

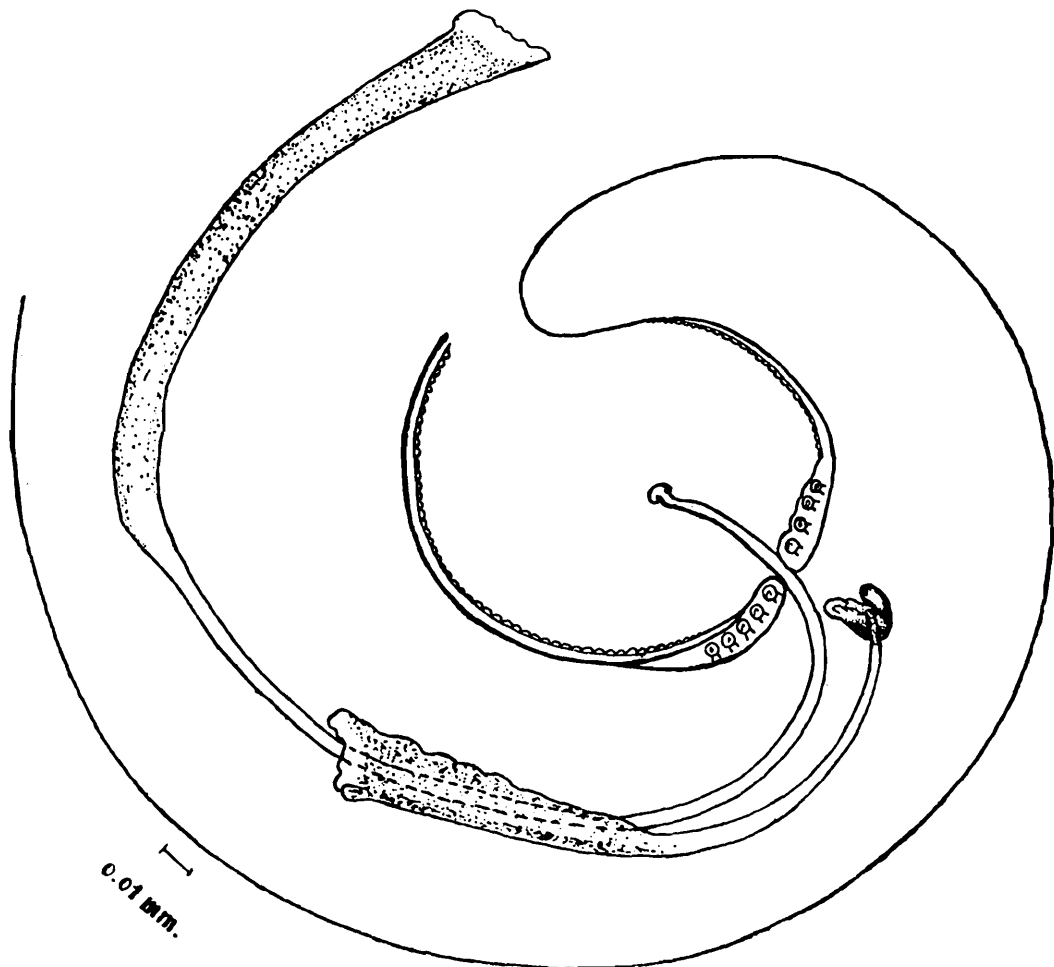
THE TAIL OF THE MALE *WUCHERERIA BANCROFTI*.

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Wuchereria bancrofti was re-described by Maplestone¹ and special attention was paid to the tail of the male because the few descriptions of this worm available in the literature were indefinite and showed considerable discrepancies. Moreover, such drawings as were in existence do not carry conviction of accuracy in some of their particulars.

The description given in 1929 was taken from two specimens and as the opportunity has occurred recently of examining some new and well fixed material it was decided to sacrifice one specimen so that the detailed structure of the tail of the male could be again properly examined. The result of this examination has been confirmation of the earlier observations of one of the above writers, and as some books on para-



Wuchereria bancrofti, tail of male, magnified.

sitology, that have appeared since 1929, still contain the old drawings and descriptions, it is considered worth while again drawing attention

¹ Maplestone, P. A., *Ind. Journ. Med. Res.* XVI, p. 683.

to this subject. In the accompanying description the dimensions indicate the variations noted between the specimens originally examined and the present material.

The tail is rolled in about three close spiral turns so that it cannot be properly examined unless the terminal portion is cut off. The cloaca is 0.11 to 0.14 mm. from the tip of the tail. The two pairs of minute papillae on the ventral surface near the tip of the tail could not be made out in the present specimen, probably because it was not possible to roll it sufficiently to get an exact ventral view. In relation with the cloaca there are five pairs of preanal papillae and four pairs of postanal papillae; these are pedunculated and attached to narrow caudal alae. The broad cuticular flap described in the original material could not be made out in the new specimen, probably because an exact profile view could not be obtained.

The spicules are unequal and dissimilar. The long spicule measures 0.49 to 0.52 mm. in length, and consists of a stout proximal portion about 0.2 mm. in length and a longer fine distal portion which ends in a small spoon-shaped expansion. The short spicule is 0.19 to 0.21 mm. in length and the proximal portion is stout like that of the long one. In the original material the short spicule appeared to taper gradually and evenly from base to tip, and the terminal portion was much stouter than the corresponding part of the long spicule, but in the present material the short spicule appears to become suddenly narrower about its middle and from there to taper very slightly towards the tip. The gubernaculum is a broad U-shaped structure with the concavity facing ventrally; in all the specimens examined the tip of the short spicule is lying in close contact with this structure.

The ventral surface for a short distance behind and for a considerable distance anterior to the cloaca is marked by closely-set transverse corrugations, which are possibly exaggerated by the close ventral curve in which this portion of the worm is habitually held.

The relatively close agreement of the specimen now examined with the earlier ones indicates that the characteristic male structures of this worm show very little variation, and that the normal number of large papillae is nine pairs, and in those instances where long rows of small preanal papillae have been described the fine corrugations seen in profile have been mistaken for papillae.