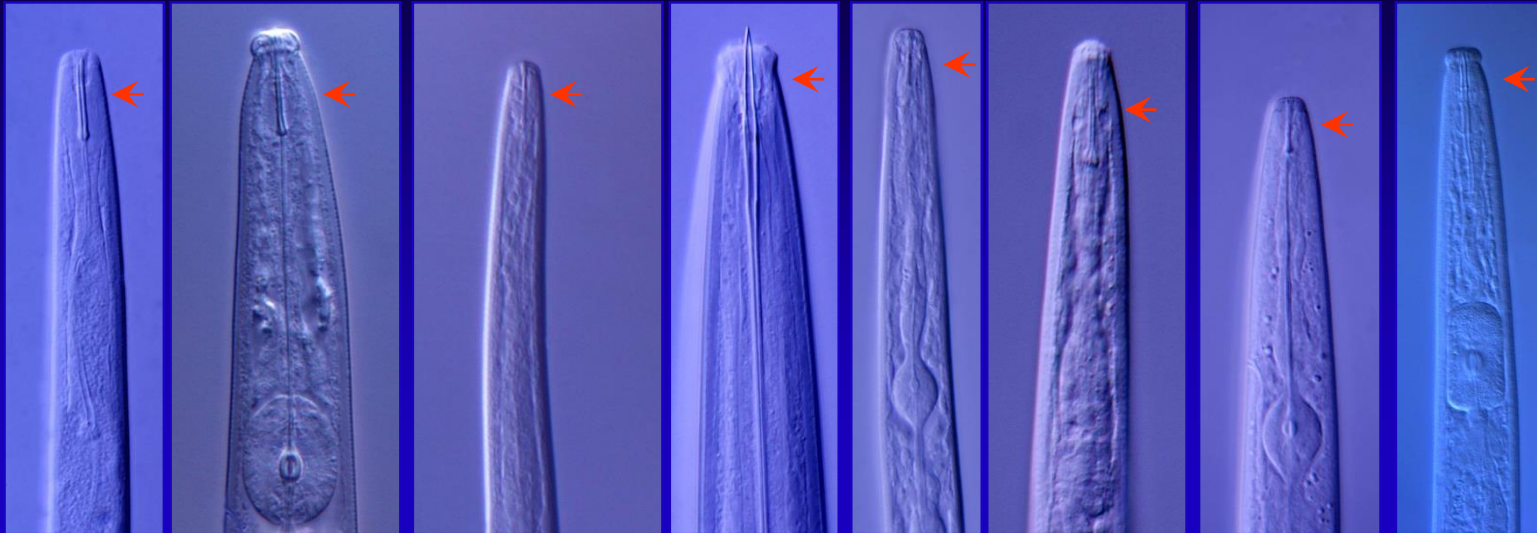


***Mononchus* feeding on other nematode  
(source unknown)**

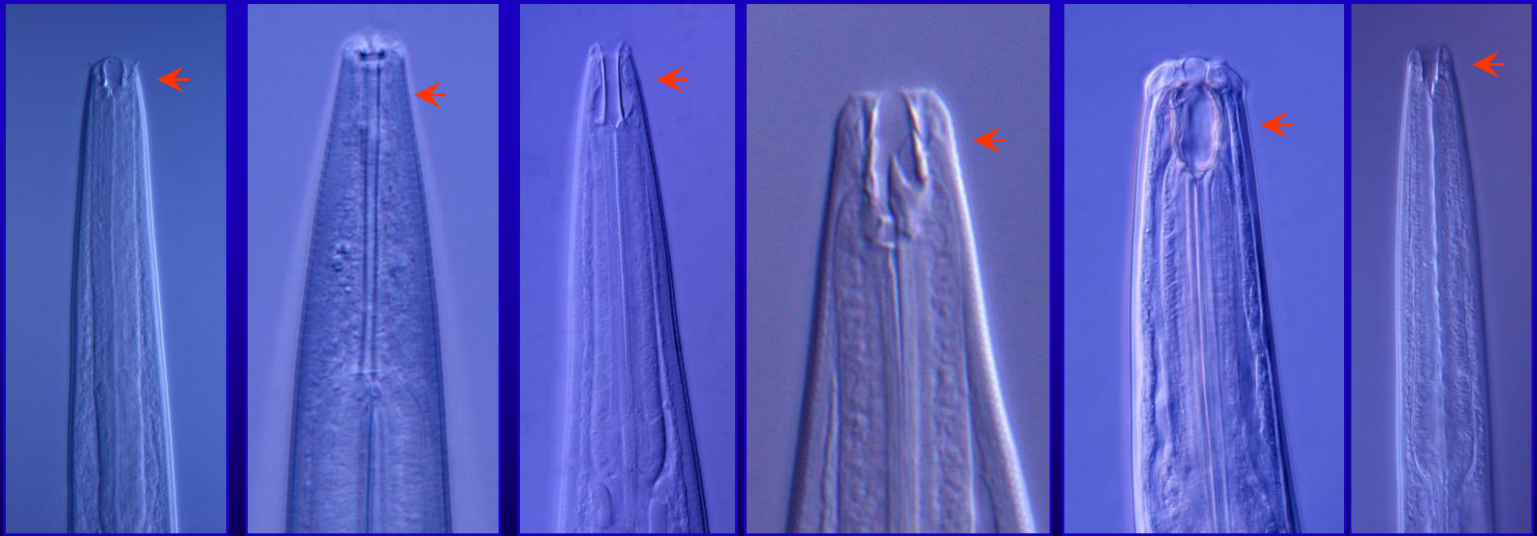


# Scheme of oesophageal regions

Slide prepared by prof. Marek Tomalak, Institute of Plant Protection – Governmental Research Institute, Poznań, Poland



Stylet present

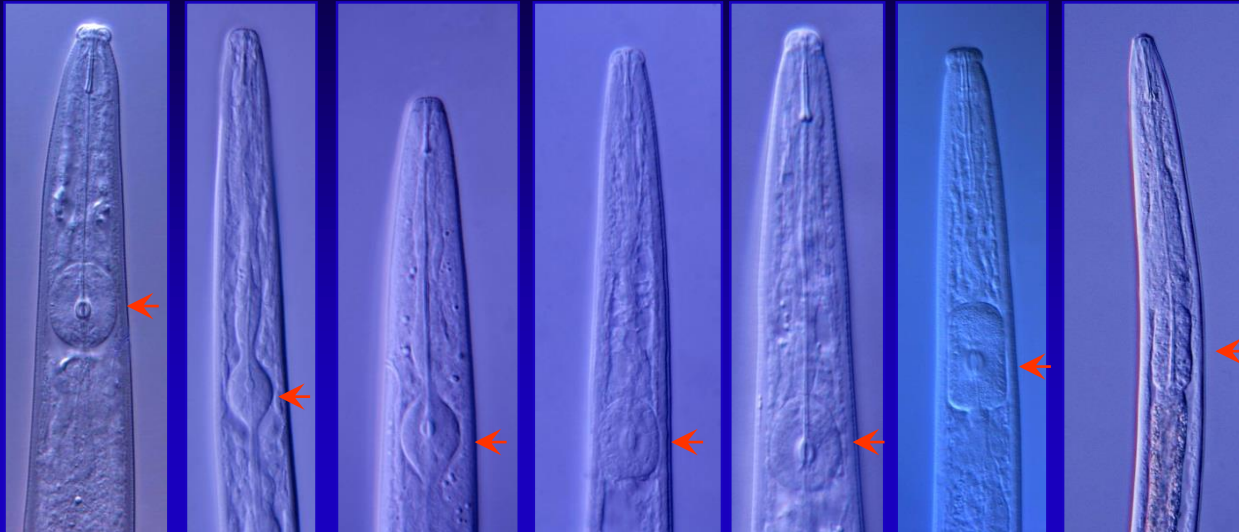


Stylet absent

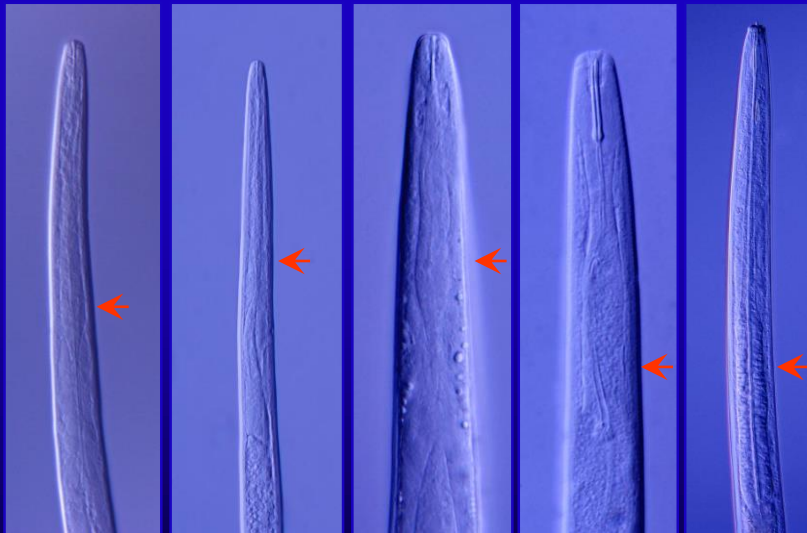


# Scheme of oesophageal region – stylet present

Slide prepared by prof. Marek Tomalak, Institute of Plant Protection – Governmental Research Institute, Poznań, Poland



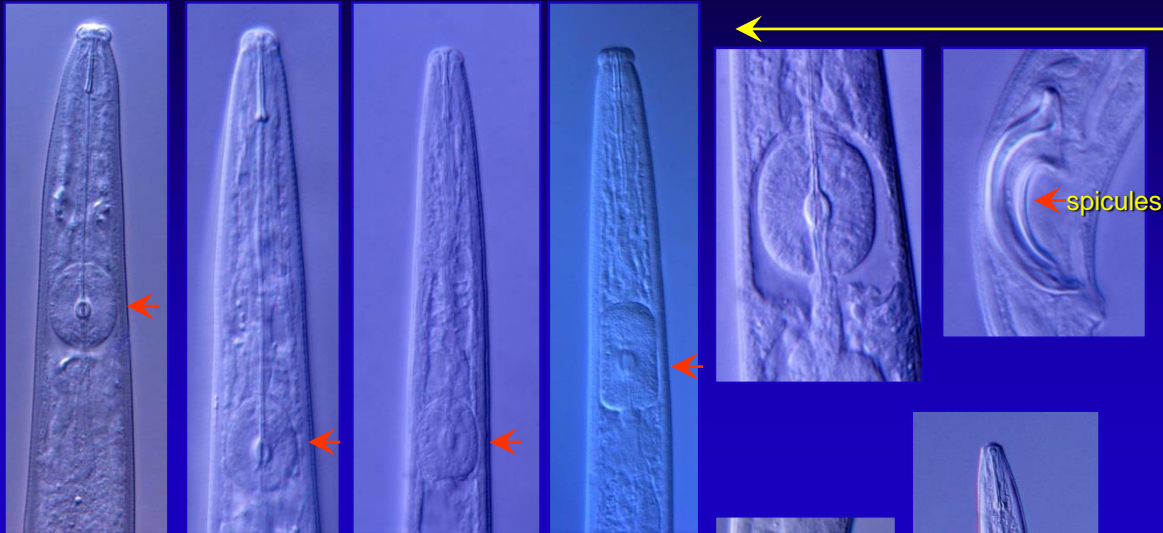
Median bulb  
present



Median bulb  
absent

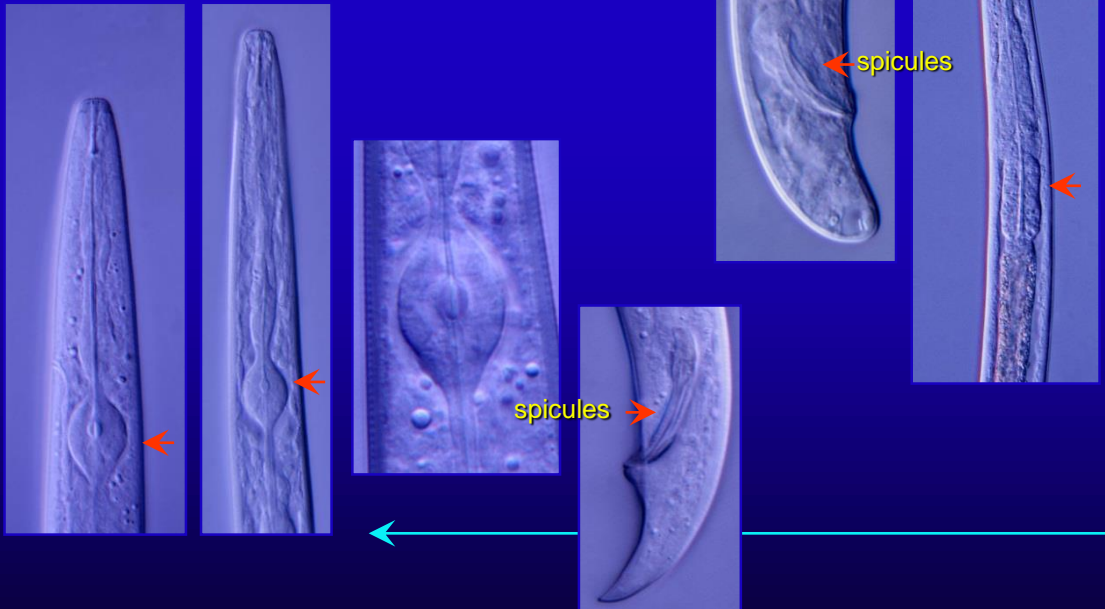
# Median bulb present – stylet present

Slide prepared by prof. Marek Tomalak, Institute of Plant Protection – Governmental Research Institute, Poznań, Poland



Median bulb prominent, egg-shaped or rectangular with rounded angles, distinctly offset from the rest of pharynx with distinct central valves  
Spicules aphelenchidal

## Aphelenchida



Median bulb elongated, egg-shaped, without central valves  
Spicules dorylaimoidal

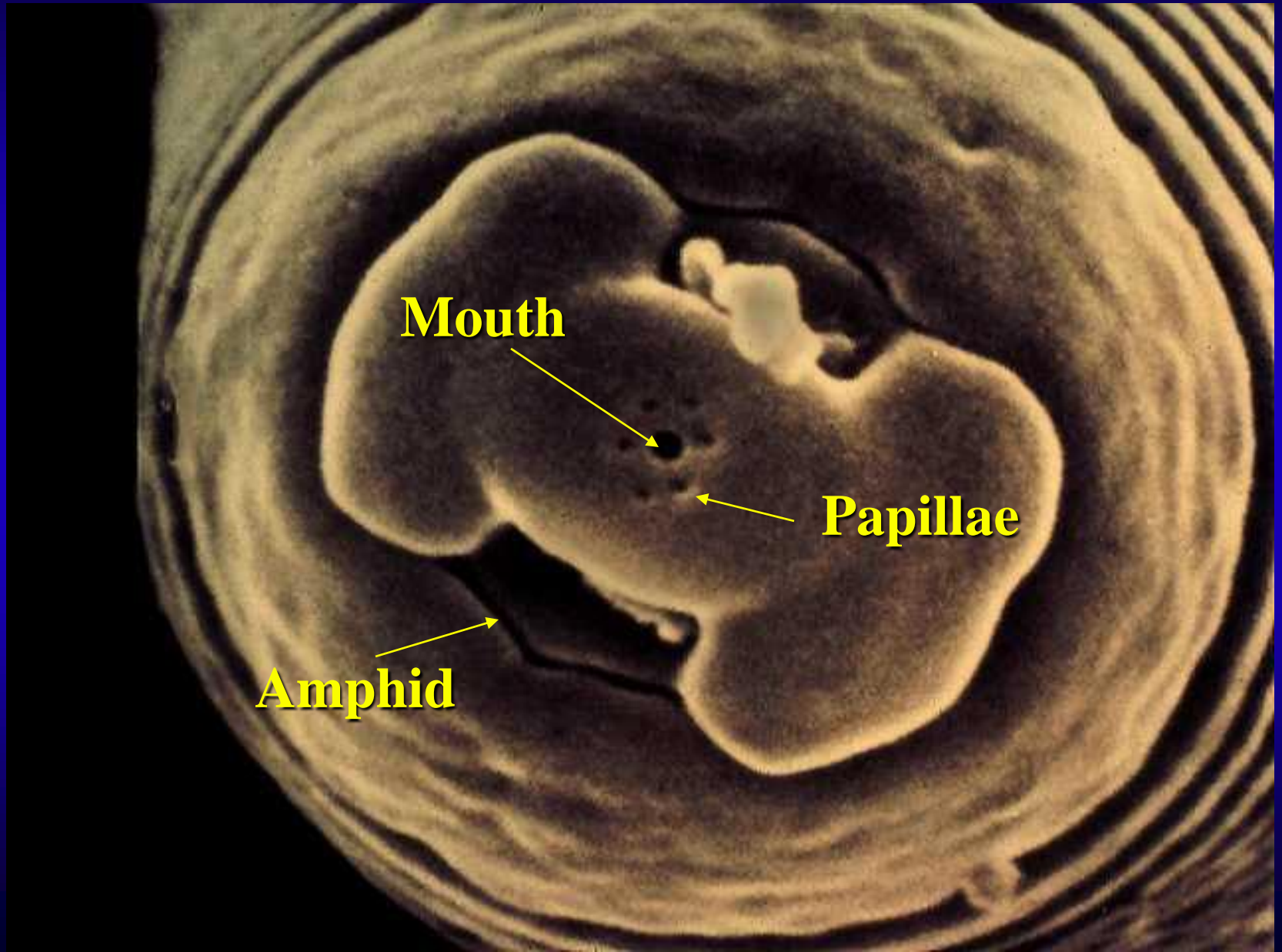
## Dorylaimida

Median bulb oval, elliptic, frequently but not always with central valves, continuous with anterior and posterior parts of pharynx. Spicules tylenchoidal

