https://www.doi.org/10.33910/2686-9519-2023-15-2-401-410
http://zoobank.org/References/a5cfd4f0-fcc1-41cf-88bd-91c82ae88e54

UDC 595.132.8

Theristus coralis sp. n. and *Thalassomonhystera gracilima* sp. n. (Nematoda, Monhysterida) from coral reef off the coast of Vietnam

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Abstract. Two new nematode species of the order Monhysyterida from coral reef off the coast of Vietnam are described and illustrated. *Theristus coralis* **sp. n.** is morphologically similar to *Th. macroflevensis* Gerlach, 1954 and *Th. metaflevensis* Gerlach, 1955 and differs from both species by presence of cardial glands and posterior sack of uterus, longer pharynx, shorter gubernaculum and closer to anterior body end located vulva. *Thalassomonhystera gracilina* **sp. n.** resembles *Th. tasmaniensis* (Allgen, 1927) but has longer and thinner body, longer tail in females and longer and different structures of spicules and a different structure of stoma.

Keywords: free-living marine nematodes, morphology, new species

Theristus coralis sp. n. и *Thalassomonhystera gracillima* sp. n. (Nematoda, Monhysterida) с кораллового рифа у побережья Вьетнама

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Аннотация. Описаны и проиллюстрированы два новых вида нематод из отряда Monhysterida с кораллового рифа у побережья Вьетнама. *Theristus coralis* **sp. n.** морфологически сходен с *Th. macroflevensis* Gerlach, 1954 и *Th. metaflevensis* Gerlach, 1955 и отличается от обоих видов наличием кардиальных желез и заднего мешка матки, более длинным зевом, более короткой губной ямкой и расположенной ближе к переднему концу тела вульвой. *Thalassomonhystera gracilina* **sp. n.** напоминает *Th. tasmaniensis* (Allgen, 1927), но имеет более длинное и тонкое тело, более длинный хвост у самок и более длинную и различную структуру спикул и другое строение устья.

Ключевые слова: свободноживущие морские нематоды, морфология, новые виды

Introduction

Free-living marine nematode fauna of the coastal shallow area of the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam is fairly will studied (Nguyen Dinh Tu et al. 2008; 2011; Nguyen Vu Thanh, Gagarin 2013; Tchesunov et al. 2014). Nematode fauna of mangroves is especially well studied (Nguyen Dinh Tu, 2017; Gagarin 2018). Free-living nematode from coral reef has been studied since 2020. More than 30 nematode species have been found in this biocenosis and 13 of them will be described as species new to science. This article provides descriptions of two species new to science: *Theristus coralis* sp. n. and *Thalassomonhystera gracilina* sp. n.

Materials and methods

In 2020 the fauna free-living nematodes were studied of coral reef off coast of Vietnam. Corals: *Acropora hyacinthus, Acropora nasuta, Montipora confuse, Montipora vietnamensis, Favites valenciennesi*. Samples were taken at the depth of 2–8 m using Polar grab sampler, washed through a mesh (mesh diameter of 0.08 mm) and fixed hot (60–70% formaldehyde solution. Then the samples were placed in the 200 ml containers, Ludox-TM 50 solution (1:1) was added, and samples were centrifuged for 3–5 min. The nematode were transferred in pure glycerol according to the Seinhorst method (Seinhorst 1959); mounted in small drop glycerol on glass slides and sealed with a paraffin-max ring. Nikon Eclipse 8oi light microscope with differential interference contrast and Nikon DS-Fil digital camera were used to measure and identify specimens as well as to photograph and make drawings. The NIS-Elements D 3.2 program was used for data analysis.

Descriptions

Order Monhysterida Filipjev, 1929
Family Xyalidae Chitwood, 1951
Genus *Theristus* Bastian, 1865
Theristus coralis sp. n.

(Figs. 1, 2; Table 1)
https://www.zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/9D55AE0E-A48A-4B01-8421-30A460914D30

Type material. Holotype male, inventory slide number Tso 1, 3 deposited in the Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (Hanoi, Vietnam).

