

New genus *Asymmelaimus* gen. n., sp. n. and new marine nematode species of the subfamily *Dorylaimopsinae* de Coninck, 1965 (*Comesomatidae* Filipjev, 1918) from Halong Bay, Vietnam

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Summary. One new genus and one new species are described from Halong Bay, Vietnam: *Asymmelaimus vietnamicus* gen. n., sp. n. and *Dorylaimopsis halongensis* sp. n. *Asymmelaimus vietnamicus* gen. n., sp. n. is characterized by an asymmetrical head with the anterior part of the buccal cavity leaning to the dorsal side and a narrow posterior part with weakly cuticularized walls and one dorsal and two ventrosublateral small teeth situated at the base of the anterior part, and a cuticular ornamentation consisting of one or two longitudinal rows of dots. *Dorylaimopsis halongensis* sp. n. is characterized by the head set off from the body by constriction, massive spicules with a 'velum' and a long tail (11.3 to 13.6 anal body diameters).

Key words: *Asymmelaimus*, *Dorylaimopsis*, Halong Bay, marine nematodes, Vietnam.

In Vietnam, studies on the biodiversity of marine nematodes and their use for the bio-monitoring of water environment started recently (Nguyen Vu Thanh *et al.*, 2002; Nguyen Vu Thanh and Nguyen Dinh Tu, 2003).

In 2002-2003, during the project survey "Biodiversity of marine nematodes, polychaeta and molluscs in Halong Bay and their use for assessment and bio-monitoring water quality" of the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) nearly 120 marine nematode genera were recorded for the first time. Among them, 25 nematode families were recorded frequently. The Comesomatidae dominated with the highest percentage (27%), followed by the Axonolaimidae (14%), Cyatholaimidae (9%), Linhomoeidae (9%), Xyalidae (7%), Desmodoridae (6%) and nematodes of the family Thoracostomopsidae (<1%).

The taxonomy of the family Comesomatidae has been reviewed extensively by Jensen (1979), Platt (1985) and Zhang (1992, 1995). In this paper, one new genus and one new marine species from Halong Bay, Vietnam are described.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In August 2003, ten stations were chosen for nematode sampling in the subtidal area from 0.5–10.0 m depth in Halong Bay, Vietnam at the coastline near Halong City and Cam Pha Town.

Samples were collected with a small boat using a Ponar-grab of 150 mm high, 13.7 kg and covering a surface area of 230 mm x 250 mm. At each station one grab was taken and subsampled by taking approximately 250g of sediment for nematodes. Samples were fixed in hot formalin 10%. The nematodes were extracted by centrifugal-flotation technique and gradually transferred to anhydrous glycerin according to De Grisse (1969) and mounted onto permanent slides.

The measurements for taxonomic description were done using a high magnification microscope (Olympus CH30RF200) with camera Lucida attached to Quantimet 500+ computer. Allotype and holotype specimens are deposited in the Museum of Zoology of Ghent University; Paratype specimens are deposited in Department of Nematology, Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR).

[♦] - Note! - The Vietnamese names are given in the national style – family name, middle name, first name