

Supplementary characters of *Bursaphelenchus lini* Braasch, 2004 (Nematoda: Parasitaphelenchidae) and remarks on this nematode

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Abstract

The description of *Bursaphelenchus lini* Braasch, 2004 is completed and corrected according to SEM micrographs taken from newly-found specimens obtained from Ningbo, China. Whereas the presence of three lateral lines outlined in the original description was confirmed, the number of caudal papillae pairs has to be corrected as being two only, one subventral preanal pair and one ventral postanal pair in front of the terminal bursa. The third ventrosublateral pair, originally described as closely posterior to the cloaca, was revealed to be an artefact. The rectangular and crystal like objects, which were observed in the posterior half of the body in several type specimens were not found in newly-found populations. Therefore, the presence of these rectangular objects has no diagnostic value. Affiliation of the newly-found specimens to the species *B. lini* was confirmed by ITS-RFLP analysis. As an additional biological character, *B. lini* has always been found accompanied by *B. xylophilus*.

Key words: Nematoda, Parasitaphelenchidae, *Bursaphelenchus lini*, *Bursaphelenchus* spp., morphology, taxonomy, distribution, ITS-RFLP, rDNA microheterogeneity, China

Introduction

Bursaphelenchus lini Braasch, 2004 was originally described based on 24 specimens found among a population of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Steiner & Buhner, 1934) Nickle, 1970 isolated from damaged *Pinus thunbergii* and *P. massoniana* in the suburban forest of Nanjing, China. Due to the restricted number of specimens, SEM micrographs and ITS-RFLP patterns were not available for the original description. The extraordinary