Paratypes. 10 ♂, 8 ♀ deposited in the collection of nematodes of the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources of the Vietnam Academy of Sciences and Technology (Hanoi, Vietnam).

Measurements. Table 1.

Type locality. South China Sea, shallow area of the coast of Vietnam. Coral reef from Cam Ranh, Khanh Hoa Province. Coordinates: 12°8′33″N–12°25′18″N, 109°7′16″E–109°14′30″E. Depth: 2–8 m. Water salinity: 2.4–3.5‰.

Etymology. The specific epithet means "coral".

Description. Male. Body comparatively large, slender. Cuticle finely annulated, thin. Head end narrowed. Body width at the posterior end of the pharynx exceeds labial region width in 2.1–2.6 times. Somatic setae not observed. Labia relatively high, labial region not separated from body. Six internal labial sensillae in the shape of papillae. Six outer labial sensillae and four cephalic sensillae in the shape of setae. Outer labial setae 14–17 μm long, 61–70% of labial region width. Cephalic setae 10–12 μm long. Cheilostoma spacious, its walls sclerotized. Pharyngostoma also spacious, with sclerotized walls. Teeth and onchae absent in stoma. The fovea of amphids are circular, 10–12 μm diameter (50–55% of the body width at this level) and located at distance of 20–25 μm from anterior end of body. Pharynx is muscular only slightly widening towards its base. Cardia small, protrudes into the lumen of middle intestine. Around cardia there are three large, oval formations with granular structure (glands?). Renette and its excretory pore not found.

Testes two, opposed. Anterior testis straight, located to the left of the intestine. Posterior testis curved, short, barely visible. Spicules thin, curved, with poorly expressed head. Spicules about 1.7 times as long as body cloacal diameter. Gubernaculum grooved, like a "sleeve", encloses distal ends of spicules. Distal end gubernaculum armed well sclerotized

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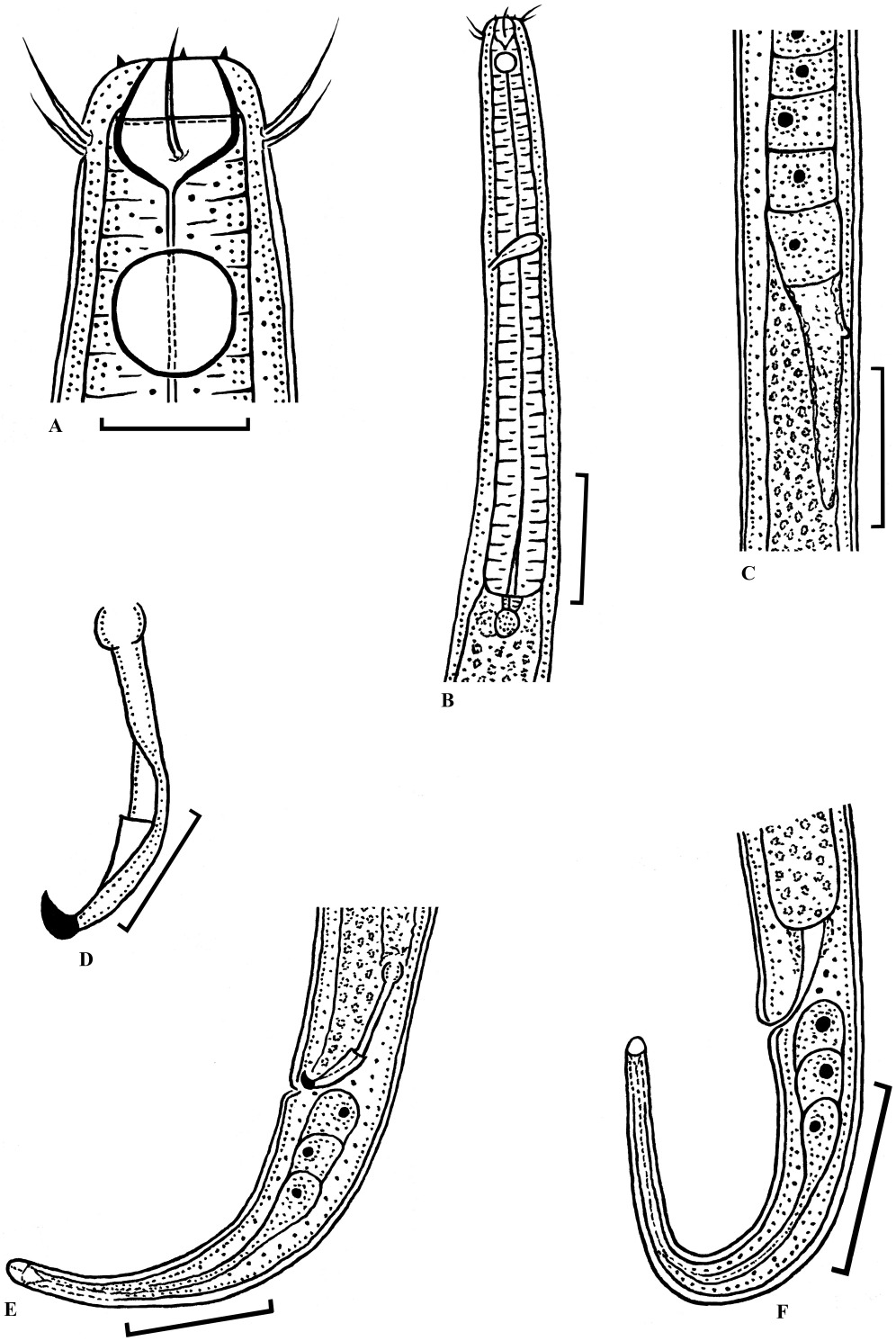