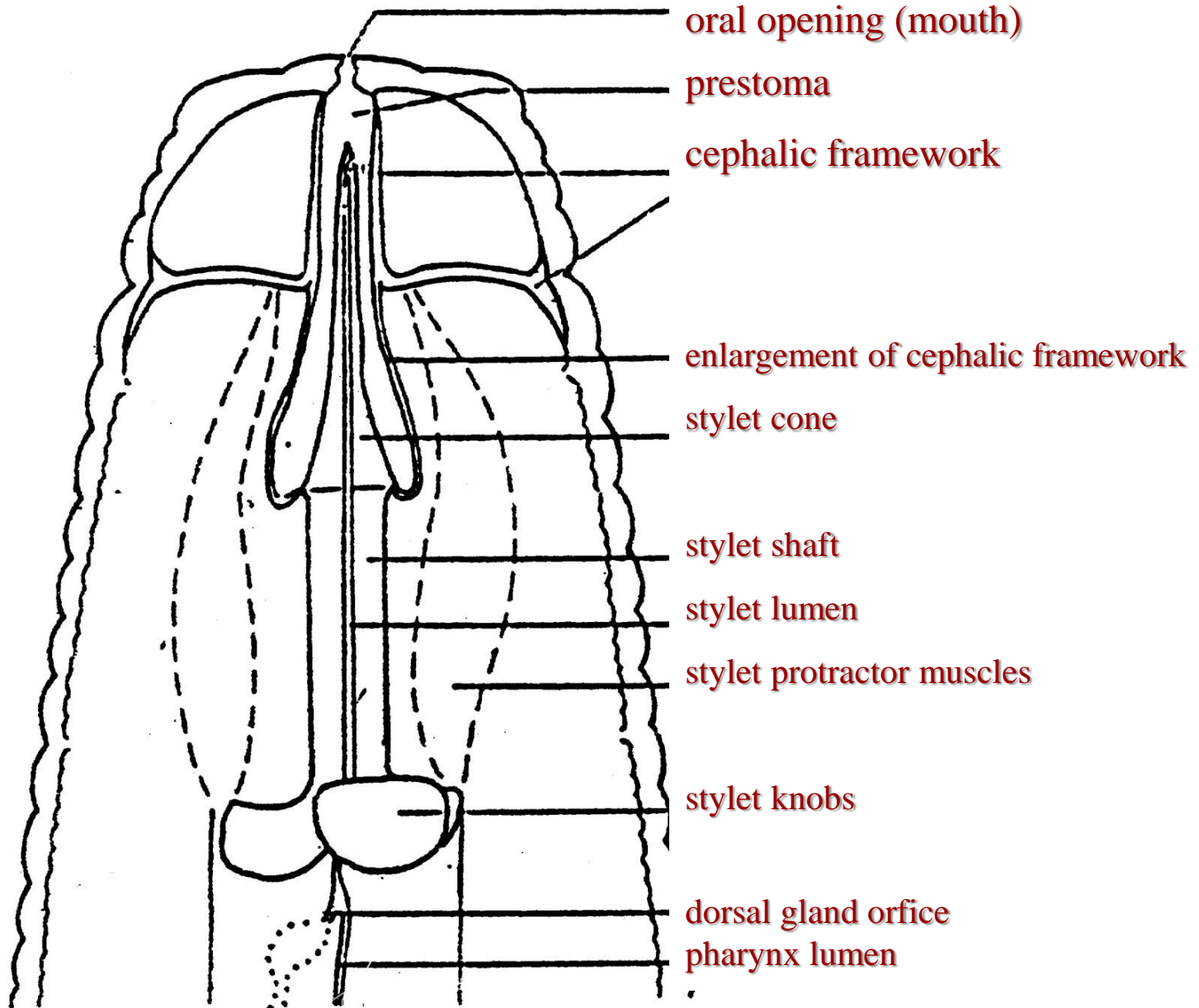
## Tylenchida



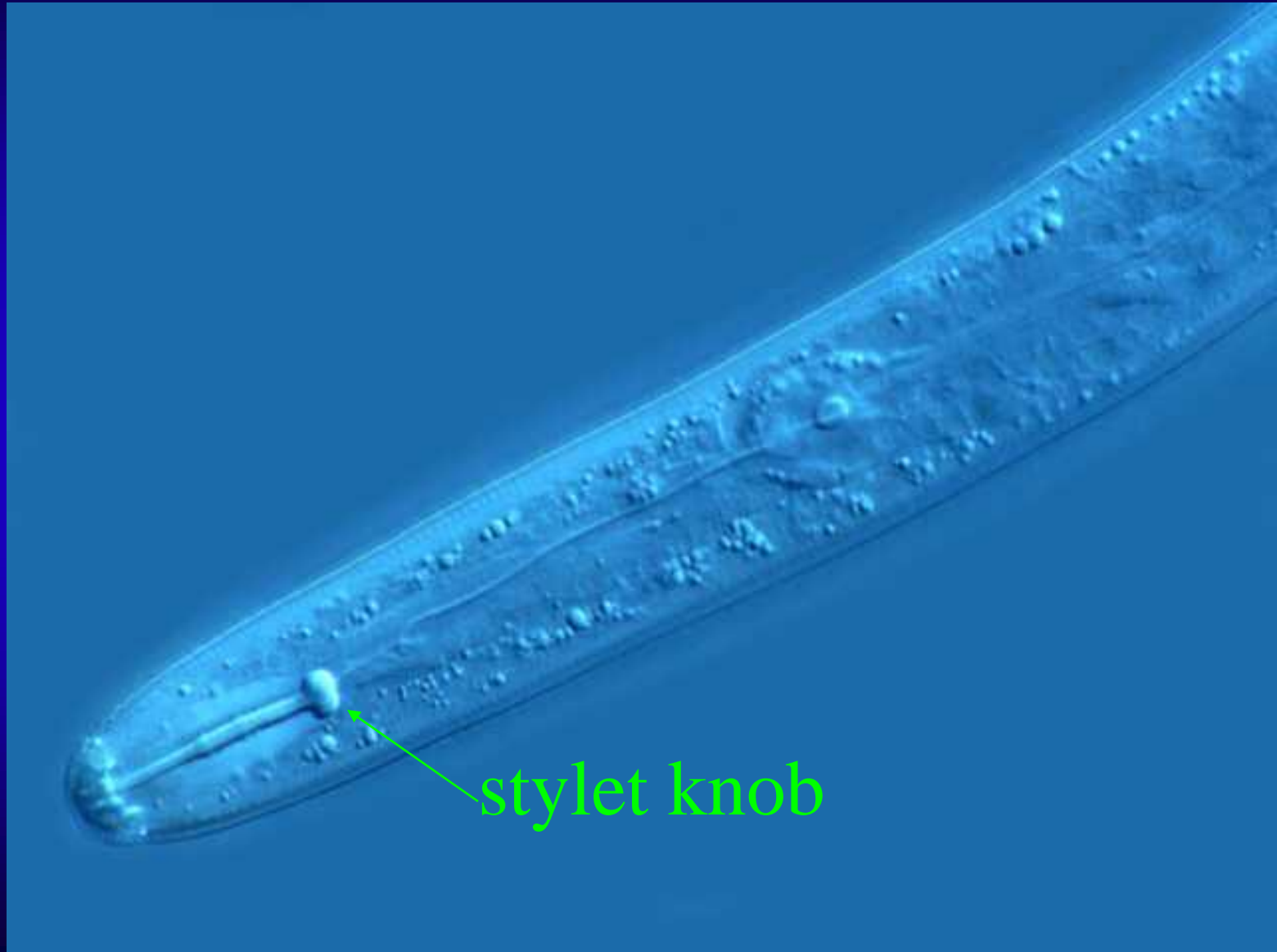
**Amphids & papillae (*Meloidogyne hapla*)**  
**(source unknown)**



# Head structure of tylenchid nematode



**Herbivorous nematode (*Tylenchida*)**  
**(source unknown)**

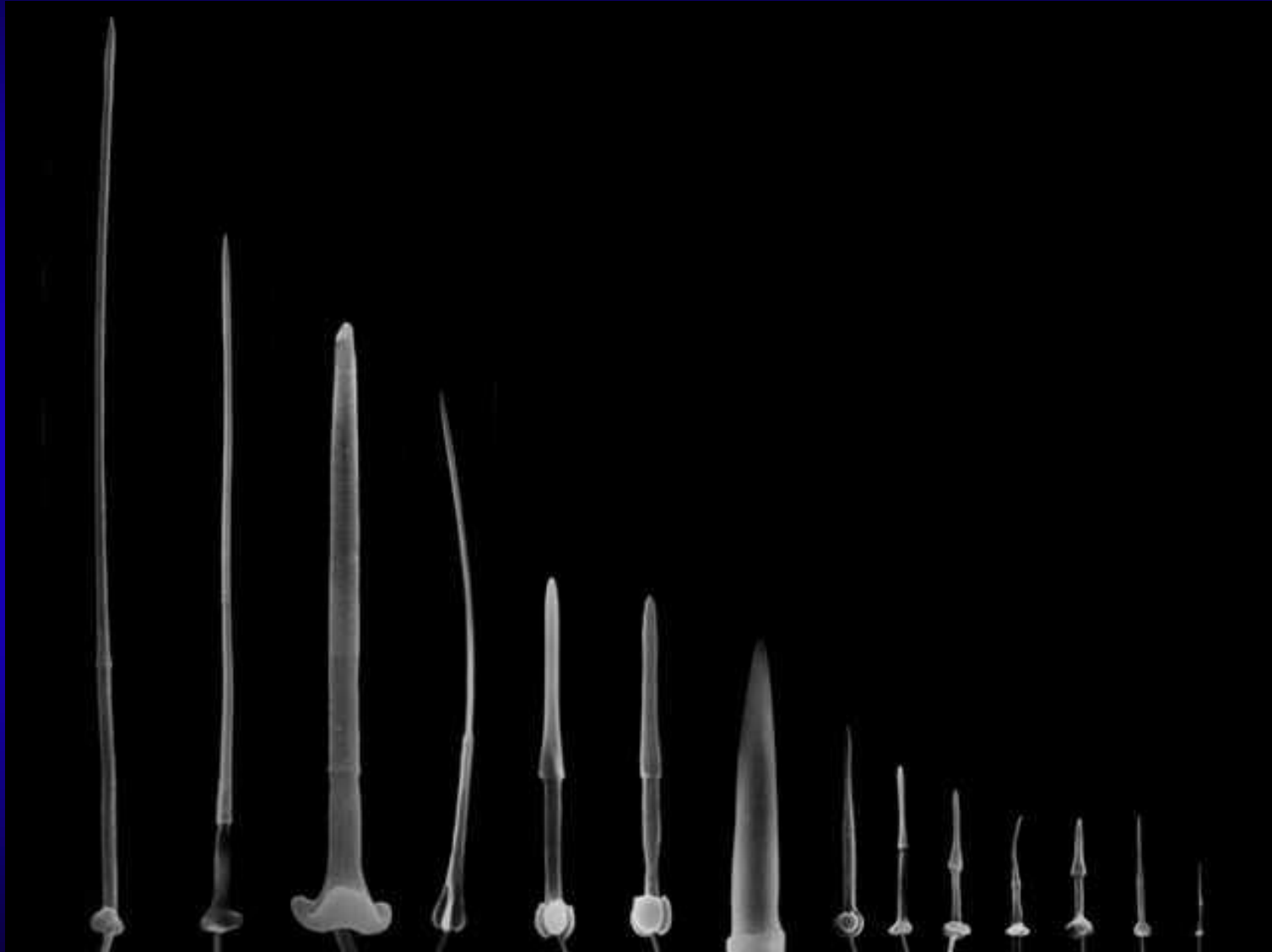


**Excised stylet**  
**of**  
***Meloidogyne***  
***hapla***  
**(source unknown)**



# Range of Tylenchida stylets

(source unknown)

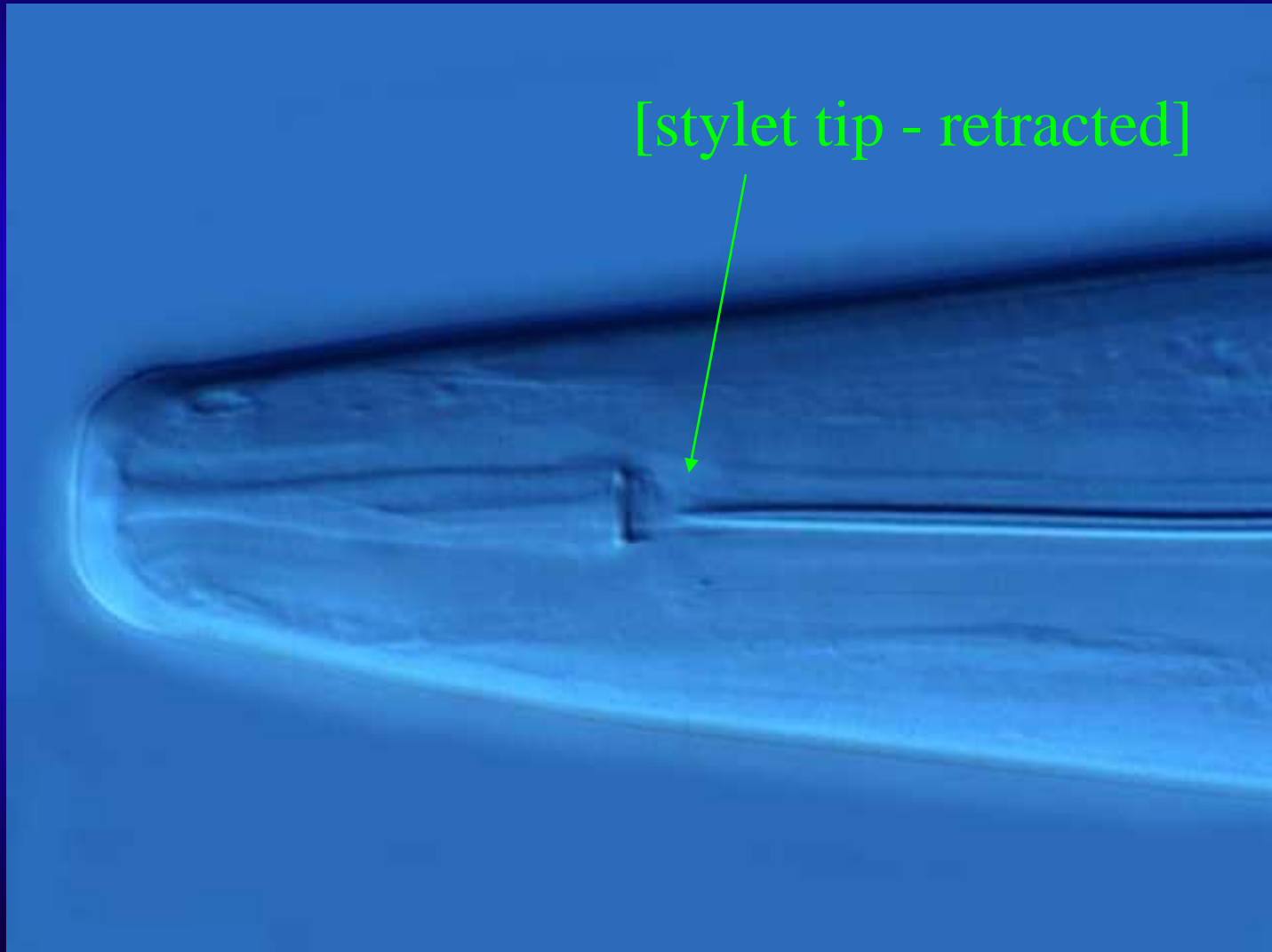


Herbivorous nematode (*Longidorus*)  
**(source unknown)**

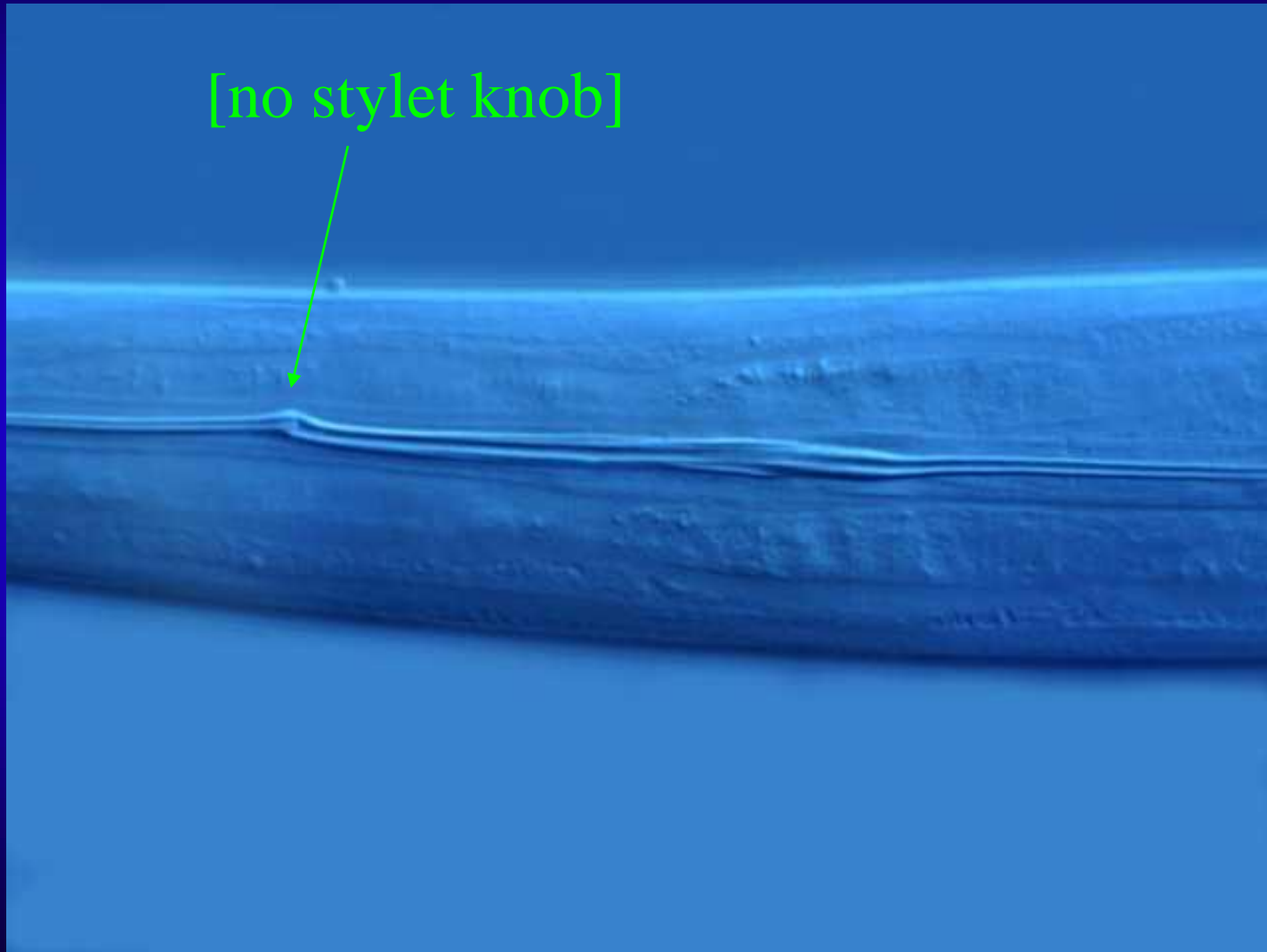


Stylet (odontostylet, no knobs)

