**Halalaimus algeriensis** n. sp. (Nematoda) from the Sahara

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**Abstract**

During a trans-Saharan expedition in 1980 a number of samples were collected from stagnant and running fresh and slightly saline water bodies. One of them, collected from the Oued En-Namous in a small oasis yielded several interesting nematodes, among which was a new *Halalaimus* species described herein as *Halalaimus algeriensis* n. sp. It comes close to *H. minusculus* Tchesunov, 1978, but differs in tailshape, absence of males and habitat. It also resembles the marine species *H. gracilis* de Man, 1888, but differs in the relative length of the anterior setae, the absence of a lateral field and absence of males. The new species can be differentiated from *H. stammeri* Schneider, 1940, the only fresh water species found hitherto, by its shorter body, more anterior and wider fovea, and the length and position of the anterior setae.

The various juvenile stages can be separated on the basis of body length, foveal length and genital primordium.

**Introduction**

From 1975 to 1980 several expeditions to the Sahara had been organised to collect samples from stagnant and running fresh and slightly saline water bodies. The results, except for nematodes, have been amply discussed by Dumont (1979). So far only two short papers dealing with nematodes have appeared (Goossens 1975; Grootaert 1977). The present authors intend to fill this gap by a detailed study of the samples collected during the last of these expeditions. (These samples were fixed with approximately 4% hot formaldehyde and later on the nematodes were extracted by centrifugation-flotation in Ludox* HS 20% (Coolen & D'Herde 1977) and processed to pure glycerin).

This is the first paper of a series dealing with the taxonomy, morphology and distribution of new and known nematodes from the Sahara and adjacent regions; it deals with a new species of *Halalaimus*.

**Halalaimus algeriensis** n. sp.

_Figs. 1 & 2_

_Dimensions: see Table 1_

_Holotype ♀: L = 0.89 mm; a = 49.3; b = 3.5; c = 6.0; c' = 15.4; V = 51.2; G₁ = 10.8; G₂ = 15.3._

**Description**

_Females:_ Body almost straight to slightly ventrally curved, rarely C-shaped upon fixation; tapering considerably towards both extremities. Cuticle smooth, up to 0.5 μm thick, no lateral lines.

Head rounded to slightly truncate, with amalgamated lips. Inner labial sensilla small, papilli-

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* Trade name of a colloidal silica polymer (DuPont de Nemours & Co).
Fig. 1. Halalaimus algeriensis n. sp.
A–J: Head ends. A: First stage juvenile; B: First moult; C: Second stage juvenile; D: Third stage juvenile; E: Fourth stage juvenile; F, G: Female, lateral view; H, I: Female, ventral view; J: Female dorsal view; K: Pharyngeal region of female (holotype); L: Posterior pharynx in lateral view; M: idem, in dorsal view; N: Female tail (holotype); O, P: Tail terminus.