Fig 1. *Theristus coralis* sp. n., holotype male and paratypes female: *A* — male head; *B* — anterior body of male; *C* — vulva region; *D* — spicular apparatus; *E* — posterior end of male; *F* — posterior end of female. Scale bars: *A* — 20 μm; *D* — 40 μm; *B, C, E, F* — 70 μm

Рис. 1. *Theristus coralis* sp. n., голотип, самец и паратип, самка: *A* — голова самца; *B* — передний конец тела; *C* — область вульвы; *D* — спикулярный аппарат; *E* — задний конец тела самца; *F* — задний конец тела самки. Масштаб: *A* — 20 μm; *D* — 40 μm; *B, C, E, F* — 70 μm

Fig 2. *Theristus coralis* sp. n. Holotype male and paratype female. *A* — male, entire body; *B* — female, entire body; *C* — male, head; *D* — male, head; *E* — male, anterior body end; *F* — male, cloaca region; *G* — female, vulva region; *H* — male, posterior body end; *I* — male, posterior body end; *J* — female, tail terminus. Scale bars: *B* — 200 μm; *A* — 100 μm; *E, G, H, I* — 50 μm; *C, D, F, J* — 10 μm

Рис. 2. *Theristus coralis* sp. n., голотип, самец и паратип, самка: *A* — самец, общий вид; *B* — самка, общий вид; *C* — самец, голова; *D* — самец, голова; *E* — самец, передний конец тела; *F* — самец, область клоаки; *G* — самка, область вульвы; *H* — самец, задний конец тела; *I* — самец, задний конец тела; *J* — самка, конец хвоста. Масштабные линейки: *B* — 200 мкм; *A* — 100 мкм; *E, G, H, I* — 50 мкм; *C, D, F, J* — 10 мкм

 https://www.doi.org/10.33910/2686-9519-2023-15-2-401-410

Table 1

Morphometrics of *Theristus coralis* sp. n.
(All measurements are in μm, expert for the rations *a, b, c, c′,* V)

Таблица 1

Морфометрия Theristus coralis sp. n.
(Все размеры указаны в мкм для соотношений a, b, c, c′, V)