***Longidorus* sp. (Dorylaimida)**  
**(source unknown)**

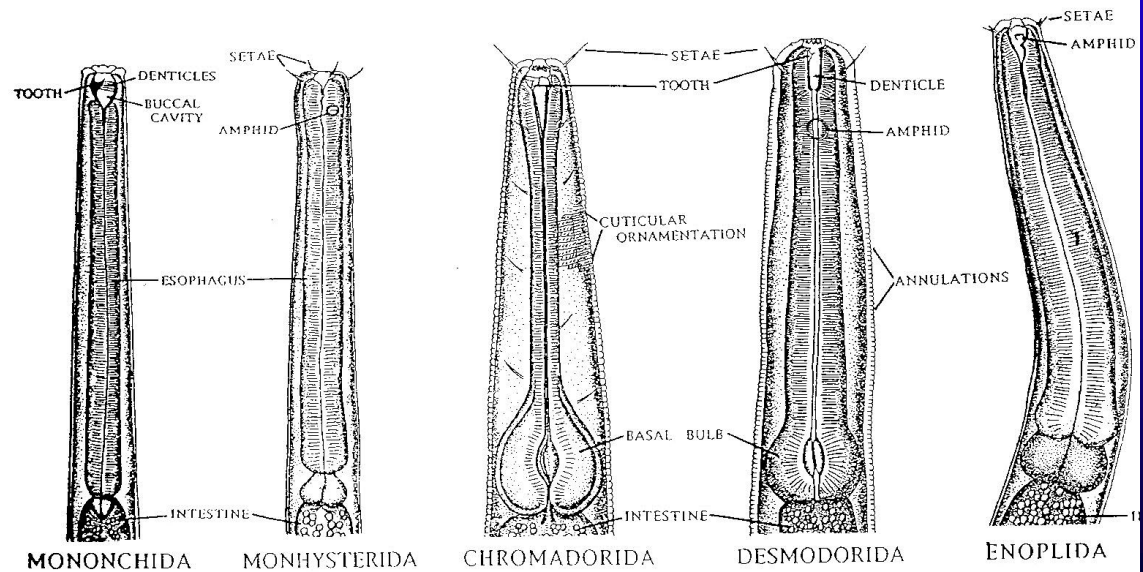
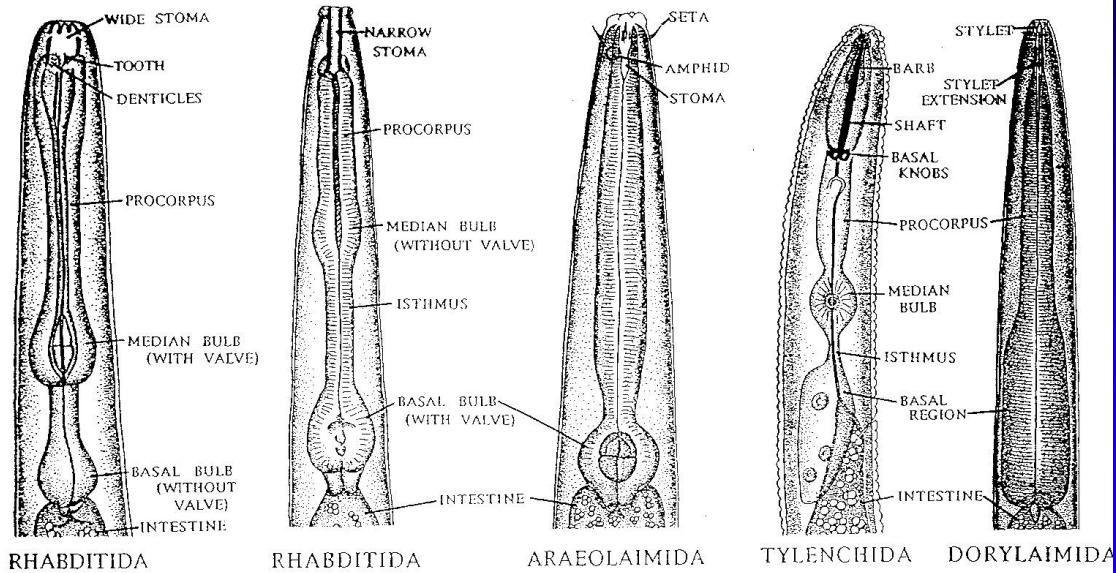


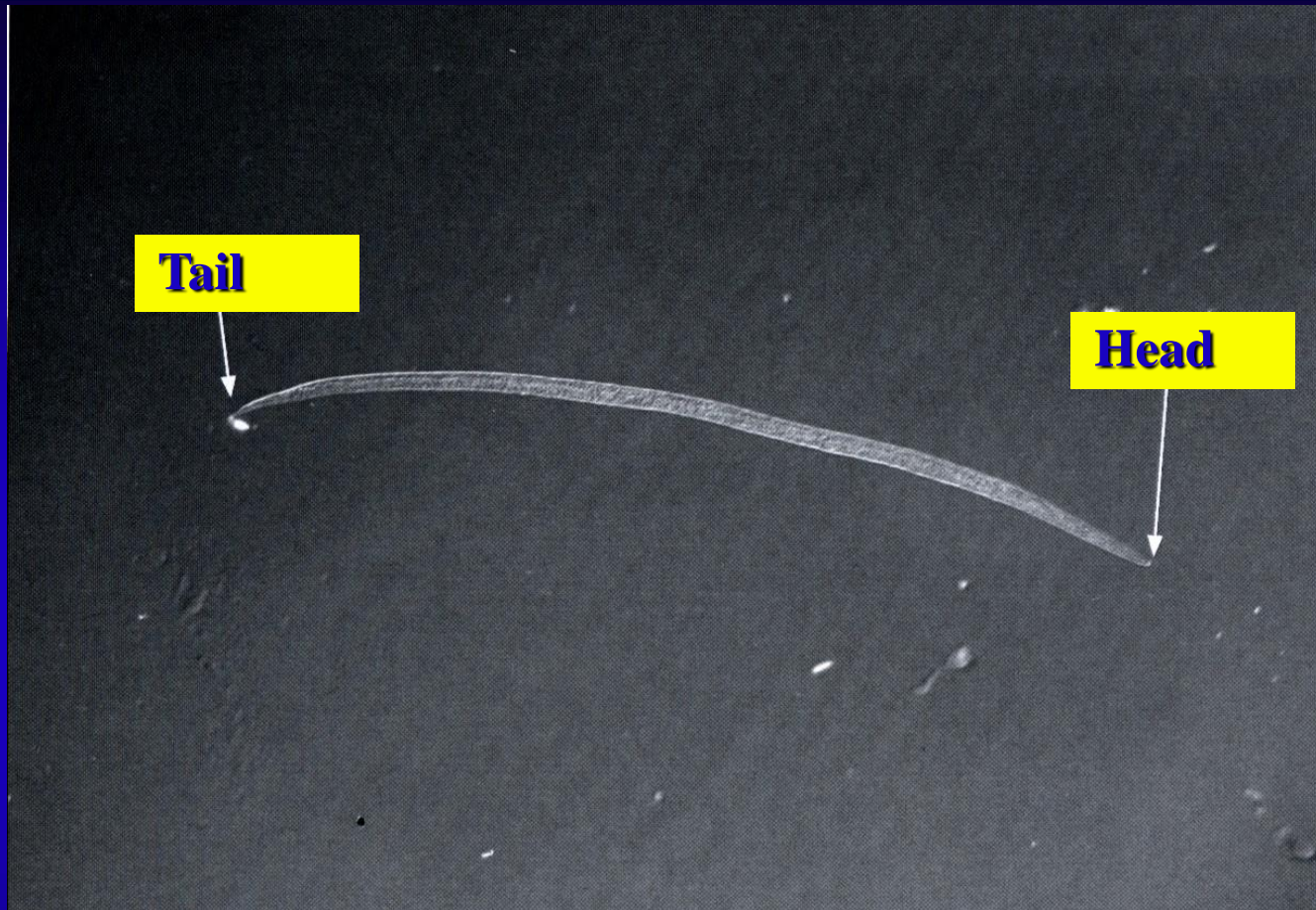
***Longidorus* sp. (Dorylaimida)**  
**(source unknown)**





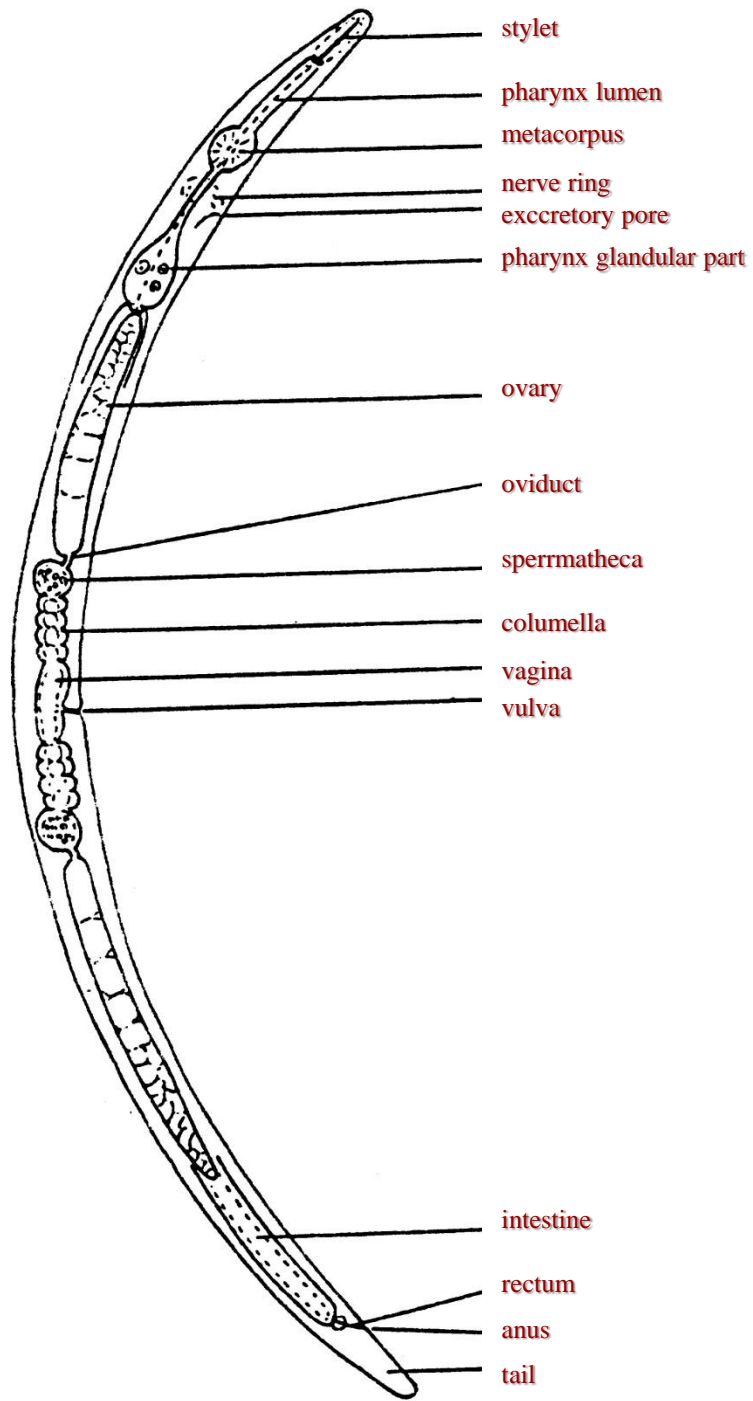
# Nematode esophageal types



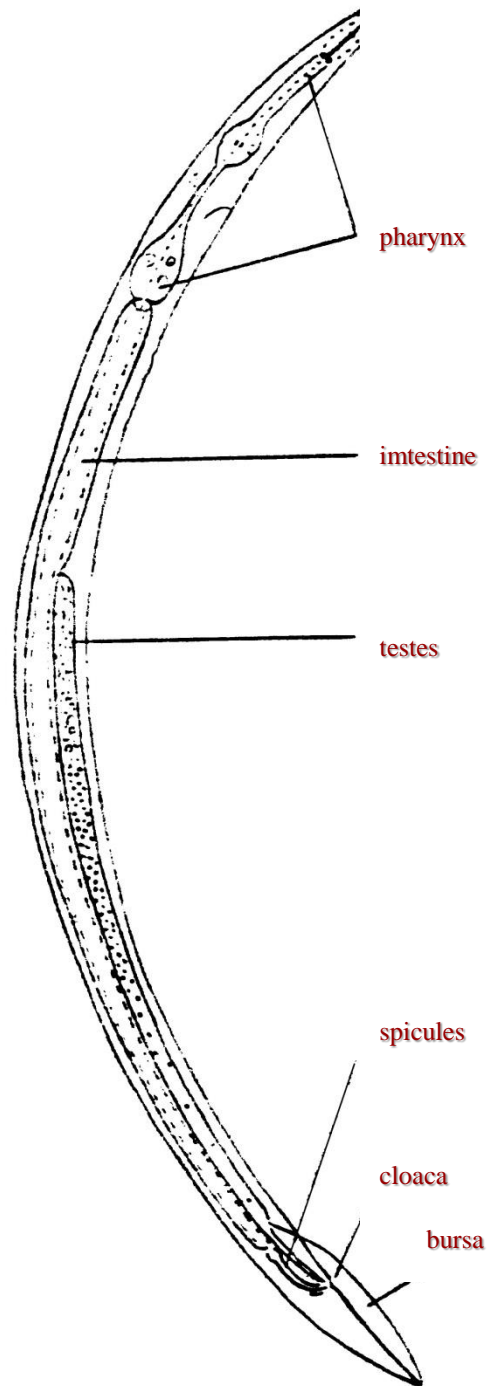


***D. dipsaci* female under stereoscopic microscope**

(phot. Renata Dobosz, Institute of Plant Protection, Poznań, Poland)

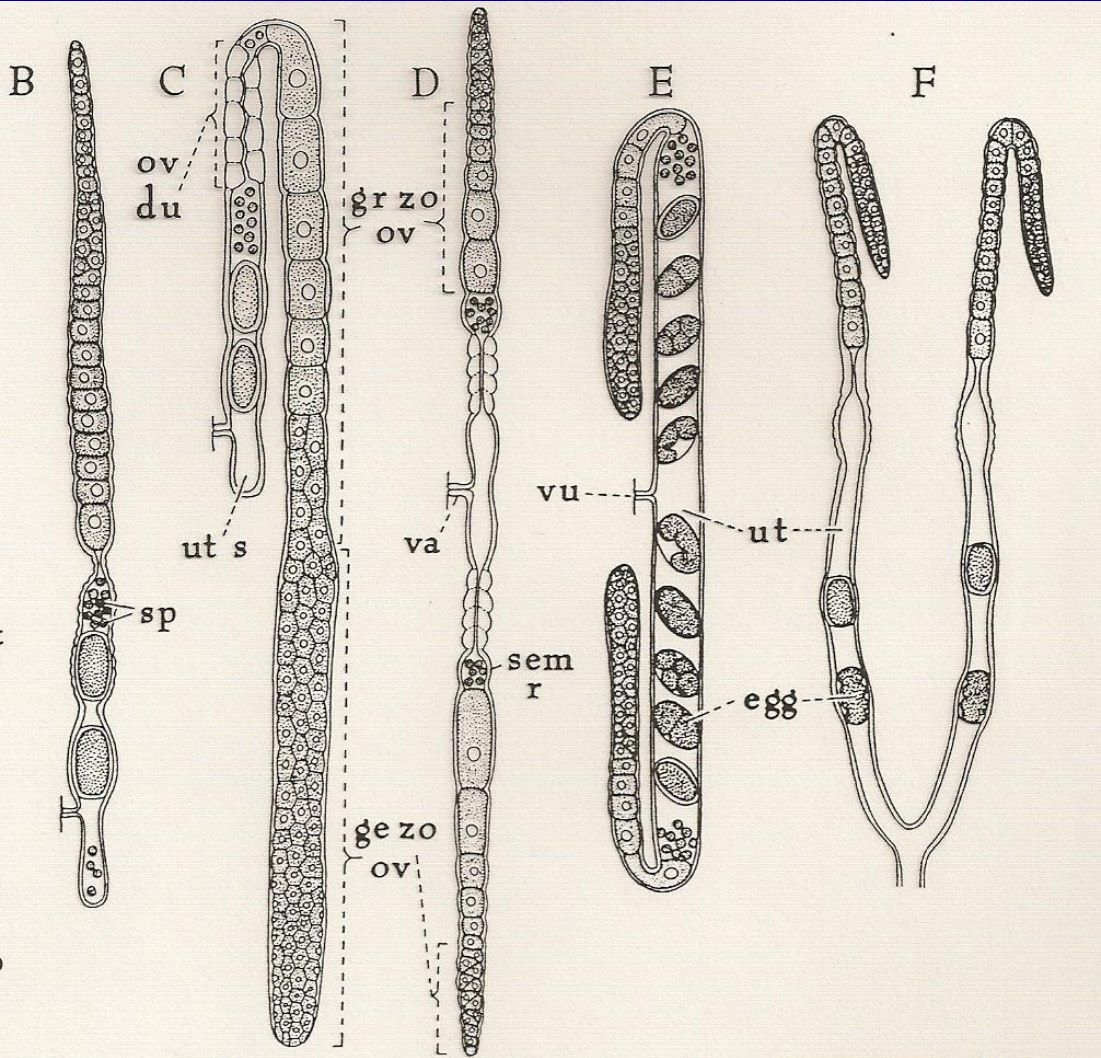


## Scheme of nematode female morphology



## Scheme of nematode male morphology

# Female Reproductive System



## Number of ovaries

**Monodelphic = one ovary (B, C)**  
**Didelphic = two ovaries (D, E, F)**

## Position of ovaries

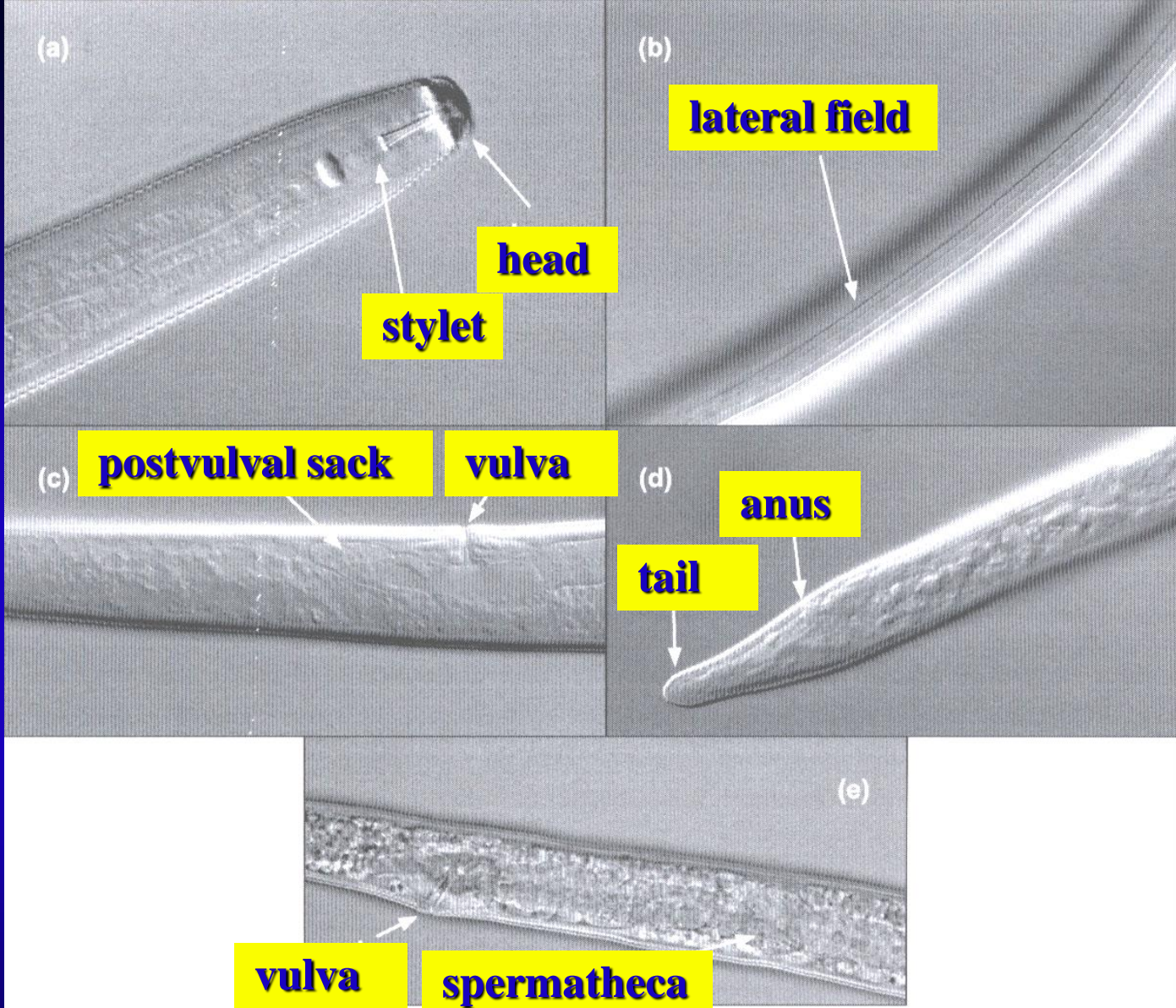
**Amphidelphic = opposed ovaries, one anterior; one posterior to vulva (D, E)**

**Prodelphic = ovary(s) anterior to vulva (B, F)**

**Opisthodelphic = ovary(s) posterior to vulva (C)**

**Reflexed = ovaries folded (E, F)**

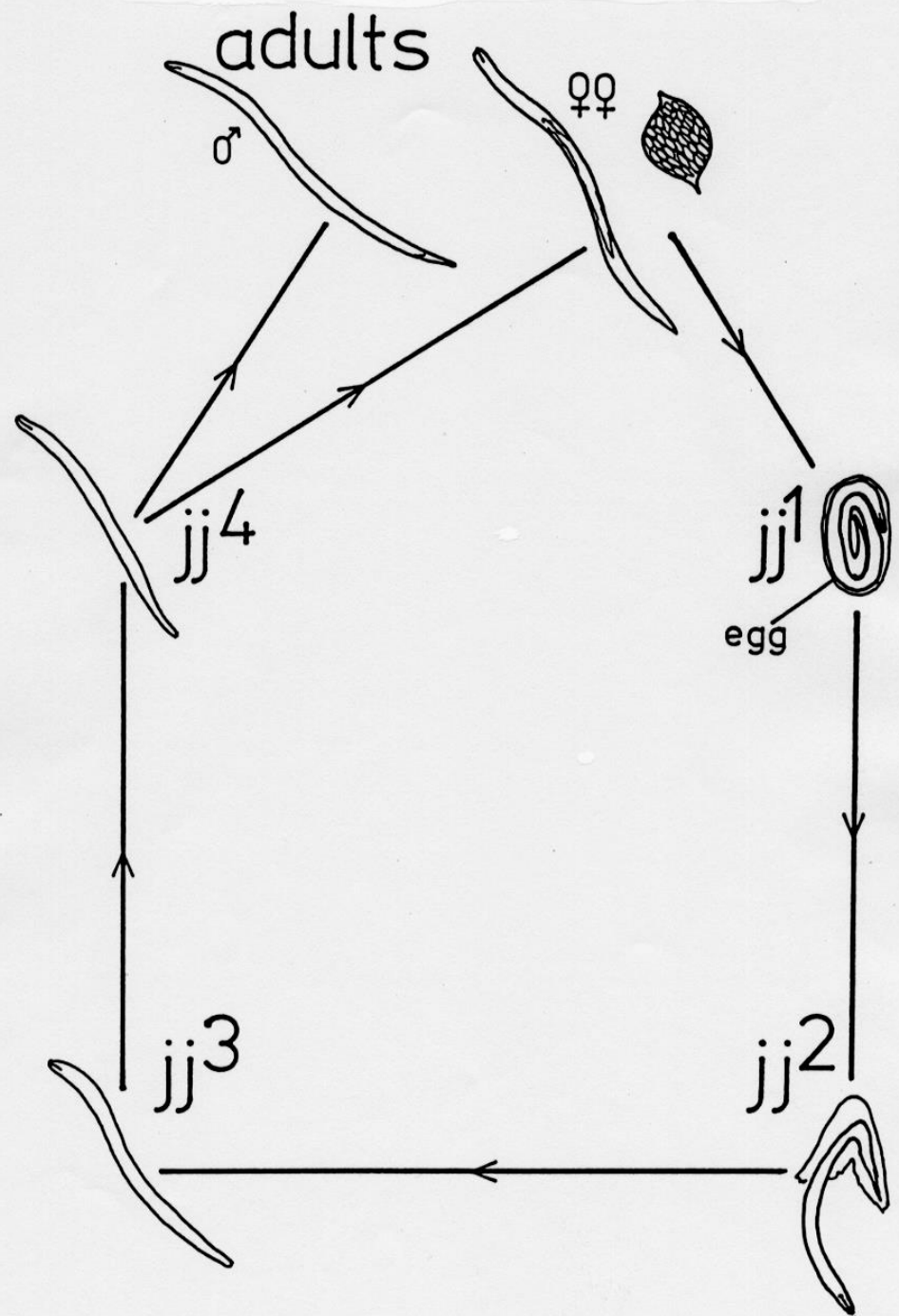
**Post uterine sac = vestigial 2nd ovary**



*Pratylenchus penetrans*: (a) head; (b) lateral field (c) postvulval sack; (d) tail, (e) spermatheca. (phot. Renata Dobosz, Institute of Plant Protection, Poznań, Poland)

# *Typical nematode life-cycle*

- egg
- 4 juvenile stages
- adult (male & female)



*2nd stage juvenile inside egg*  
(source unknown)





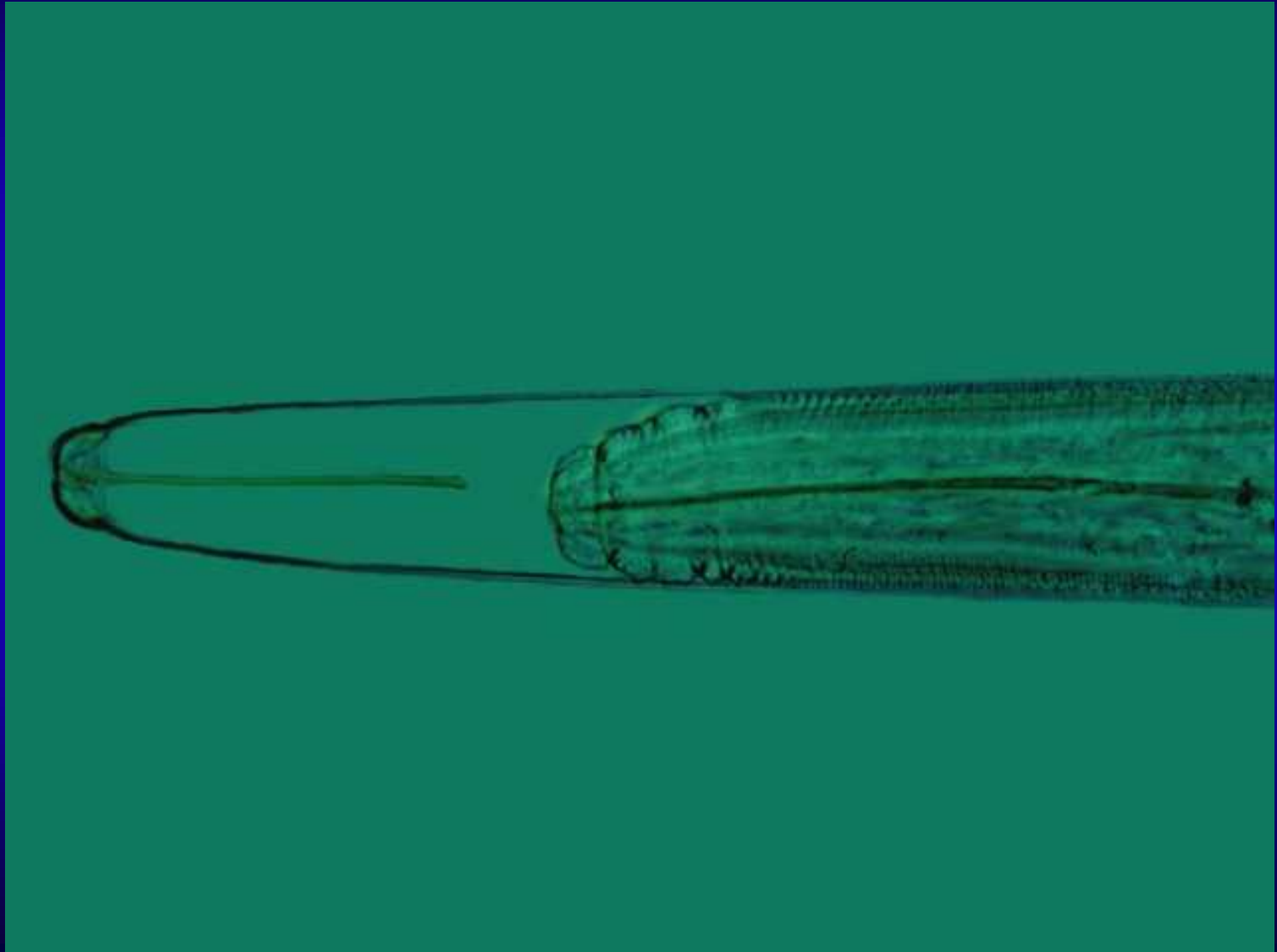
*2nd stage juvenile hatching from egg*  
(source unknown)



*Hatched 2nd stage juveniles*  
(source unknown)