Character	Holotype male	Paratype males (n = 10)		Paratype females (n = 8)	
		range	mean	range	mean
L	1475	1403–1726	1600	1404–1740	1585
a	34	30–34	31	26–36	30
b	5.1	4.5–5.5	5.0	44–53	4.6
c	8.8	8.3–9.6	8.9	7.9–9.1	8.5
c′	4.9	3.9–4.9	4.3	4.8–5.6	5.4
V (%)	–	–	–	64.7–69.1	64.1
Labial region width	22	22–25	23	22–25	24
Outer labial setae length	15	14–17	15	13–17	15
Mid-body diameter	51	48–57	52	48–55	52
Anal (cloacal) body diameter	43	40–45	42	31–36	34
Pharynx length	288	255–354	315	323–382	342
Distance from pharynx vase to vulva	–	–	–	600–825	726
Distance from vulva to anus	–	–	–	286–374	331
Distance from pharynx vase to cloaca	1020	996–1226	1105	–	–
Tail length	167	153–192	180	170–213	186
Spicules length (along arc)	63	60–63	61	–	–
Gubernaculum length	26	24–29	26	–	–

claw-shape formation. Precloacal ventromedial supplement absent. Tail elongate-conical. Caudal glands hardly visible. Spinneret present. Subterminal setae absent.

Female. General morphology similar to that of males. Structure of cuticle and anterior body end as in males. Ovary single, anterior, straight, relatively long and located to left of intestine. Vulva postequatorial in the form of transversal slit. Vulva lips not sclerotized and do not protrude beyond the contours of body. Vagina relatively short, thin-walled and stopping towards the posterior body end. Uterus filled with numerous sperm. In two females two eggs, 67–70x35–40 μm size. Posterior uterus sack present, 60–82 μm long. The tail elongate-conical, gradually tapering. Caudal glands and spinneret present. Subterminal setae absent.

Differential diagnosis. *Theristus coralis* sp. n. is included in the *flevensis* group of the genus *Theristus* Bastian, 1865, which includes 13 valid species (Nguyen Dinh Tu, Gagarin 2017). New species is morphologically close to *Th. macroflevensis* Gerlach, 1954 and *Th. metaflevensis* Gerlach, 1955 but differs from both species by the presence of cardial glands and the posterior uterus sack in females (Nguyen Dinh Tu, Gagarin 2017). In addition, it differs from the first by the shorter body (*L* = 1404–1740 μm *vs L* = 1797–1865 μm in *Th. macroflevensis*), comparatively longer pharynx (*b* = 4.4–5.5 *vs b* = 5.7–6.5 in *Th. macroflevensis*), less slender tail (*c′* = 3.9–5.6 vs *c′* = 5.5–6.6 in *Th. macroflevensis*), closer to anterior body end located vulva (*V* = 65–69% *vs V* = 74–76% in *Th. macroflevensis*) and shorter gubernaculum (24–29 μm long

vs 35 μm long in *Th. macroflevensis* (Gerlach 1954). *Th. coralis* sp. n. differs from *Th. metaflevensis* Gerlach, 1955 by the longer pharynx (*b* = 4.4–5.5 *vs b* = 6.9–7.7 in *Th. metaflevensis*), comparatively shorter tail (*c* = 7.9–9.6 *vs c* = 6.7–7.5 in *Th. metaflevensis*), closer to anterior body end located vulva (*V* = 65–69% *vs V* = 87% in *Th. metaflevensis*), longer outer labial setae (13–17 μm long *vs* 11–12 μm long in *Th. metaflevensis*) and shorter gubernaculum (24–29 μm long vs 42 μm long in *Th. metaflevensis*) (Gerlach 1955).