**Molting cuticle (*Belonolaimus longicaudatus*)**  
**(source unknown)**

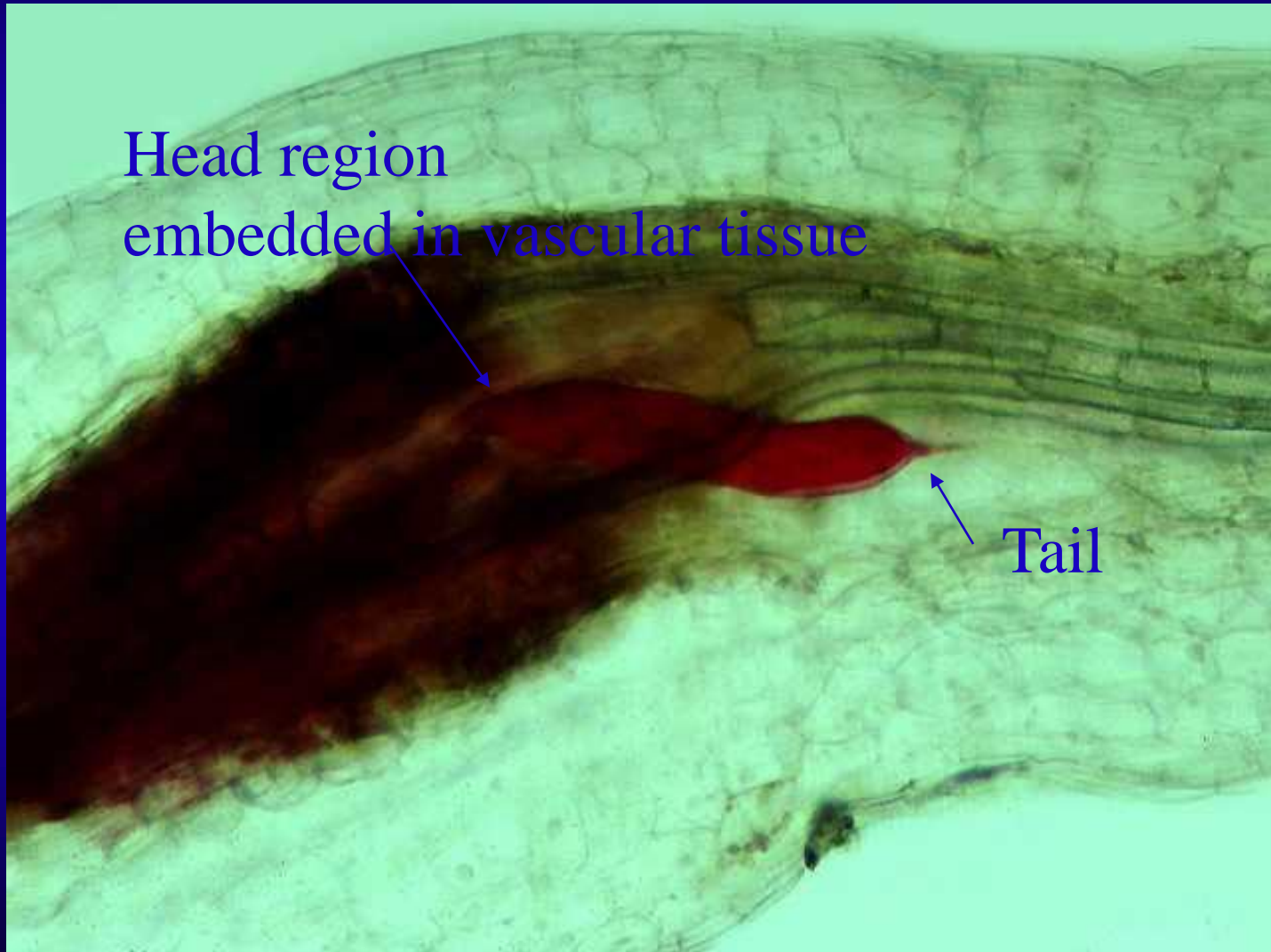


***2nd stage juveniles invading root tip***  
**(source unknown)**

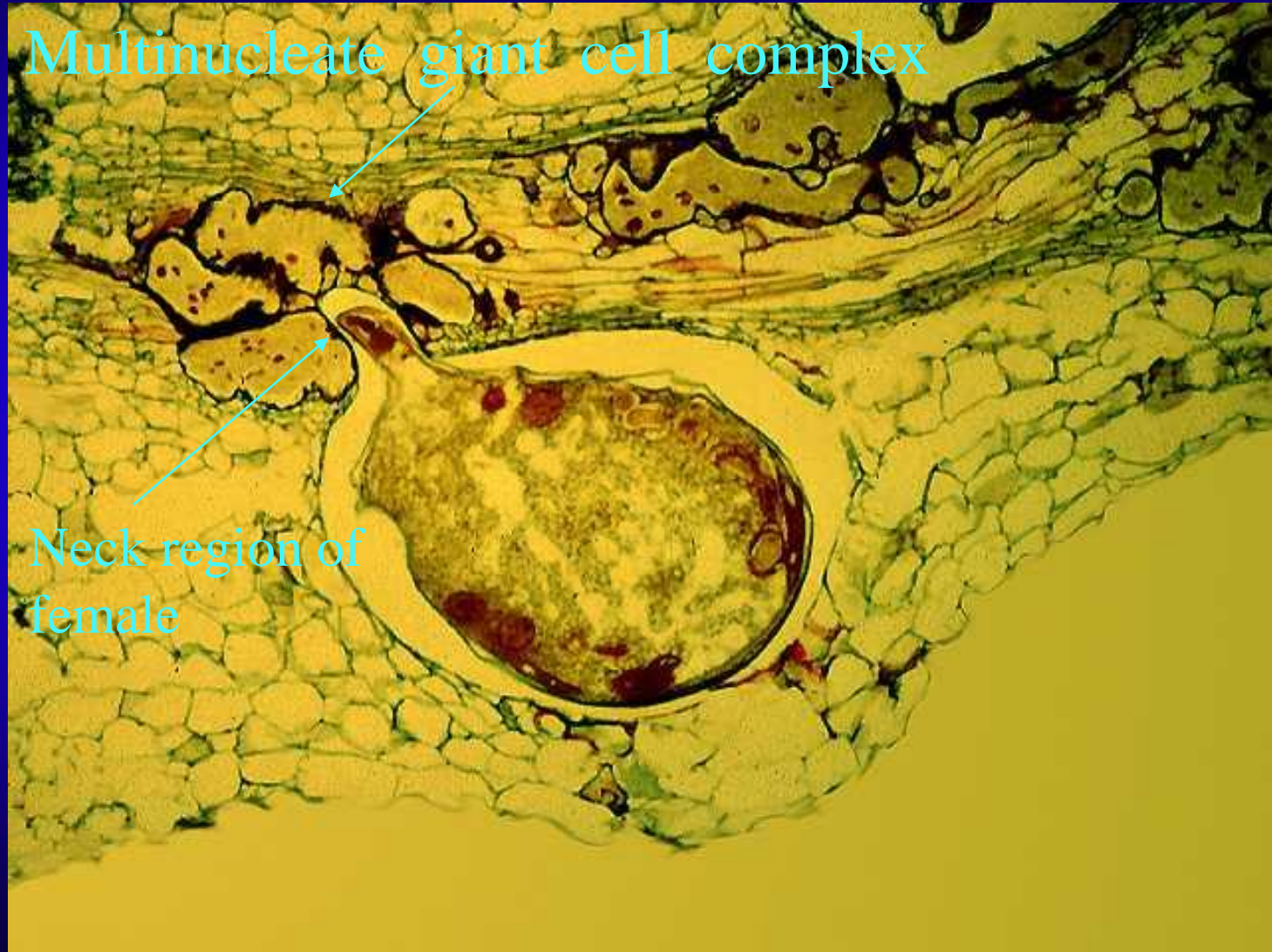


*Late 2nd stage juvenile established in root system*

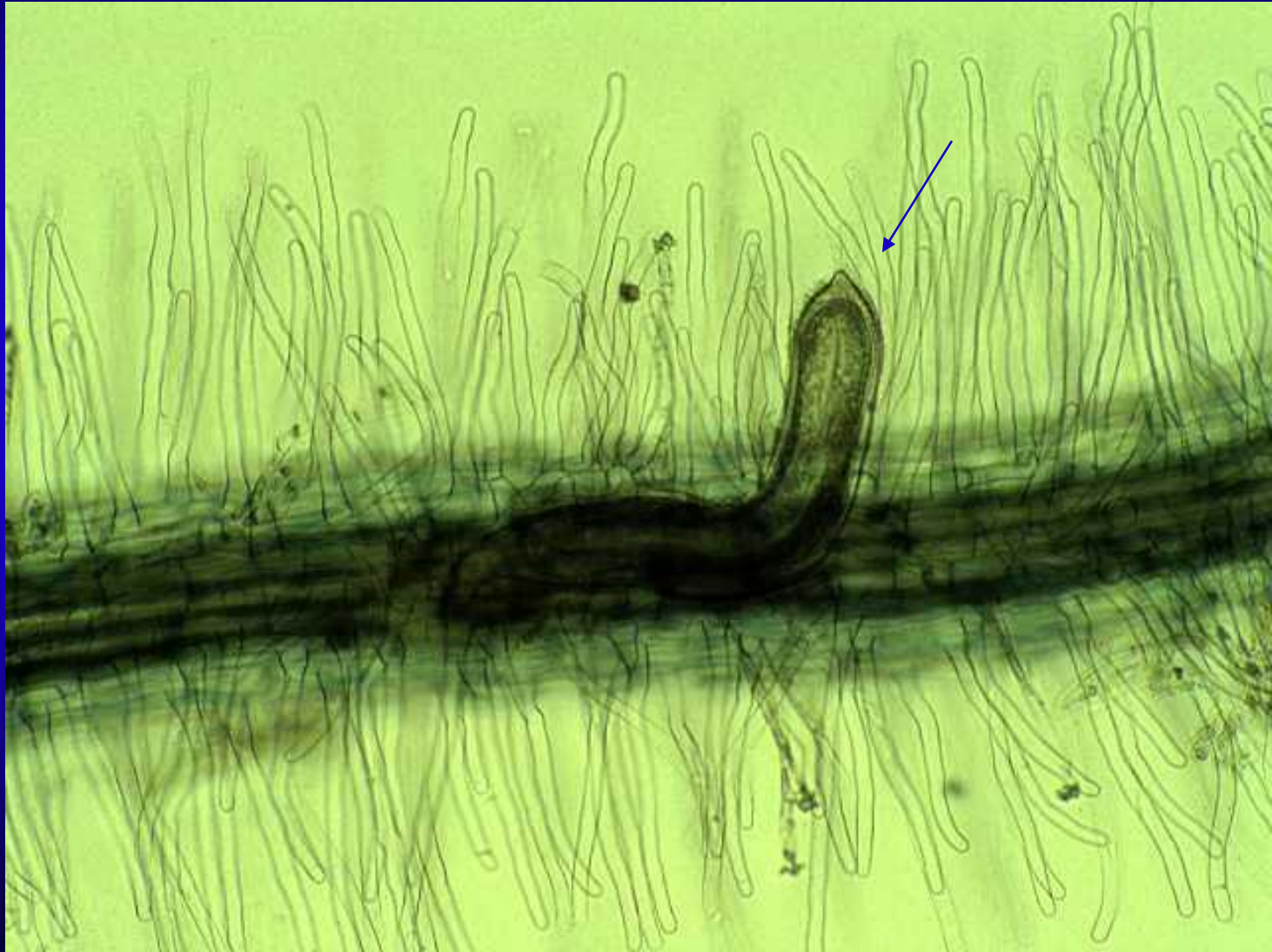
**(source unknown)**



*Feeding site established by adult Meloidogyne female (source unknown)*



***3rd - 4th stage juvenile male  
emerging from root system (source unknown)***



*Adult male emerging from 4th  
stage juvenile cuticle (source unknown)*





# Feeding Habits

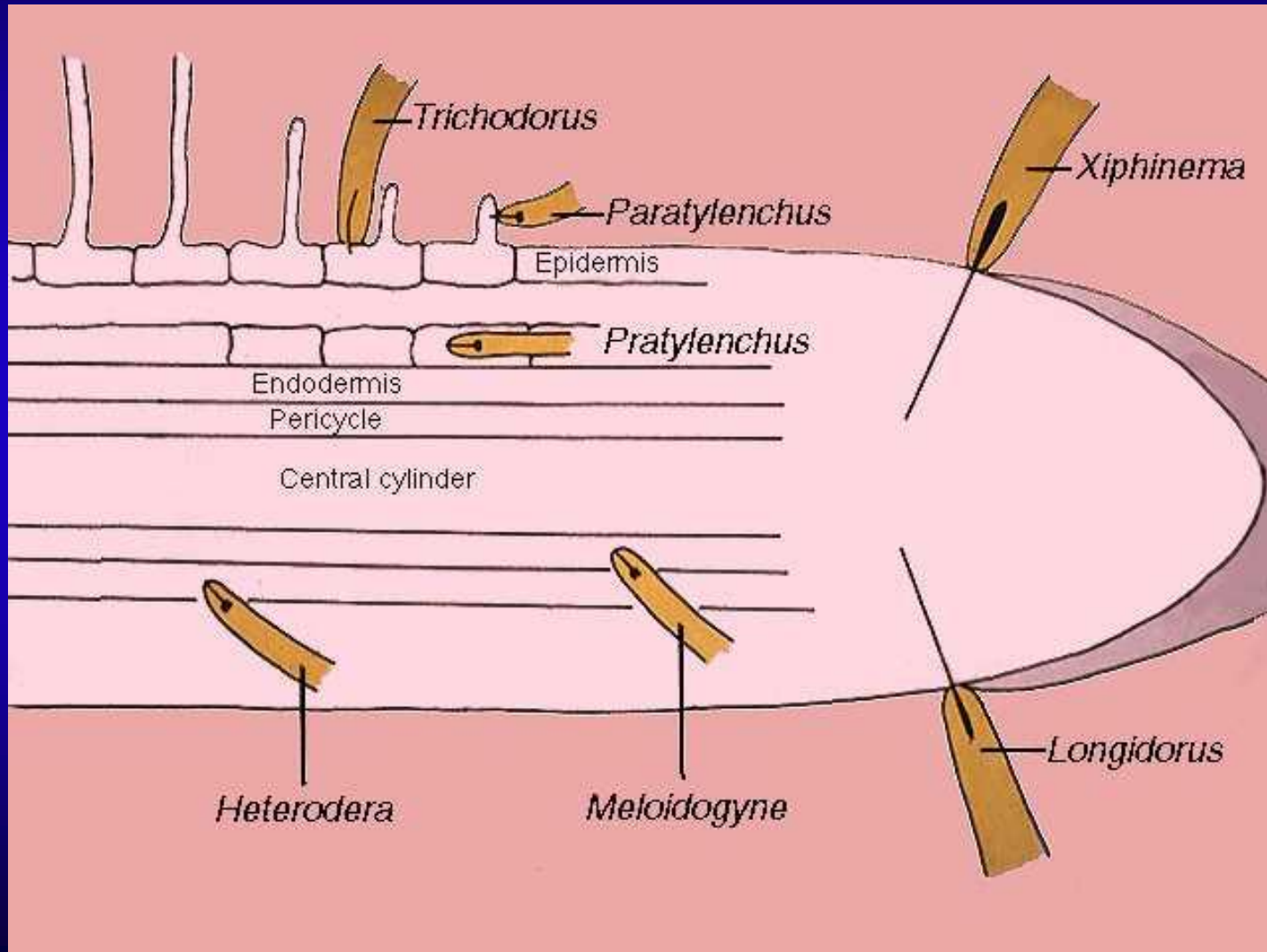
Nematodes may be grouped by feeding habit as:

- Endoparasitic— entire body inside the root.
- Ectoparasitic— entire body outside the root.
- Semi-endoparasitic- part of body inside root.

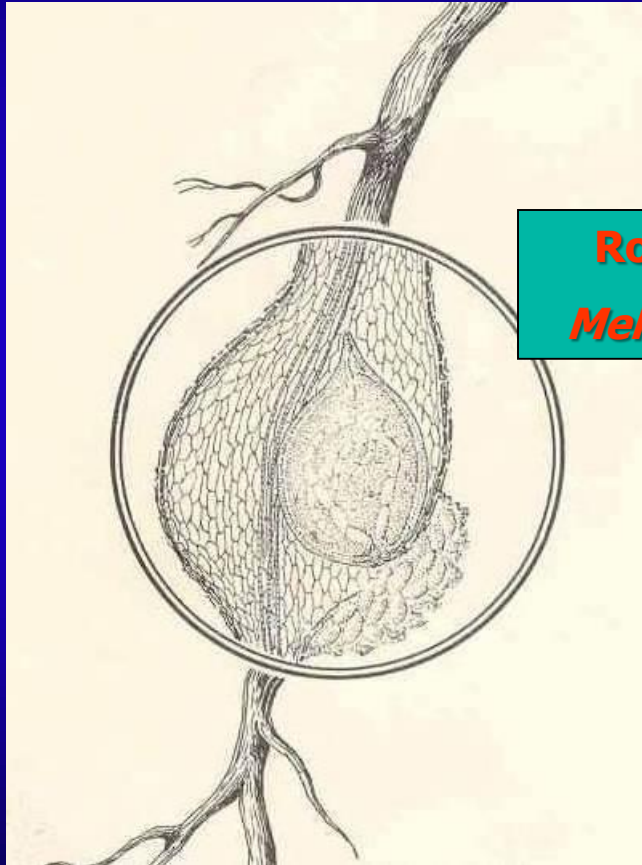
By movement when feeding, they are called:

- Sedentary – mostly immobile during their life.
- Migratory – mobile for all their life.

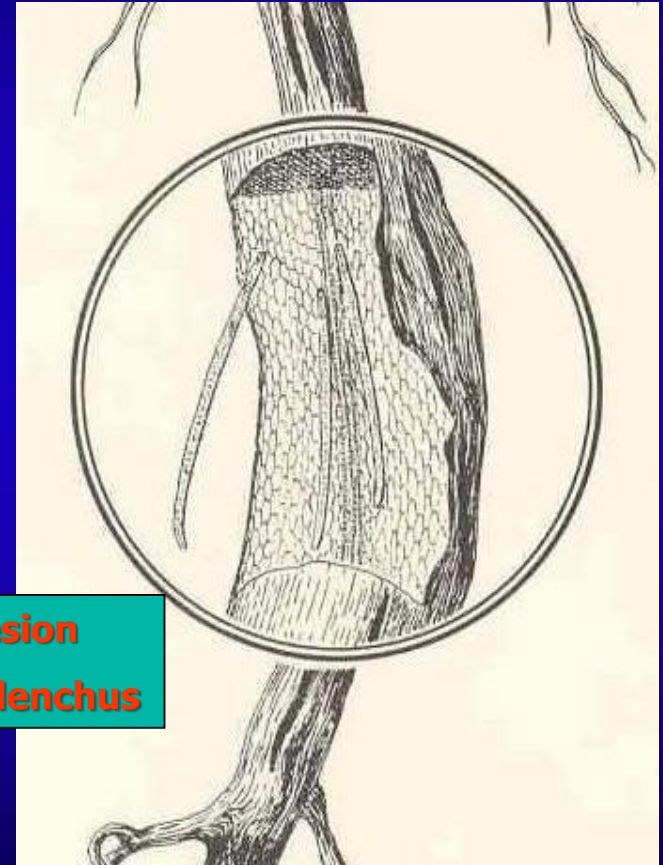
# Root feeding sites



# Feeding Habits of Some Plant-parasitic Nematodes

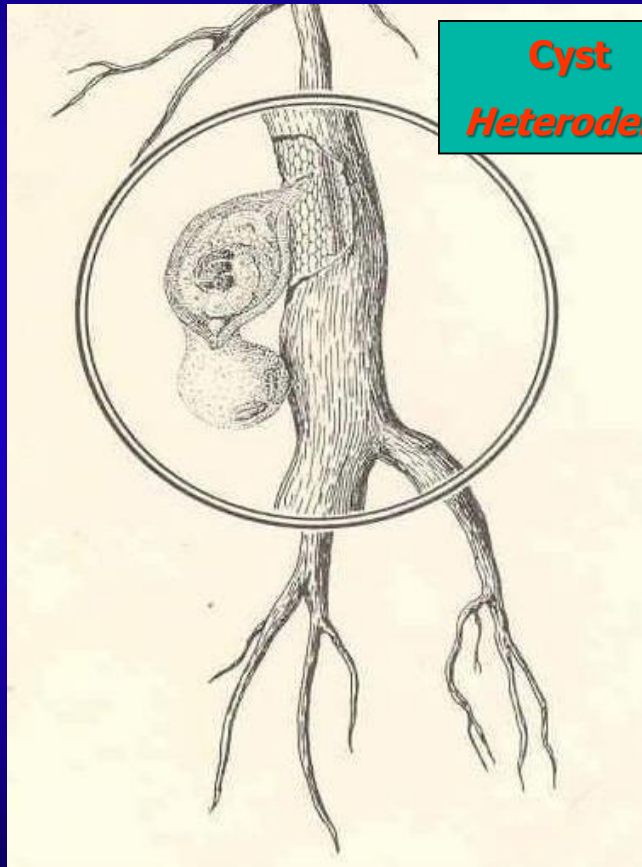


**Root-knot**  
*Meloidogyne*



**Lesion**  
*Pratylenchus*

# Feeding Habits of Some Plant-parasitic Nematodes



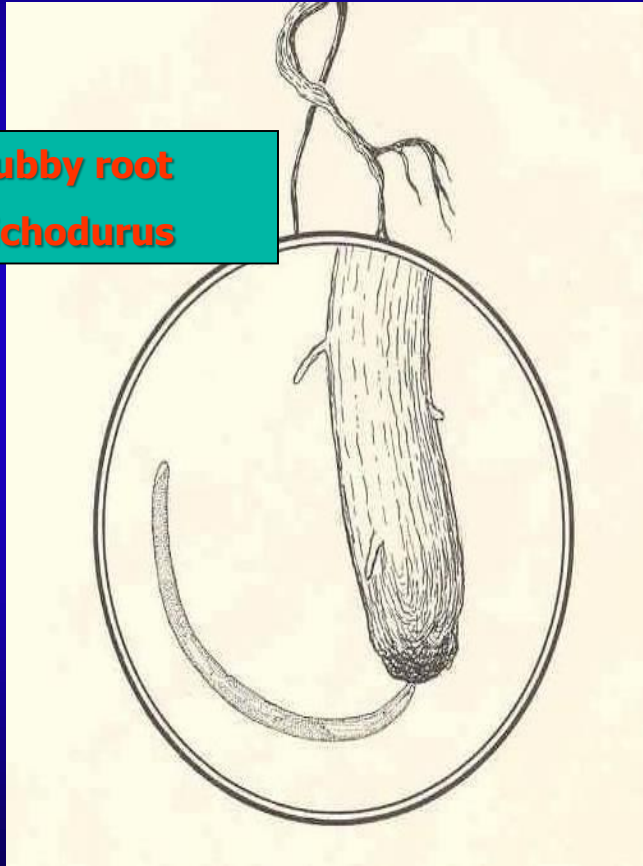
**Cyst**  
*Heterodera*



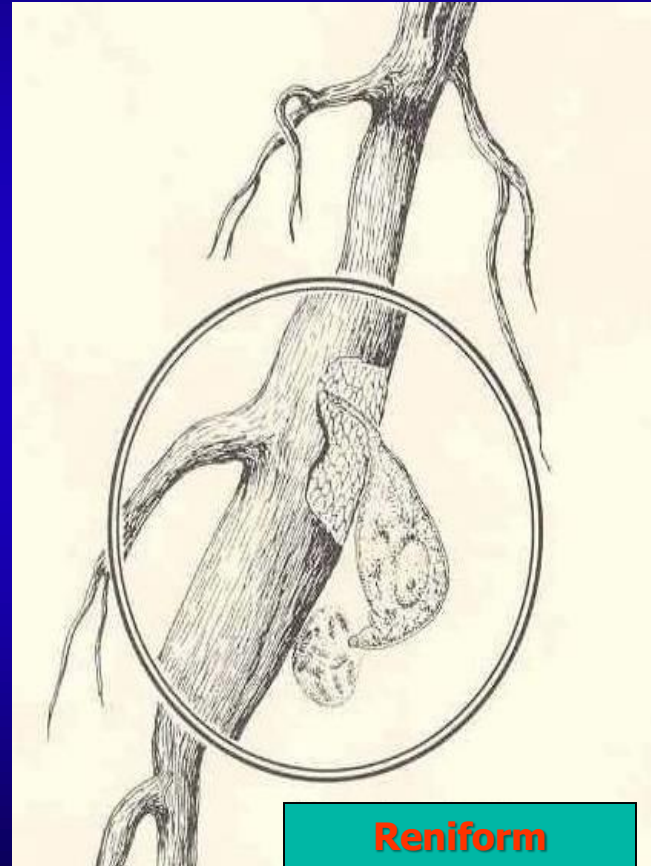
**Ring**  
*Cricnematidae*

# Feeding Habits of Some Plant-parasitic Nematodes

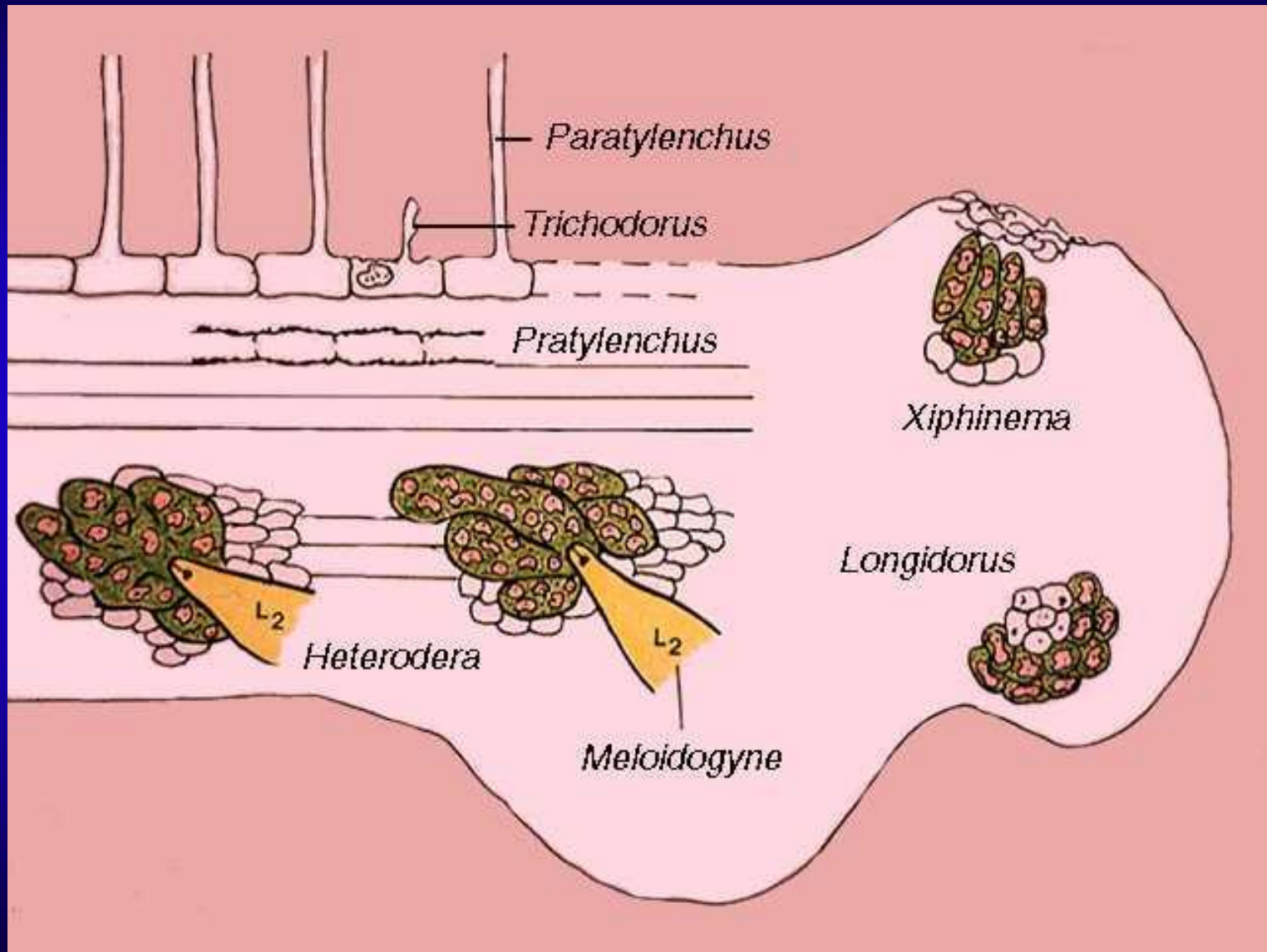
**Stubby root**  
**Trichodurus**



**Reniform**  
**Rotylenchulus**



# Root damage by plant nematodes



# Nematode Damage

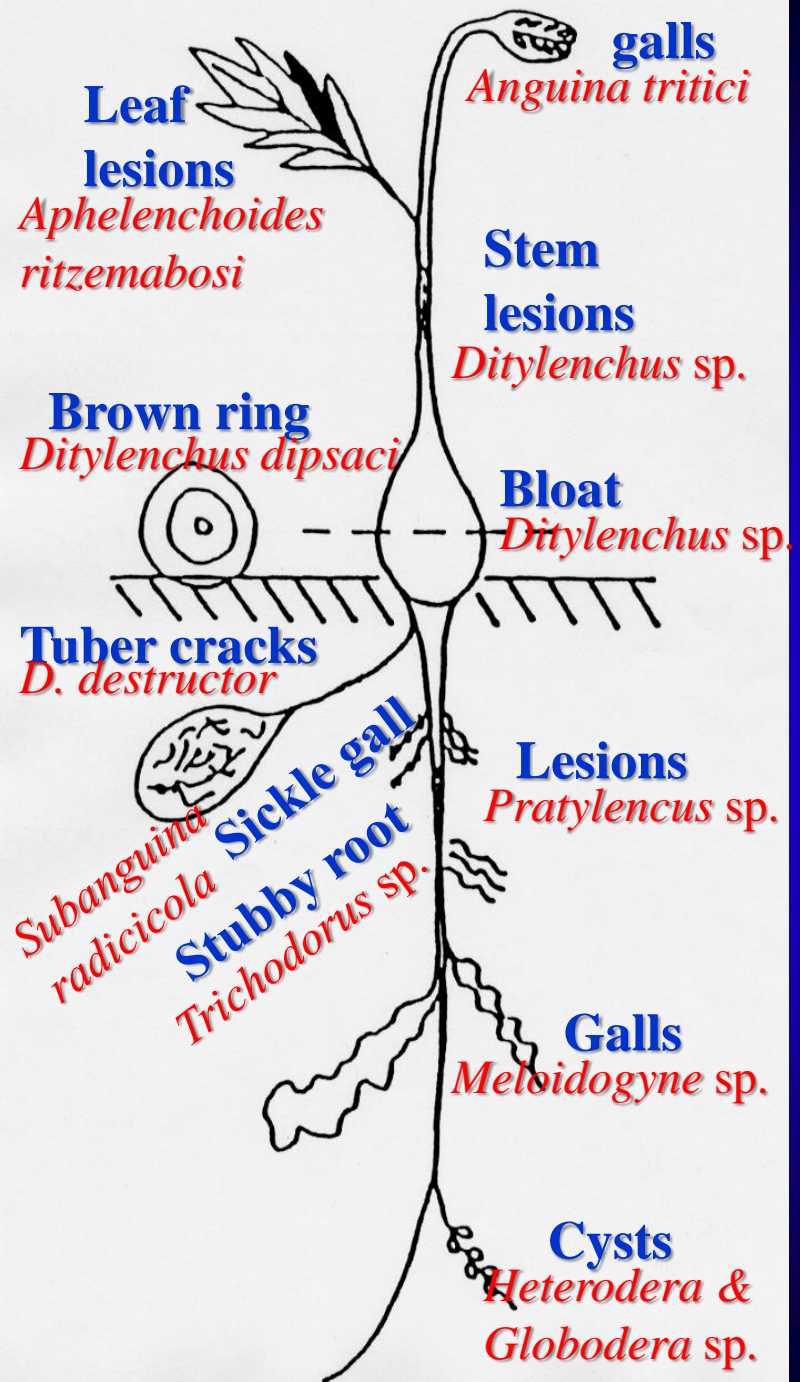
- Nematodes damage plants by reducing or modifying root mass.
- Root cells are killed or modified to serve as food for the nematode.
- Typical root and foliar symptoms result.

***SYMPTOMS CAUSED BY  
PLANT-PARASITIC NEMATODES***



# Composite plant

Nematodes causing symptoms



# Initial identification of plant parasitic nematodes is by symptoms of attack (**source unknown**)



*Ditylenchus dipsaci*-infested oat field  
(source unknown)



**Clover field infested with *Ditylenchus dipsaci*  
(source unknown)**



*Ditylenchus dipsaci*-  
infested tulip stems  
(source unknown)

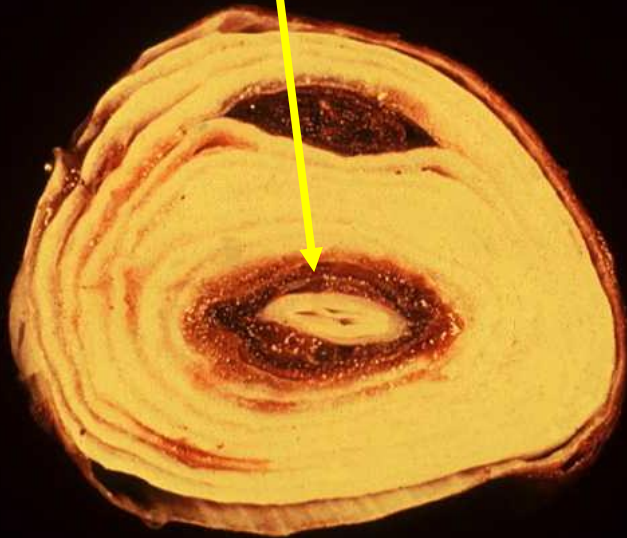


# *Ditylenchus*

*dipsaci* infested  
narcissus leaf  
(source unknown)

necrosis

'brown ring'



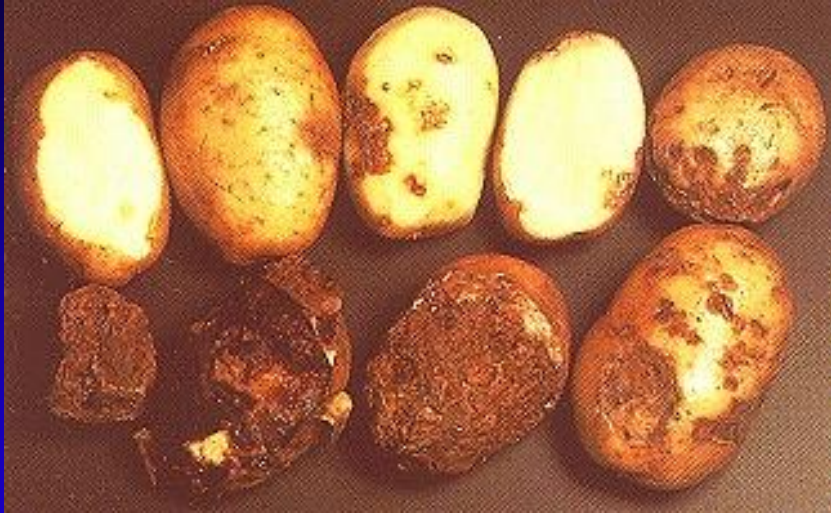
*Ditylenchus dipsaci* on garlic (source unknown)



# Garlic infested with *D. dipsaci* (source unknown)







**Symptoms of infestation  
of potatoes with *D. destructor*  
(phot. H. Andersen, Denmark)**

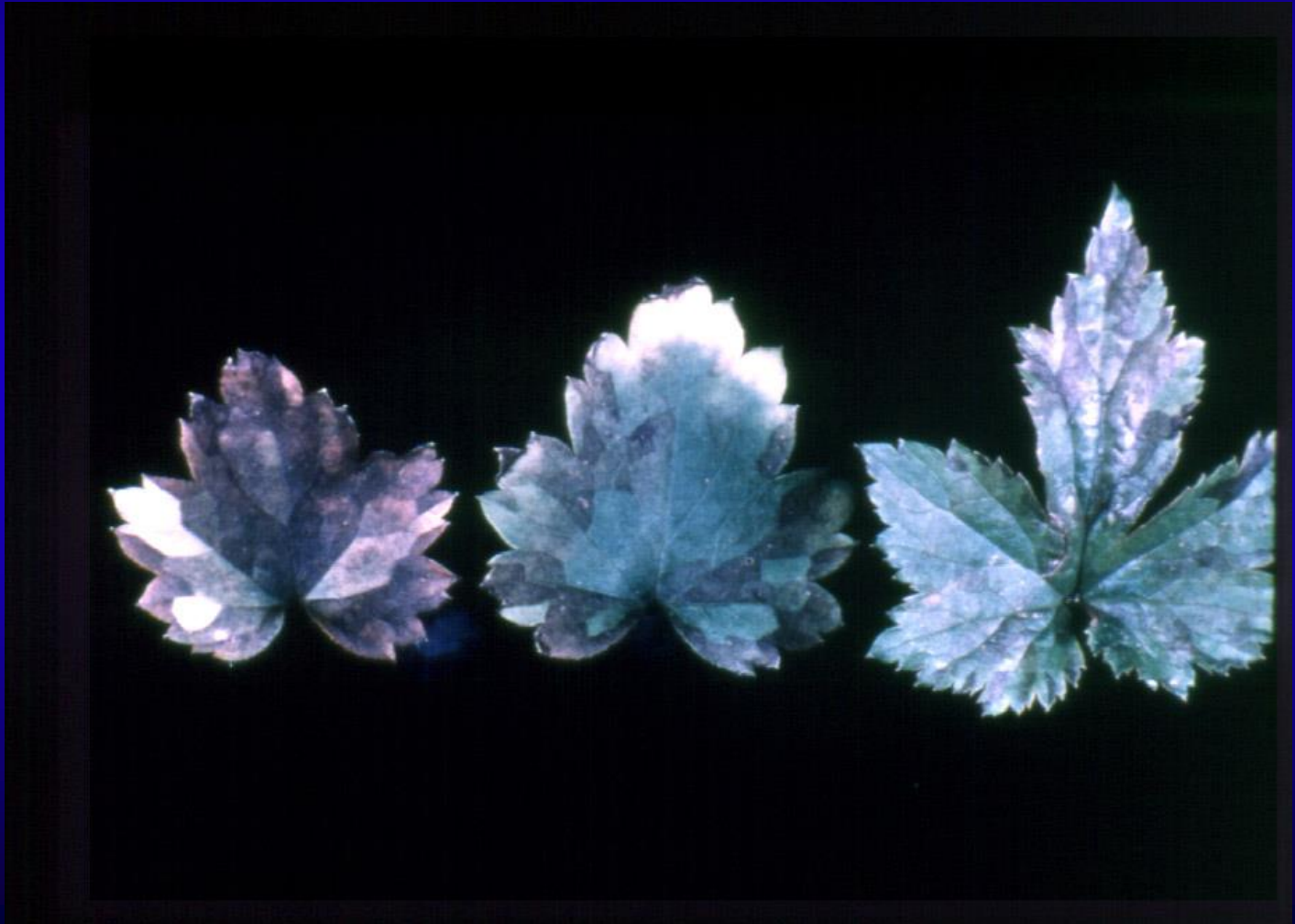
*Aphelenchoides  
ritzemabosi*

[Chrysanthemum  
leaf]