Family Monhysteridae de Man, 1876
Genus *Thalassomonhystera Jacobs, 1987*
***Thalassomonhystera gracilima* sp. n.**
(Figs. 3, 4; Table 2)
https://www.zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/0D822557-EFDE-4D73-9252-E0C28E74274D

Type material. Holotype male, inventory slide number MSS-sh, 23 deposited in the Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (Hanoi, Vietnam).
Paratypes. 10 ♂, 10 ♀ deposited in the collection of nematodes of the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources of the Vietnam Academy of Sciences and Technology (Hanoi, Vietnam).
Measurements. Table 2.
Type locality. South China Sea, shallow area of the coast of Vietnam. Coral reef from Cam Ranh, Khanh Hoa Province. Coordinates: 12°8′33″N-12°25′18″N, 109°7′16″E-109°14′30″E. Depth: 2–5 m. Water salinity: 2.4–3.5‰.
Etymology. The specific epithet means "graceful".
Description. Male. Body comparatively long and thin. Head end narrowed. Cuticle smooth under light microscope. Somatic setae not observed. Labia relatively high. Labial region not separated from body. Six internal labial sensila in the shape of papillae. Six outer labial sensila and four cephalic sensila in the shape of setae. Outer labial setae 12–16 μm long (65–80% of labial region width). Cephalic setae 7–10 μm long. Amphidial fovea circular, 9–11 μm diameter and situated at distance of 33–39 μm from anterior body end (1.8–2.1 labial region width). Cheilostoma spacious, with sclerotized walls. Pharyngostoma consists of two sections: anterior section wide, posterior section narrowed, in the form of tube. Teeth and onchiae in stoma absent. Pharynx slender, cylindroid, slightly widened at the posterior end. Cardia small, triangular, protrudes into the lumen of the intestine. Around cardia there are three oval granular glands. Renette and its excretory pore not observed.

Testis one, outstretched, situated to the right of the intestine. Spicules long, thin, arculate 3.0–3.4 times as long as cloacal body diameter. Distal end of spicules hooked. Gubernaculum and precloacal supplements absent. Tail long, with proximal conical and distal thin, cylindrical portions gradually going over into one another. Distal tail portion 1.3–1.6 times as large as proximal portion. Tail tip with 2–3 subtermal setae. Caudal glands and spinerette present.

Female. General morphology similar to that of males. Structure of cuticle and anterior body end as in males. Ovary single, anterior, straight, relatively long, and located to rough of intestine. Vulva postequatorial, in the form of transverse slit. Vulva lips not sclerotized. Vagina comparatively short, with thin walls and stopping to wards to posterior body end. Uterus spacious, filled with numerous sperm. Postvulvar oval cell present. Tail long, with proximal conical and distal thin, cylindrical portions. Distal tail portion 3.2–3.6 times as large as proximal portion. Tail tip with 2–3 subterminal setae. Caudal glands and spinneret present.
Differential diagnosis. *Th. gracilima* sp. n. at structure specular apparatus (absence of gubernaculum) is close to *Th. tasmaniensis* (Allgen, 1927), found in coast zone of Tasmania, but differs from it by a longer and thinner body (*L* = 1026–1335 μm, *a* = 44–56 *vs L* = 610–785, *a* = 24–37 in *Th. tasmaniensis*), a more slender tail in females (♀♀ *c′* = 10.0–12.2 *vs* ♀♀ *c′* = 6.0–6.5 in *Th. tasmaniensis*), longer spicules with a different structure (spicules 51–57 μm long, with hooked at distal part *vs* 35 μm long, its distal part straight) and a different structure of pharyngostoma (divided into two section *vs* pharyngostoma whole, funnel-shaped) (Allgen 1927).

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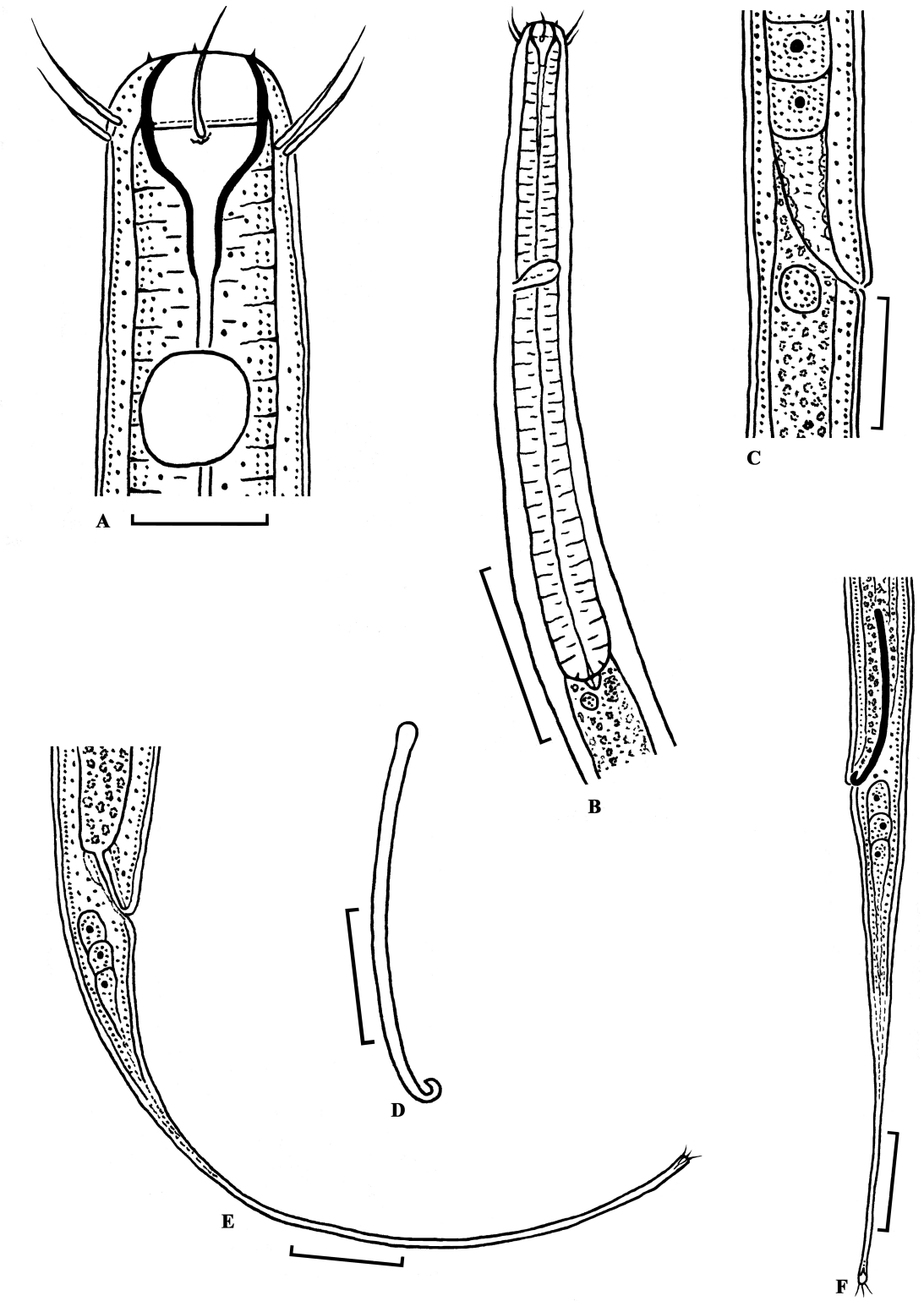

Fig 3. *Thalassomonhystera gracilima* sp. n. Holotype male and paratypes female. *A* — male head; *B* — male, anterior body end; *C* — female, vulva region; *D* — male, spicular apparatus; *E* — female, posterior body end; *F* — male, posterior body end. Scale bars: *A–D* — 15 μm; *C, E, F* — 30 μm; B — 50 μm

Рис. 3. *Thalassomonhystera gracillima* sp. n., голотип, самец и паратип, самка: *A* — самец, голова; *B* — самец, передний конец тела; *C* — самка, область вульвы; *D* — самец, спикулярный аппарат; *E* — самка, задний конец тела; *F* — самец, задний конец тела. Шкалы: *A–D* — 15 мкм; *C, E, F* — 30 мкм; *B* — 50 мкм