(source unknown)



*Aphelenchoides ritzemabosi* [anemone leaf]  
(source unknown)

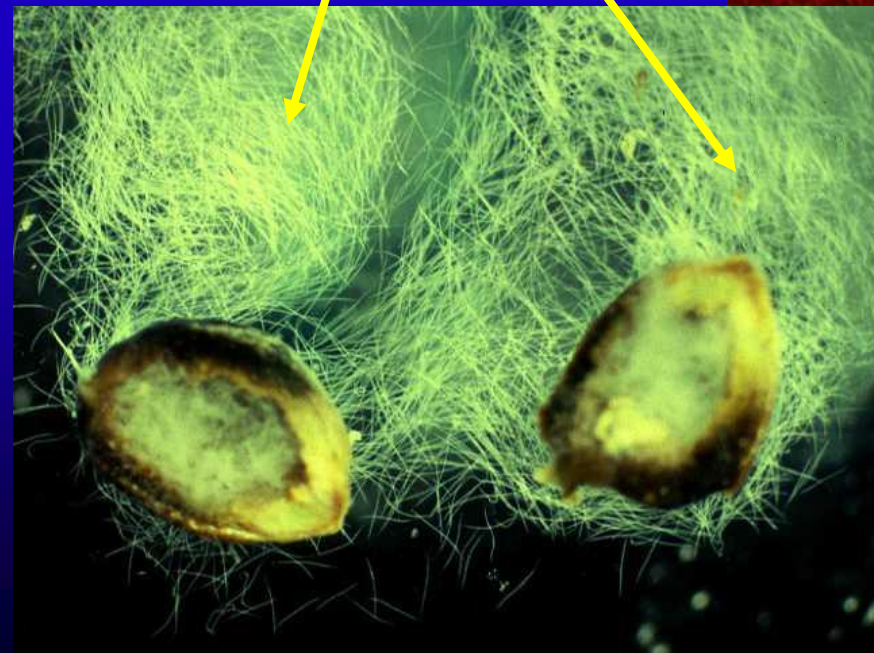


*Anguina tritici*  
- infested wheat  
plant  
(source unknown)



# Wheat seed infested with *Anguina tritici* (source unknown)

Juveniles released  
from infested  
galls





**Symptoms of pine wilt disease on *Pinus pinaster* in Portugal**

**(phot. Central Laboratory of SPHSIS, Toruń, Poland)**



**Symptoms of pine wilt disease on *Pinus pinaster* in Portugal  
(phot. Central Laboratory of SPHSIS, Toruń, Poland)**



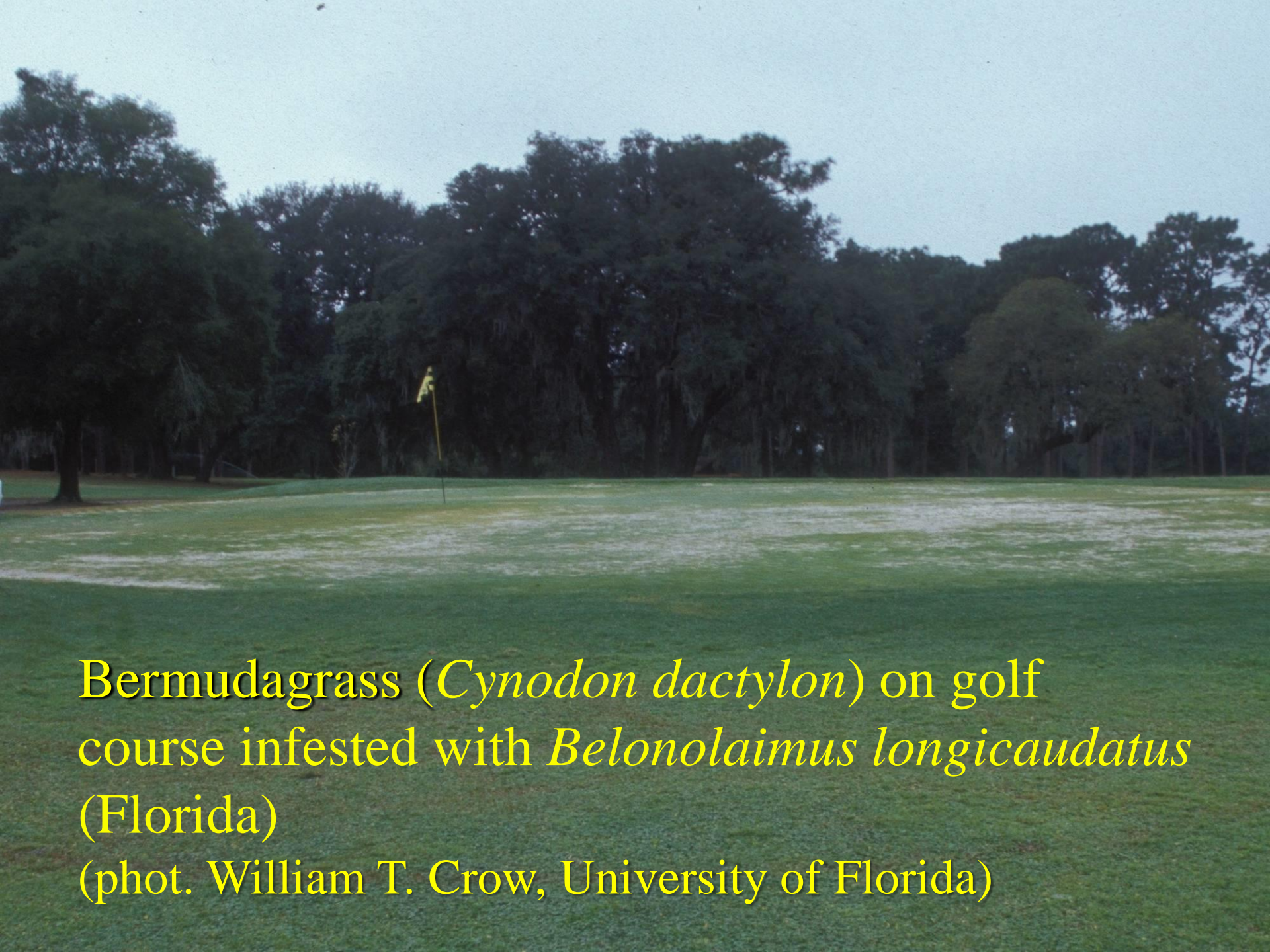
**Symptoms of pine wilt disease  
on *Pinus pinaster* in Portugal**

**(phot. Central Laboratory of  
SPHSIS, Toruń, Poland)**





**Symptoms (stubby roots) caused by *Paratrichodorus minor* on maize roots (source unknown)**



Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) on golf  
course infested with *Belonolaimus longicaudatus*  
(Florida)  
(phot. William T. Crow, University of Florida)



**Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)  
destroyed by feeding of *Belonolaimus  
longicaudatus* (left) compared with  
healthy one (right) (Florida)  
(phot. William T. Crow, University of  
Florida)**



**Symptoms (sickle galls) caused by *Subanguina radicicola* on grass roots (source unknown)**

# *Meloidogyne incognita* (root-knot nematode)

(source unknown)

Infested

Uninfested



# Symptoms (lesions) caused by *Radopholus similis* on ornamental plants (EPPO Website)



Lesions on roots



Reduction of root system

**Symptoms (lesions) caused  
*Pratylenchus* on ornamental plants  
(source unknown)**



# Tobacco Mosaic Virus of Tomato

Host plants:

*Tomato, pepper,  
eggplant, tobacco,  
spinach, petunia,  
marigold*

**Vector:**

*Xiphinema sp.*

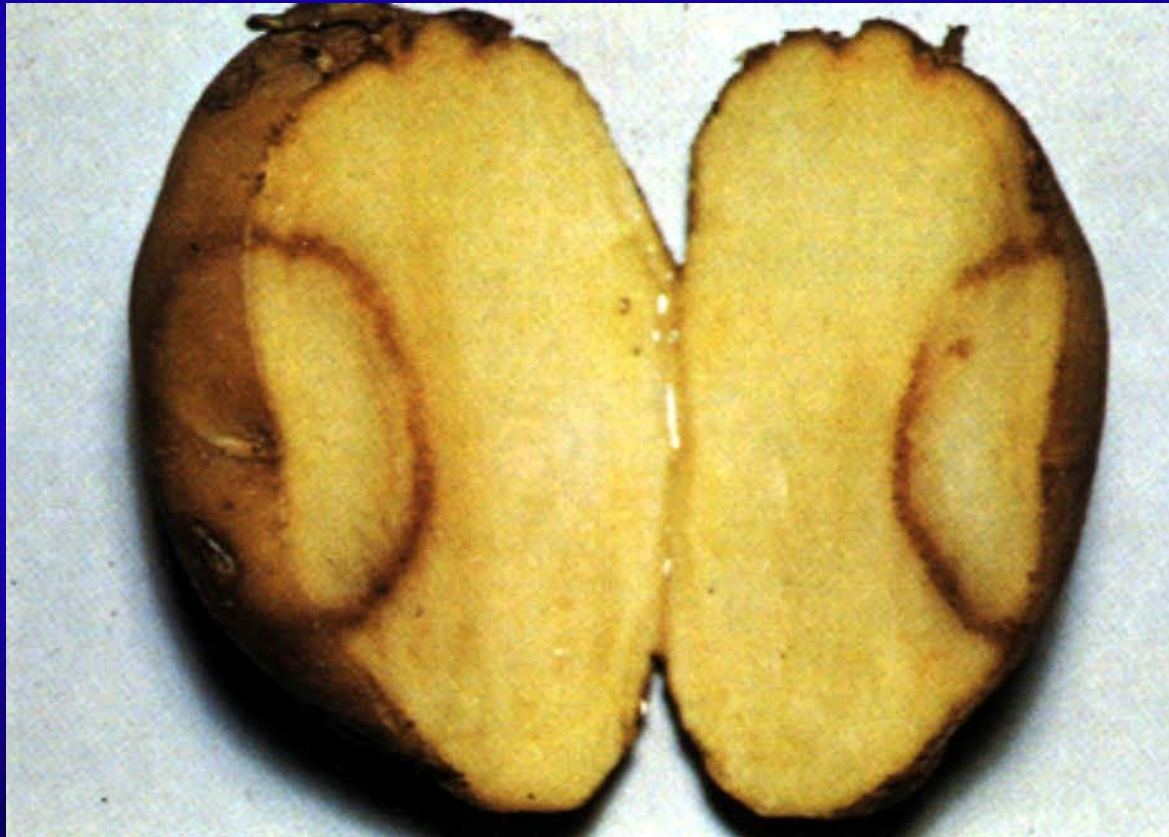




**Potato plant  
infested with  
Tobacco  
Rattle Virus  
(source  
unknown)**



**Internal tuber necrosis caused by  
Tobacco Rattle Virus [‘spraing’]  
(source unknown)**



***BASIC NEMATODE MEASUREMENT  
FORMULAE***

***THE FOLLOWING MAIN NEMATODE MEASUREMENTS ARE IN USE  
(APART FROM CYSTS)***

n = number of specimens on which measurements are based

L = overall body length (in mm or  $\mu\text{m}$ )

V = % distance of vulva from anterior

a = body length / greatest body diameter

b = body length / distance from anterior to esophago-intestinal valve

b' = body length / distance from anterior to base of esophageal glands

MB% = % distance from anterior to median bulb relative to length of esophagus

c = body length / tail length

c' = tail length / tail diameter at anus or cloaca

stylet = stylet length in  $\mu\text{m}$

stylet knobs = stylet knobs width in  $\mu\text{m}$

s = stylet length / body diameter at base of stylet

T = % length of male gonad relative to body length

o = % distance of dorsal esophageal gland opening from stylet knobs in relation to stylet length

P = % distance of phasmid from anus in relation to length of tail

P<sup>a</sup> = % distance of anterior phasmid from anterior of nematode in relation to body length

P<sub>p</sub> = % distance of posterior phasmid from anterior of nematode in relation to body length

G<sup>1</sup> = % length of anterior female gonad in relation to body length

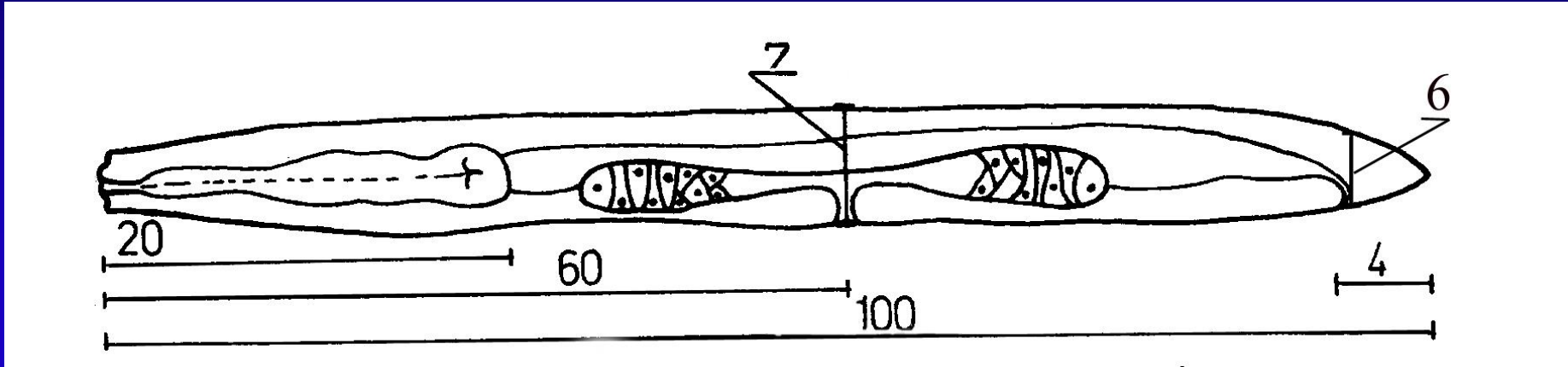
G<sub>2</sub> = % length of posterior female gonad in relation to body length