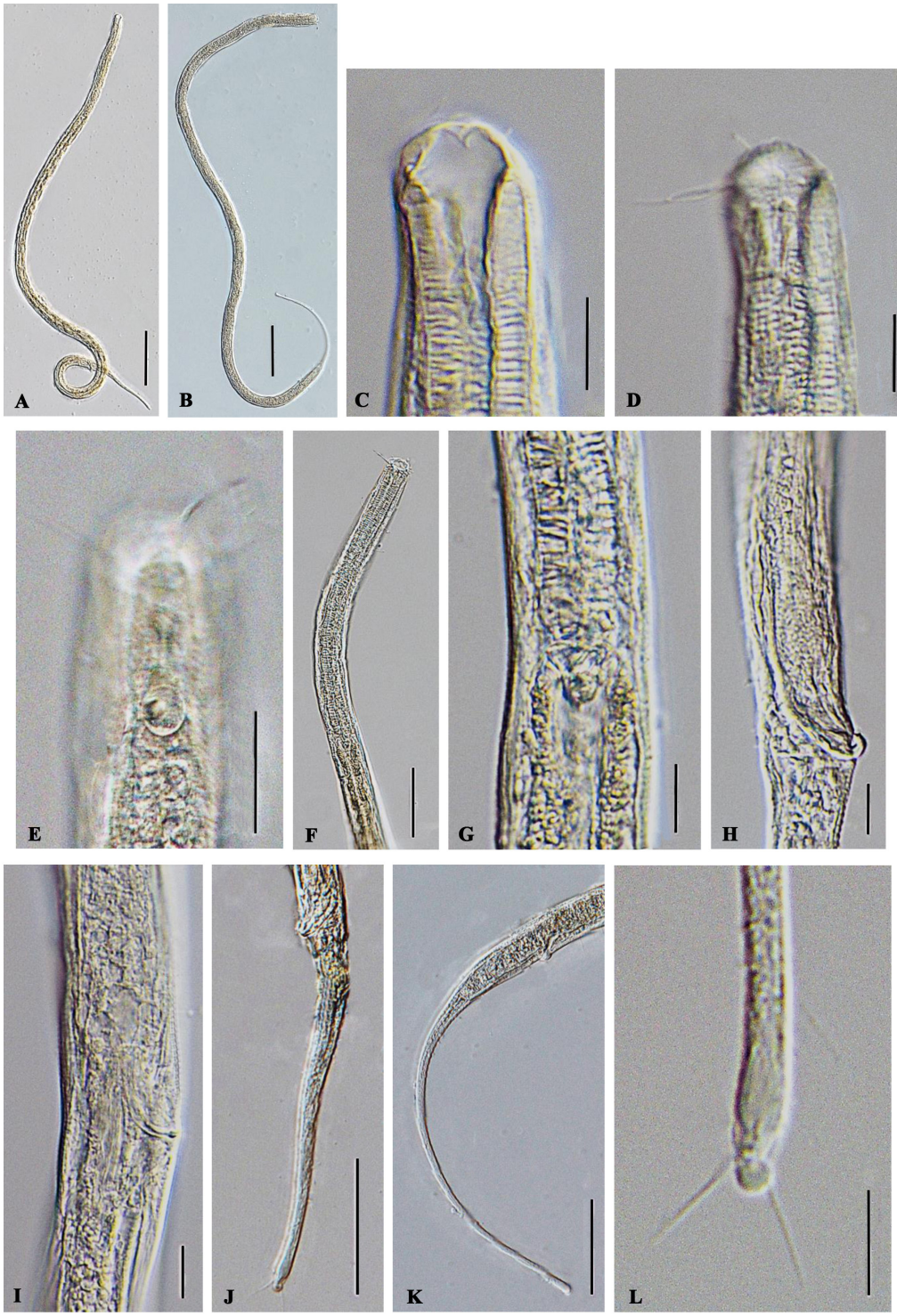

Fig 4. *Thalassomonhystera gracilima* sp. n. Holotype male and paratypes female. *A* — male, entire body; *B* — female, entire body; *C, D* — male, head; *E* — female, head; *F* — male, anterior body end; *G* — male, cardia region; *H* — male, cloaca region; *I* — female, vulva region; *J* — male, posterior body end; *K* — female, posterior body end; *L* — female, tail terminus. Scale bars: *A, B* — 100 μm; *F, I, K* — 50 μm; *C, D, E, G, H, I, L* — 10 μm

Рис. 4. *Thalassomonhystera gracilima* sp. n., голотип, самец и паратип, самка: *A* — самец, общий вид; *B* — самка, общий вид; *C* — самка, голова; *E* — самка, голова; *F* — самец, передняя часть тела; *G* — самец, область кардии; *H* — самец, область клоаки; *I* — самка, область вульвы; *J* — самец, задний конец тела; *K* — самка, задний конец тела; *L* — самка, хвостовой конец. Шкалы: *A, B* — 100 мм; *F, I, K* — 50 мм; *C, D, E, G, H, I, L* — 10 мм

 https://www.doi.org/10.33910/2686-9519-2023-15-2-401-410

Table 2

Morphometrics of Thalassomonhystera gracilima sp. n.
(All measurements are in μm, expert for the rations a, b, c, c′, V)

Таблица 2

Морфометрия Thalassomonhystera gracilima sp. n.
(Все размеры указаны в мкм для соотношений a, b, c, c′, V)

Character	Holotype male	Paratype males (n = 10)		Paratype females (n = 10)	
		range	mean	range	mean
L	1218	1026–1218	1105	1207–1335	1267
a	51	44–53	48	45–56	51
b	6.0	5.0–6.0	5.5	5.5–6.5	5.9
c	8.3	7.0–8.9	7.8	5.9–7.0	6.6
c′	8.1	7.2–8.8	8.3	10.0–12.2	11.5
V (%)	–	–	–	56.7–63.6	60.0
Labial region width	18	16–21	18	16–21	18
Outer labial setae length	14	12–16	14	12–16	14
Distance from amphid fovea to anterior body end	35	33–39	36	34–40	37
Mid-body diameter	24	20–25	23	23–27	25
Anal (cloacal) body diameter	18	15–19	17	15–20	17
Pharynx length	203	187–221	200	196–238	213
Distance from pharynx vase to vulva	–	–	–	510–595	547
Distance from vulva to anus	–	–	–	255–342	312
Distance from pharynx vase to cloaca	869	706–869	764	–	–
Tail length	146	129–150	141	187–221	195
Spicules length (along arc)	56	51–57	54	–	–

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Dr. Vladimir A. Gusakov (Institute for Biology of Inland Waters, Russian Academy of Sciences) for assistance in preparing microphotographs.

Funding

This work was conducted by Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (funding code: NCVCC 33.03/22-23) and as part of state-commissioned assignment of the Russian Academy of Sciences № 121051100109-1.

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For citation: Long, Phan Ke, Thu, Nguyen Thi, Gagarin, V. G., Tu, Nguyen Dinh. (2023) T*heristus coralis* sp. n. and *Thalassomonhystera gracilima* sp. n. (Nematoda, Monhysterida) from coral reef off the coast of Vietnam. *Amurian Zoological Journal*, vol. XV, no. 2, pp. 401–410. https://www.doi.org/10.33910/2686-9519-2023-15-2-401-410

Received 19 January 2023; reviewed 23 March 2023; accepted 15 April 2023.

Для цитирования: Фонг Фан, Ке, Ту Нгуен, Тхи, Гагарин, В. Г., Ту Нгуен, Динь (2023) *Theristus coralis* sp. n. и *Thalassomonhystera gracillima* sp. n. (Nematoda, Monhysterida) с кораллового рифа у побережья Вьетнама. *Амурский зоологический журнал*, т. XV, № 2, с. 401–410. https://www.doi.org/10.33910/2686-9519-2023-15-2-401-410

Получена 19 января 2023; прошла рецензирование 23 марта 2023; принята 15 апреля 2023.