Tail length = portion of body from anus or cloaca to posterior terminus length in  $\mu\text{m}$

h = hyaline tail length in  $\mu\text{m}$

lateral lines = number of lateral lines

## Main nematode measurements - female



$L = 100 \times \text{ocular division length}$

$a = 100 : 7 = 14;$

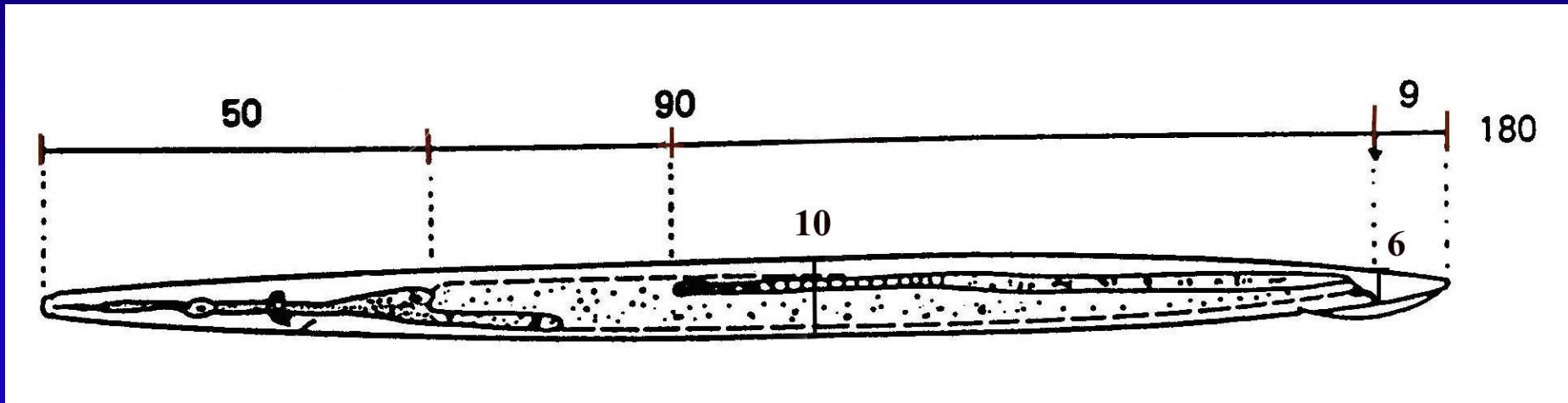
$b = 100 : 20 = 5;$

$c = 100 : 4 = 25;$

$c' = 4 : 6 = 0.67;$

$V = 60 : 100 \times 100 \% = 60\%.$

## Main nematode measurements - male



$L = 180 \times \text{ocular division length}$

$a = 180 : 10 = 18;$

$b = 180 : 50 = 3.6;$

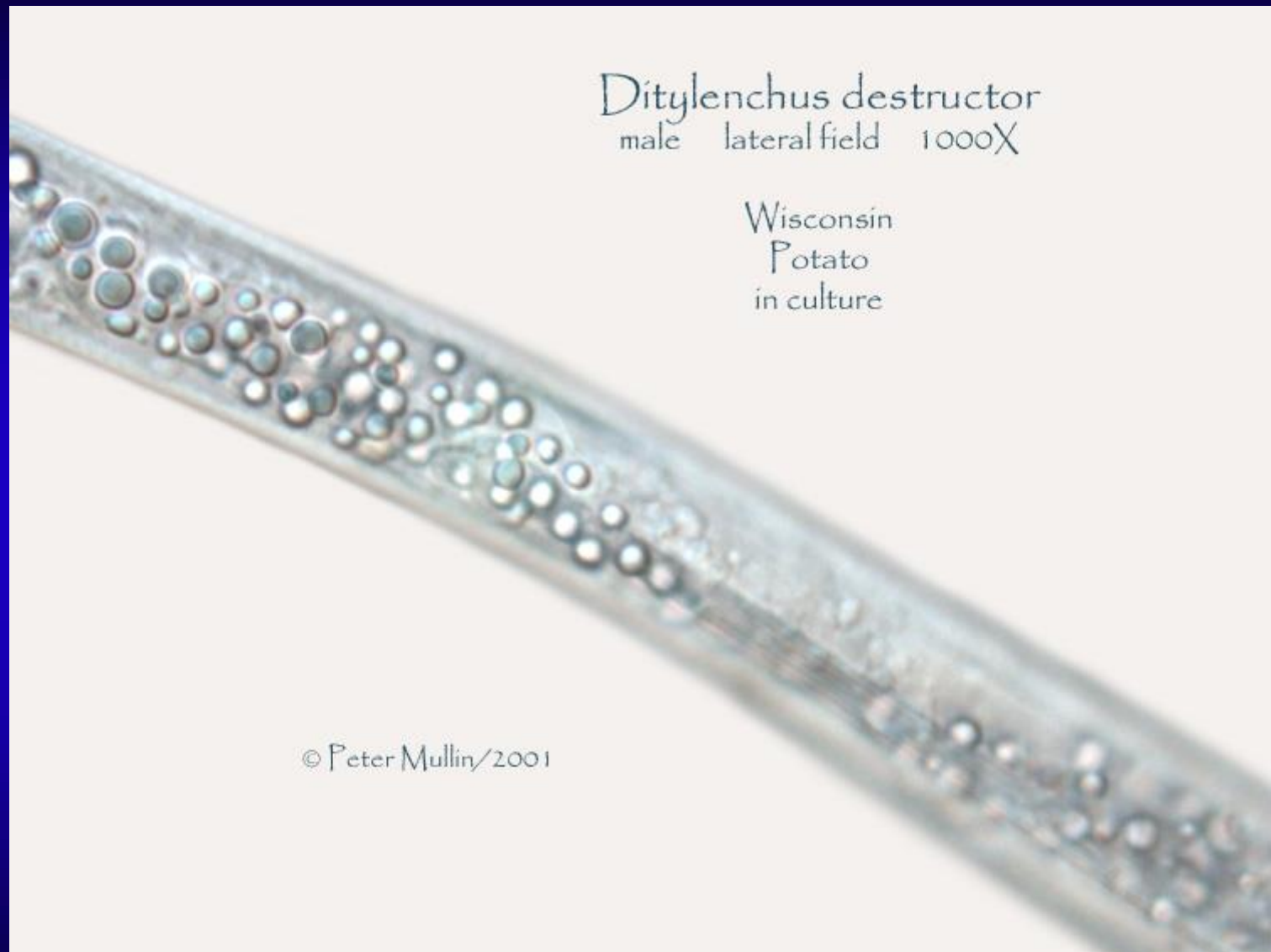
$c = 180 : 9 = 20;$

$c' = 9 : 6 = 1.5.$

*Ditylenchus destructor*  
male lateral field 1000X

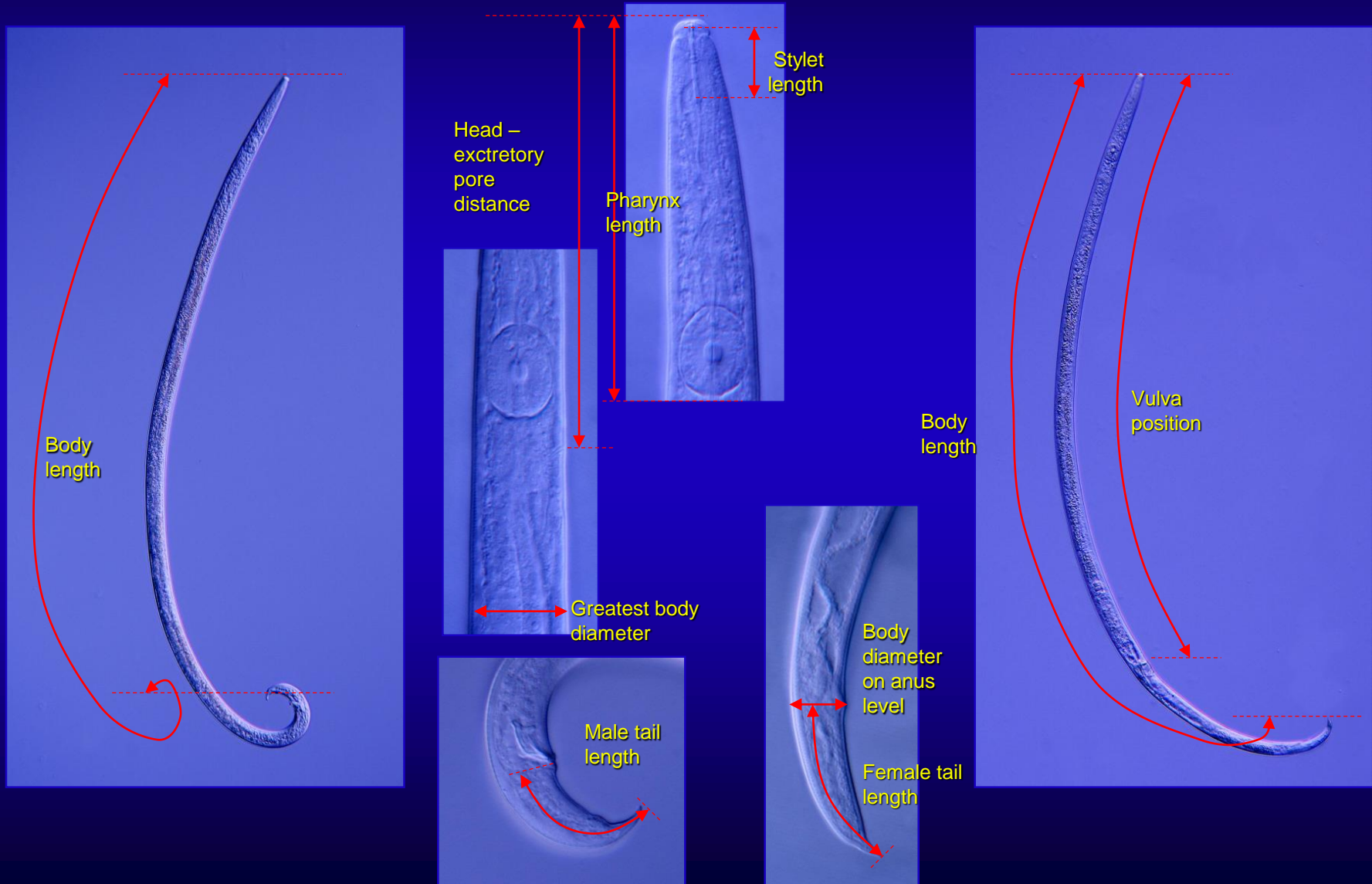
Wisconsin  
Potato  
in culture

© Peter Mullin/2001



# Performance of body measures

Slide prepared by prof. Marek Tomalak, Institute of Plant Protection –  
Governmental Research Institute, Poznań, Poland





# Sample key for nematode identification (EPPO PM 7/4)

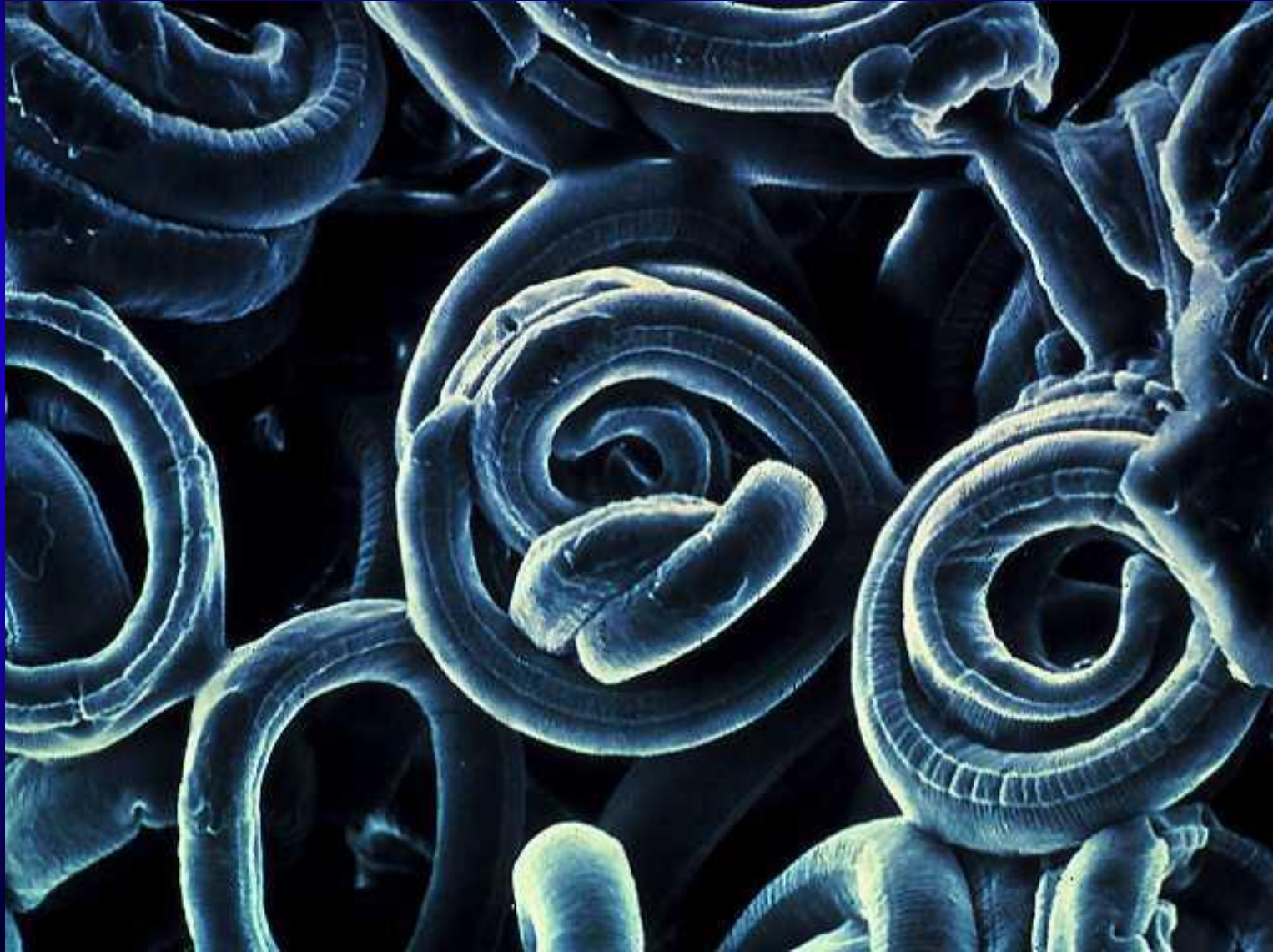
**Table 1** The identification of genus *Bursaphelenchus* (extracted from wood and bark) (NBS: not *Bursaphelenchus* species):

1.	Tylenchid stylet, pharynx with a metacarpus	2
	Dorylaimid stylet no metacarpus.	NBS
2	Metacarpus with metacarpus plates	3
	No metacarpus plates in metacarpus	NBS
3	One gonad vulva posterior	4
	Two gonads vulva median	NBS
4	Metacarpus strongly developed, distinct at lower magnifications; especially clear in fixed specimens, ovoid-rounded-rectangular in shape; in lateral perspective no sign of a dorsal pharyngeal gland opening or a ventral curvature of pharyngeal lumen behind stylet knobs	5
	Metacarpus smaller, fusiform to rounded; in lateral perspective dorsal pharyngeal gland opening and a ventral curvature of pharyngeal lumen behind stylet knobs	NBS
5	Pharyngeal gland overlaps intestine dorsally	6
	Pharyngeal gland bulb abuts intestine	NBS
6	Stylet knobs present (knobs may be small)	7
	Stylet knobs absent	NBS
7	Male tail tip enveloped by a small bursa (best seen in the dorso-ventral aspect, and even visible using a stereomicroscope)	8
	Bursa absent	NBS
8	Vulva 70-80 % of body length from anterior end; male tail tip strongly recurved	9
	Vulva 85-90 % of body length from anterior end; male tail tip not strongly recurved	NBS
9	Lateral field with 4 lines; vulva with prominent flap; spicules strongly arcuate	<i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> group (BXG)
	Characters different	Non <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> group

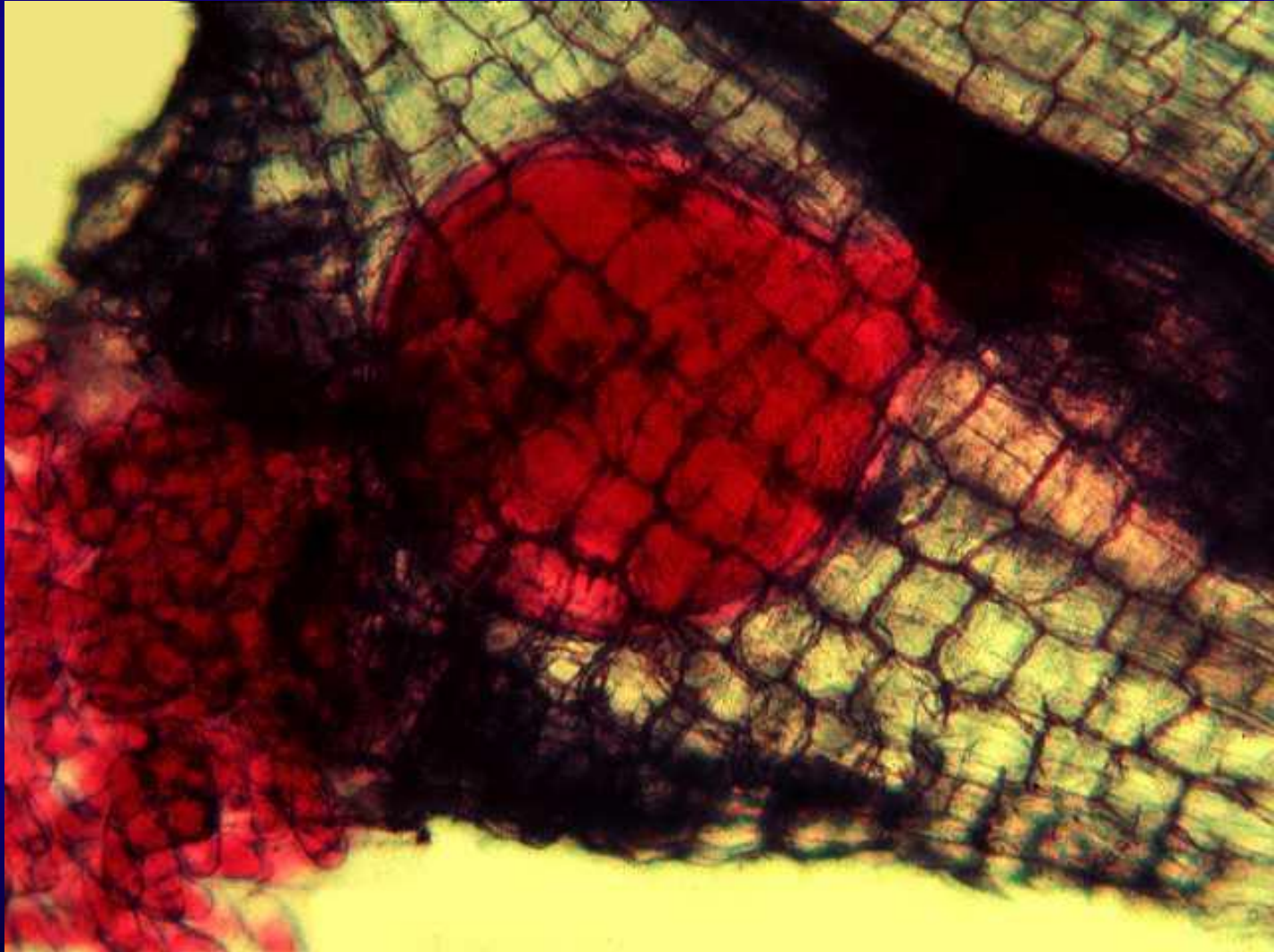
# *ADAPTATIONS OF BASIC LIFE-CYCLE*

- slow down or stop activities while hazardous conditions prevail
- modify its physiology
- escape to other location
- protect itself

# Anhydrobiotic coiled position (*Aphelenchus avenae*) (source unknown)



***Meloidogyne* sp. in tomato root gall**  
(stained adult female) (source unknown)



**PCN (*Globodera rostochiensis*)**  
on potato roots (source unknown)

